

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE
EAST CENTRAL FIRE/EMS GOVERNING BODY**

The monthly meeting of the East Central Fire & EMS Protection Territory Board was called to order on May 14, 2026 at 3:00 pm by President Bob Byrd.

Members Present: Steve Ottenweller, Bob Byrd, Jeff Abbot, Mark Smith, Mark Bradtmueller, John Graber

Absent: Chad Bauer

Board members signed a roll call sheet and Christine Camp read the roll call.

Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the April Board meeting were approved as provided.

Jeff Abbot made the motion to approve the minutes from the April meeting. Mark Smith seconded the motion, and motion was approved.

Ayes: Steve Ottenweller, Jeff Abbot, Bob Byrd, Mark Smith, Mark Bradtmueller, John Graber

Absent: Chad Bauer

Nays: none

Pay Claims

The pay claims were signed by Board members. Mark Bradtmueller made the motion to approve the pay claims. Mark Smith seconded the motion, and motion was approved.

Ayes: Steve Ottenweller, Jeff Abbot, Bob Byrd, Mark Smith, Mark Bradtmueller, John Graber

Absent: Chad Bauer

Nays: none

New Business

EMS Management & Consultants Invoice

The Chief requests approval of invoice # TAG-005483 to EMS Management & Consultants in the amount of \$14,905.11.

Mark Bradtmueller made a motion to pay invoice # TAG-005483 to EMS Management & Consultants in the amount of \$14,905.11. John Graber seconded the motion, and motion was approved.

Ayes: Steve Ottenweller, Jeff Abbot, Bob Byrd, Mark Smith, Mark Bradtmueller, John Graber

Absent: Chad Bauer

Nays: none

Carson LLP Invoice

The Chief requests approval of invoice # 246268 to Carson LLP in the amount of \$12,369.60.

Steve Ottenweller made a motion to pay invoice # 246268 to Carson LLP in the amount of \$12,369.60. Mark Smith seconded the motion, and motion was approved.

Ayes: Steve Ottenweller, Jeff Abbot, Bob Byrd, Mark Smith, Mark Bradtmueller, John Graber

Absent: Chad Bauer

Nays: none

Career Employee Pay Increase

The Chief is requesting Michael Schmidt be removed from Probationary Lieutenant Status to Lieutenant/Basic EMT. Michael has completed his 1 year probationary lieutenant status period. The Chief would like to increase his hourly rate to \$23.68 per hour, biweekly \$2,651.76 as Lieutenant/Basic EMT, with an effective date of March 30, 2026.

Steve Ottenweller made a motion to remove Michael Schmidt from Probationary Lieutenant Status to Lieutenant/Basic EMT with hourly rate of \$23.68 per hour, bi-weekly \$2,651.76, with an effective date of March 30, 2026. Jeff Abbot seconded the motion, and motion was approved.

Ayes: Steve Ottenweller, Jeff Abbot, Bob Byrd, Mark Smith, Mark Bradtmueller, John Graber

Absent: Chad Bauer

Nays: none

Career Employee Pay Increase

The Chief reported that Kyle Wegman has completed training to become an FF/Advanced EMT. The Chief is requesting Kyle's hourly rate be increased to \$22.36 per hour, bi-weekly \$2,504.79. Kyle will remain in FF/Advanced EMT status for one year, effective date May 24, 2026.

Mark Bradtmueller made a motion to increase Kyle Wegman's hourly rate to \$22.36 per hour, bi-weekly \$2,504.79. Kyle will remain in FF/Advanced EMT status for one year. Mark Smith seconded the motion, and motion was approved.

Ayes: Steve Ottenweller, Jeff Abbot, Bob Byrd, Mark Smith, Mark Bradtmueller, John Graber

Absent: Chad Bauer

Nays: none

Part-time Employee Pay Increase

The Chief reported that Felicia Haddix has completed her Paramedic Training/Certification. The Chief is requesting Felicia's hourly rate be increased to \$23.00 as a part-time Paramedic only, with a effective date of May 14, 2026.

