

Carlos Area Fire Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday, March 23, 2026

Start Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Carlos City Office

1. Call to Order

- Roll Call / Members Present
 - Ronna Berghoff, City of Carlos
 - Jon Trenne, City of Carlos (Absent)
 - Jake Steidl, Carlos Fire Department
 - Colten Steidl, Carlos Fire Department Chief
 - Bill Krivanek, Carlos Township
 - Dwayne Waldorf, Carlos Township
 - Andy Miller, Belle River Township
 - Joe Cecko, Cecko Construction
 - Elizabeth Zins-Flenner, Carlos Township Resident
 - Dave Kjos, Carlos Township Resident
 - Mike Swensrud, Carlos Township Resident
 - Mike Moudahl, Carlos Township Resident
 - Eric Thesing, Carlos Township Resident
 - Introduction of Board and those in attendance.
-

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Review and approval of minutes from March 9, 2025
 - Request for minutes to be more thorough and descriptive
 - Motion to approve minutes: **Waldorf, second Krivanek – Passed**
-

3. Reports

a. Treasurer's Report

- No treasurer's report
- Approval to pay bill to Ringdahl Architects for first draft of conceptual design for \$1,500.00
 - Motion to approve payment: **Waldorf, second Miller – Passed**

4. Old Business

a. Project Discussion

- Board discussed results from Township meetings and that Carlos Townships voted down levying money towards building a new firehall. Belle River township continues to support the project.
- Talked about changing the ownership of the building to Carlos Township, but there was no strong opinion that this would really change anything.
- Discussion from attendance that current proposed location is supported due to multiple ways around the tracks and have water and sewer already there, but again concerned about leased land.
- Krivanek had a discussion with Ringdahl architects and was informed that if we don't act fast we potentially miss out on attractive bids. Proposing City of Carlos pay for design fee of \$136,500 to Ringdahl Architects to get them started. If we get bids that are below 25% of valuation we start the project, if its more than 25% goes to a vote in November. This option would need to be talked about with the City of Carlos at their council meeting, to be approved.
- Mike Moudahl, discussed his 3 ideas are updating current fire hall, relocating downtown and approaching land owners and third option being current proposed location but biggest qualm being that it is on leased land.
- Discussed Annexation by the City of Carlos as a long term option and what solutions that could look like in a longer term plan, but then renegotiate JPA cost sharing formula since there would be increase in tax base for city of Carlos.

5. New Business

a. Elizabeth Zins-Flenner, Carlos Township resident, presented to the board grant funding option through USDA.

- Provided JPA board and those in attendance a packet of information showing information.
- USDA low interest direct loan and combination of congressional spending.
- She discussed a concept showing the narrative that Carlos Fire responds for mutual aid to areas that are lower- median income homes. She believes there are ways to map out the area to really offset Carlos Township median income range.
- Showed examples of Dilworth, Saint Peter, and Spring Grove who all used USDA and Congressional Directed Spending. Fixed rate loan
- She believes that if we focus on building a cost controlled fire station and with seasonal demand increases with lake activity and showing that we are less lucrative (without including lake homes) that we would have more support.

- Board talked about presenting to Jason Murray and Dan Burns, bonding specialist and legal representation to give board members recommendation from their perspective.

b. Dave Kjos asked if agriculture was “billed” the same as property value of a home when it comes to fire contracts. He brought up continued concerns about City of Carlos not paying enough and that City of Carlos needs to be paying more for the building.

c. Eric Thesing gave some history about City of Carlos turning down growth 30 years ago and not annexing to Carlos corners, and believes Carlos Township should build the building and start their own fire department and contract with the City of Carlos for fire coverage.

d. Eric Thesing and Dave Kjos talked back and forth and disagreed about types of calls and how they should be evaluated.

e. CMR at risk discussion about proposals, they are due Thursday. Still waiting to get a 2nd proposal, there has been some interest.

f. Building Committee

- Committee Members:
 - Mike Swendsrud – Present
 - Lawrence Keenan – Not Present
 - Fire Department Members
 - 2-3 Fireman
- No discussion from them.

6. Miscellaneous

a. None

7. Next Meeting Date and Time

- Confirm: ***April 13th, 2025 – 6:30 PM at Carlos City Hall***
 - Preliminary Agenda Items:
 - Follow up if City of Carlos is willing to pay fee to Ringdahl Architects to keep process going. City Council Meeting is not until April 9th.
-

8. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn: **Waldorf, second Krivanek – passed.**
- Adjournment time recorded: 8:03 pm
- Notes completed by: Ronna Berghoff, Carlos Area Fire JPA, Secretary; City of Carlos, Mayor

JPA BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION:

Dwayne Waldorf - Dwayne.waldorf@icloud.com; (320) 219-0409

Andy Miller - andysautorepair1@gmail.com; (320) 815-4142

Colten Steidl – cfd1251@gmail.com; (320) 766-0183

Bill Krivanek - bkrivanek1961@gmail.com; (320) 815-9751

Ronna Berghoff – rberghoff@cityofcarlos.com; (320) 491-1892

Jon Trenne – jtrenne@cityofcarlos.com; (320) 491-2126