

Carlos Area Fire Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, June 9, 2025

Start Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Carlos City Office

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
 - Attendance list
 - Introduction of Board
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2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Review and approval of minutes from May 28th, 2025
 - Motion to approve minutes: **Waldorf, second Krivanek – Passed**
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3. Reports

a. Treasurer's Report

- No change, total \$9,967.16 in the bank
- Motion to approve Treasurer's Report: **Waldorf, second Berghoff – Passed**
- Bolton and Menk bills totaling \$93,251.00
 - Carlos Township - \$69,938.68 (Meeting on Thursday)
 - City of Carlos - \$13,987.74 (Meeting on Thursday)
 - Belle River - \$9,325.16 (given tonight)
- Outstanding bills
 - Only 1 Bolton and Menk bill that will be paid once checks are cut on Thursday.

4. Old Business

a. Project Discussion

- How to move forward – people would like to Volunteer and form a committee
 - List of Names – Mike Swendsrud (confirmed), Lawrence Keenan (confirmed), Ryan/Rachel Buse (declined), Rick Rosengren (maybe); Fire Department Member
- Next Steps – Reach out to them to see if they are interested.

b. Carlos Township Annual Meeting clarification about 2024 vote vs. 2025 vote. Does 2025 vote wipe out previous (lower amount). Carlos Township sent an email Minnesota Assoc. of Townships

- You are best to refer this issue to your township attorney. I can point out some laws, but there are issues that require discretion on the part of the board and that needs the help of your attorney.

There is no piece of law directly on this question. As you know, there is a law concerning building a new town building, in chapter 365.10, and that process involves the voters. That power describes when the township builds or buys a structure, but it does not say anything about whether the same rules apply when a joint powers that the town is part of builds a building.

The joint powers agreement may require the town to pay its share of the expenses of the joint powers, which includes the building expenses. It's possible the town does not make any vote on the building because the town is not buying or building it directly. This is part of the question that needs review by your town attorney.

Concerning the viability of the prior vote, nothing in the law describes the effect of a new vote on a past vote. If the intention of the board or voters was to increase the 3.5 million vote to the higher amount based on new information, then it seems unlikely the original 3.5 million would also be available. But this too is subject to interpretation by the board, based on the motions that were made in the two meetings and other factors that could affect how they are viewed.

Keep in mind that the special town meeting to change a levy also had to be called lawfully, using the process described in Minn. Stat. 365.52 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/365.52>).

There are a couple options described in that statute. One is for the board to call the meeting, by all supervisors and the clerk declaring a need. Another is for any two of the supervisors and clerk, with 12 other town "landowners" calling for the special meeting. The third is by a petition that bears the support of 20% of voters at the last general election. If the board did not follow one of these processes, then the special meeting would not have been lawfully called and the group could not conduct town business there.

5. New Business

a. Township & Community Feedback

- Carlos Township Meeting
 - June 3rd Special Meeting was help for Carlos Township to take a revote from annual meeting.

No = 390
Yes = 26
 - Carlos Township concerns with breakdown percentage and feels City of Carlos should be paying more.
 - Again, a discussion about the amount of trucks and offer solutions
 - Status of Ladder Truck, it is 100% operational.
 - Jurisdiction line conversation and where to start that conversation, it was instructed to start with the Fire Chief's, not this meeting.
 - Different location – move to downtown and offer Beheng Imp. a price for their property.
 - Colton to look into if can build downtown Carlos or not.
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6. Miscellaneous

- Phone Call with Dist. 206, to see if 5-year timeline can be extended. Rick, the superintendent, stated he would have a conversation with the school board, to get this confirmed and to us in writing.
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8. Next Meeting Date and Time

- Confirm: *June 23th, 2025 – 6:30 PM at **Carlos City Hall***
 - Preliminary Agenda Items:
 - Continued Project Review, firm up dollar amount and solidify parameters.
 - Bolton and Menk to supply clearer dollar amounts.
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9. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn: **Berghoff, second Waldorf – passed.**
- Adjournment time recorded: 8:05 pm
- Notes completed by: Ronna Berghoff, Carlos Area Fire JPA, Secretary; City of Carlos, Mayor

JPA BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION:

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