Mark Smith made a motion to have Felicia Haddix's hourly rate be increased to \$23.00 as a part-time Paramedic only, with a effective date of May 14, 2026. Mark Bradtmueller seconded the motion, and motion was approved.

Ayes: Steve Ottenweller, Jeff Abbot, Bob Byrd, Mark Smith, Mark Bradtmueller, John Graber

Absent: Chad Bauer

Nays: none

East Central Fire & EMS Subscription Extension

The Chief is requesting approval to extend the East Central Fire & EMS Subscription for 6 months, which is set to expire on June 30, 2026. This extension is needed due to the county-wide district merger scheduled for January 2027. At that time a new ambulance coverage subscription should be in place. A letter is being sent to all current subscription members notifying them of the extension. See attached letter.

Mark Smith made a motion to approve to extending the East Central Fire & EMS Subscription for 6 months, which is set to expire on June 30, 2026. Steve Ottenweller seconded the motion, and motion was approved.



CITY OF NEW HAVEN

910 Hartzell Road
New Haven, IN 46774

AGENDA **Fire/EMS Territory Agenda** **March 12, 2026, at 3:00 PM**

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Welcome - please silence cell phones and other electronic devices.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance
- C. Roll Call
- D. Approval of Minutes from the previous meeting
 - 1. March signed Minutes
- E. Pay Claims and Register

II. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Lieutenant Pay Increase
 - B. Part-time New Hire
 - C. Policy 1.44 Annual Work Agreement
 - D. Decommission of Old Surplus Equipment to be Donated
 - E. Territory Board Discussion on Countywide Fire District
 - A. Importance of the Interlocal Cooperation Agreement Signed by the Township Board Members
 - B. Township Board Members must sign by March 25, 26, 27
- NOTE: Special meeting may be required

IV. ADJOURNMENT

STATION 1 – 420 BROADWAY ST | NEW HAVEN
 STATION 2 – 4625 E PAULDING RD | ADAMS TOWNSHIP
 STATION 3 – 910 HARTZELL RD | NEW HAVEN
 STATION 4 – 22731 MAIN ST | WOODBURN
 STATION 5 – 17022 WOODBURN RD | MILAN TOWNSHIP

MEMBER	APPOINTED BY	TERM
Chad Bauer-Member	Adams Township Board	01/01/24-12/21/2026
Steve Ottenweller-Secretary	Jefferson Township Board	01/01/24-12/21/2026
Jeff Abbott-Member	Maumee Township Board	01/01/24-12/21/2026
Mark Bradtmueller-Vice President	Milan Township Board	01/01/24-12/21/2026
Bob Byrd-President	Mayor	01/01/24-12/21/2026
Mark Smith-Member	East Central Board	01/01/24-12/21/2026
John Graber-Member	City of Woodburn	01/01/24-12/21/2026

Meetings are archived and can be viewed live at <https://newhavenin.portal.civicclerk.com/>.

**EAST CENTRAL
FIRE AND EMS PROTECTION TERRITORY**
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June 1, 2026

Dear EMS Subscription Members,

We would like to share an important update regarding ambulance subscription coverage for residents served by East Central Fire & EMS.

The Allen County Fire District is scheduled to begin operations in **January 2027**, and East Central Fire & EMS will be one of the agencies included in this new district. As part of this transition, a new ambulance subscription program will be established for the Allen County Fire District, with enrollment planned to begin **December 1, 2027**.

Currently, the East Central Fire & EMS Protection Territory's EMS Subscription runs from **July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026**. Without action, this would result in a six-month gap in subscription coverage prior to the start of the new district program.

To ensure uninterrupted coverage for our members, the East Central Fire & EMS Protection Territory Board has approved an extension of all current EMS subscriptions for an additional six months. This extension will provide ambulance coverage from **July 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026**, at no additional cost to current members.

This decision was made to protect our residents during the transition period and to maintain continuity of emergency medical services until the new district subscription becomes active.

