

Carlos Area Fire Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, April 28, 2025

Start Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Carlos Event Center

1. Call to Order

- Roll Call / Members Present
 - Ronna Berghoff, City of Carlos
 - Colten Steidl, Carlos Fire Department
 - Bill Krivanek, Carlos Township
 - Dwayne Waldorf, Carlos Township
 - Andy Miller, Belle River Township
 - James Young, City of Carlos (absent)
 - Attendance list
 - Introduction of Board
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2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Review and approval of minutes from April 14th, 2025
 - Motion to approve minutes: **Waldorf, second Kirvanek – Passed**
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3. Reports

a. Treasurer's Report

- No Treasurer Report for this meeting.
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4. Old Business

a. Project Discussion

- Continued discussion on fire hall project design adjustments
 - Kirvanek and Waldorf toured 2 different recent builds in the Alexandria Area, with Jerry Rapp (County Commissioner) and TJ Carlson (CFD)
 - Quality Equipment
 - 15,000 Sq Ft

- Membrane roof, not a cement roof
 - Around \$2 million
 - Sheriffs Department Douglass County – Boat and Water Building
 - Started at 16,800 sq feet
 - 26 overhead doors
 - 4.2 million
 - Wood frame building and trusses, Metal sided and has a wash bay
 - Very similar, but no hose tower.
 - Mod, from Feders Architects gave a presentation, has worked with City of Alexandria and other local projects.
 - Offered different solutions, to make it more cost effective.
 - Gave suggestions about functionality and potentially unnecessary space
 - If worried about building an effective space decrease building size and think differently.
 - Works with Contegrity Group for construction management
 - What are our current options:
 - Stay with Bolton and Menk – make them cut the project down, and pay them more
 - Fire Bolton and go with another firm
 - Consider Widseth plans, which would cost around \$30,000 to update, based off of 2011 plans.
 - If project cost got down to 3.5 million. The cost to Carlos Township numbers = numbers change to
 - What's the longevity of precast vs. pre-engineered steel –
 - Fab-con (Quality Equipment building is made out of this)
 - NEXT STEPS:
 - Conversation with Bolton and Menk to get cost down or consider other options.
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5. New Business

a. Township & Community Feedback

- Cost is the biggest issue they are concerned with.
- Do you need a concrete roof?
- *Attendees are looking for documentation of response times to different areas/neighborhoods within the fire district.*
 - *What's the comparison surrounding areas, especially to Alex*
 - *Do the Boundaries, that were put in place over 50 years ago, still make sense?*
- Questions about grants came up again.
 - We have done research and had grant experts look into this, but we haven't found anything that is for building a fire hall specifically only for gear or equipment.
 1. There is a bill at the senate that is specifically for funding to help with building fire halls but it has not been passed. This senate bill is S.4690 and is still being considered.
 2. St. Peter used USDA, loan repayment, but it would take 24-36 months to abide by their specifications.
- An attendee again asked about petition requirements. It was shared at this time more clarity about the bonding process and how to get an actual reverse referendum.
 - The annual meeting vote (from March 11th) still stands, and legally there can not be another vote on June 3rd, as previously discussed at Carlos Township meeting on 4/10/2025.
 - The reverse referendum process was shared, and a personal acknowledgment from Krivanek to the attendee, that this will be made public, and that the attendee would personally be informed of when this will take place.
 - Shared reverse referendum process, once bonding is approved, a publication would be posted in local newspapers and where meeting minutes are posted. There is then a 30-day window to create a petition for a "reverse referendum". The petition needs to have at minimum 5% of voters that were registered at last election (which was the 2024 presidential election).
 - If we did our research correct, there are about 1,900 registered voters, that is roughly 90 people to sign a petition to obtain a reverse referendum at that time.
 - Kirvanek provided information on the process to create a "reverse referendum"
 - There is still time for the JPA to go back to drawing board to see where costs can be cut in order to obtain a lower project cost in order to gain full approval and not need to have a reverse referendum.

- Discussion about the Carlos Township annual meeting, and the “lack” of notice the public received, and the public is still disgruntled about the lack of notice.
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6. Miscellaneous

- Email sent to Dist 206, to see if 5 year timeline can be extended. Waiting to hear back.
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8. Next Meeting Date and Time

- Confirm: *Monday, May 12th, 2025 – 6:30 PM at **Carlos Event Center***
 - Preliminary Agenda Items:
 - Treasurer’s Report
 - Continued Project Review
 - Carlos Response time
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9. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn: **Krivanek, second Waldorf – passed.**
- Adjournment time recorded: 8:04pm
- Notes completed by: Ronna Berghoff, Carlos Area Fire JPA, Secretary; City of Carlos, Mayor

JPA BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION:

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