We appreciate your continued support and trust in East Central Fire & EMS. Additional information regarding the Allen County Fire District ambulance subscription will be shared as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

East Central Fire & EMS Protection Territory Board

Subject: Building the Leadership Team for Allen County Fire & EMS District

Brothers & Sisters,

As we continue building the Allen County Fire & EMS District, I want every member of this organization to understand how leadership placements are being handled. Transparency matters, and you all deserve to know how decisions affecting our department and our leaders are being made.

Where we are

The Executive Deputy Chief and four Division Chief positions have been filled. Each of the five current Fire Chiefs met with the district board chairs to discuss their background, strengths, and vision for the district. Final appointments were made jointly by the board chairs and me, based on where each chief could bring the most value to the new structure.

The appointments are:

- Executive Deputy Chief - Robert Boren
- Division Chief, EMS & Personnel Development - Doug Call
- Division Chief, Logistics & Emergency Resources - Gale Stelzer *West Central*
- Division Chief, Prevention & Public Education - Don Patnoudé *Southwest*
- Division Chief, Operations & Deployment - Jeff Berning

Each of these leaders brings deep experience and a strong commitment to the success of the district. Please join me in supporting them as we continue building this organization together.

What's next: Assistant Chief placements 20 positions

We're applying the same process at the Assistant Chief level. Every current administrative leader will sit down with district board leadership, executive leadership, or both, and talk through:

- Their background and experience
- Their leadership philosophy and operational strengths
- Where they see themselves contributing in the new structure
- Their goals within the district

This isn't a traditional job interview. It's a conversation so we can place the right people in the right seats.

Being straight with everyone

Some of our current leaders will end up in different leadership roles than they hold today. That's the reality of merging five organizations into one, we have more administrative positions than we have identical slots, and the new structure isn't a copy-paste of the old org charts.

This process is about building the strongest countywide system we can, and that requires putting leaders where they have the greatest impact.

What everyone can expect

- Pay and rank protections will be addressed clearly before any placements are finalized
- Every leader will have the chance to be heard before decisions are made
- The process will be consistent across all five departments
- Timelines will be communicated as conversations are scheduled over the coming weeks
- As placements are made, we'll keep the entire district informed

To every firefighter and EMS provider reading this

You are the reason this district exists. The leadership structure we are building is not about titles or organizational charts, it is about creating the strongest possible system for the citizens we serve and the men and women who respond to calls, stand beside one another on scene, and dedicate their careers to protecting our communities.

I know change creates uncertainty. If you have questions, talk to your chiefs, talk to your union reps, or reach out directly. My door is open.

We're not just combining departments. We're building something stronger together, and that takes every one of you.

Thank you for your professionalism, your patience, and the work you do every shift.

Respectfully,

Jeremy Bush

Executive Fire Chief

Allen County Fire & EMS District

Ayes: Steve Ottenweller, Jeff Abbot, Bob Byrd, Mark Smith, Mark Bradtmueller, John Graber

Absent: Chad Bauer

Nays: none

Update on Allen County Fire & EMS District

The Chief reported the Executive Deputy Chief and the 4 Division Chief positions have been filled. Next step is filling the 20 Assistant Chief positions. It appears that both Jackson and Monroe Townships will opt into the Allen County Fire & EMS District. See attached letter from Jeremy Bush Executive Fire Chief for more detail.

Adjournment

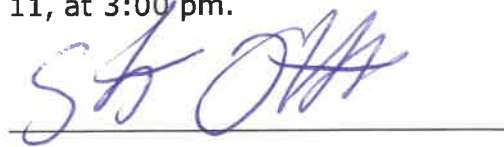
Mark Smith made the motion to adjourn the Board meeting. Jeff Abbot seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Ayes: Steve Ottenweller, Jeff Abbot, Bob Byrd, Mark Smith, Mark Bradtmueller

Absent: Chad Bauer, John Graber

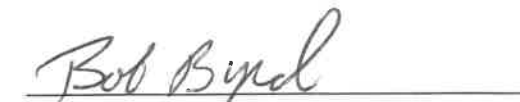
Nays: none

The next regular scheduled meeting is June 11, at 3:00 pm.



Steve Ottenweller

Secretary



Bob Byrd

President