

Moose Lake Area Fire Protection District
600 Hwy 73
Moose Lake Minnesota 55767
Official Minutes for the Regular Meeting of the Fire District
6:30pm Tuesday, April 11, 2023 Fire Hall Conference Room

The meeting opened by Chair Steve Aldrin at 6:30 pm. Fire District Board Members present were Steve Aldrin, Guyal Nelson, Robert Hoppe, Walt Lower. Others in attendance were Executive Director Osten Berg, Firefighter Chief Jim Michalski, Assistant Chief Corey Hibke, Captain Steve Trenhaile, Second Lieutenant Joyce Hibke, Chad Davidson, Bob Moffett, Todd Hoadley, Tony Bakhtiari of Windemere Township, Mayor Ted Shaw and Recording Secretary Cathleen Troskey.

Agenda: Nelson would like the MN League of Cities Liability Coverage Waiver added to New Business. A motion was made by Nelson and seconded by Hoppe to approve the Agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes: A Motion was made by Hoppe to approve the Minutes and seconded by Lower. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Nelson reviewed the Treasurer's Report and Check Register. A Motion was made by Hoppe and seconded by Lower to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

- **City response to power bill forgiveness** – Berg reported that he had a conversation with the City Administrator and she had already spoken to the power company about LED rebate and that the power company had lost the information. Berg reported they now have received some money back from the Power Company for the LED system.
Berg also reported they had discussion in regards to the situation why wasn't the Fire District included in the discount situation the City has with being forgiven of the power. It was only City buildings that were City owned through taxes that were able to receive that. Berg pointed out to the Administrator the Police Department is in the building and had a discussion about that and the Police Department has not paid for anything for the building and at that point there should be some compensation and the City Administrator said she would bring that up and see if anything could happen. One of the requirements with the money they are saving on the City side is they can't use the money saved for salaries for anything other than something new like Development. Berg said we could always take the money and put it away for a truck or anything along that line.
- **EAM** – Kirk has concerns about EAM and that the \$600 bill for the boat was paid last year already and it shouldn't have been paid yet. Nelson stated the bill was paid for last summer before anyone knew the boat was that way. Kirk looked at some of the stuff EAM is inspecting and wanting permission to fix and feels it is ridiculous. Kirk stated no disrespect to the firemen or personnel who are doing the inspections, but a lot of this stuff should be done in house. Kirk says every time EAM comes it is \$200. Kirk has no problem with them doing pump inspections and stuff like that but some of the other stuff is just nickel and dime and not costing nickel and dime. To put a latch on a truck it was \$100 some dollars for the latch and labor was \$200. Kirk wants this to get under control. Berg told Lance Olson from EAM they are just going to be doing pumps for now. Berg expressed the displeasure of a number of the board members and the bills

and costs. Berg talked to EAM about the boat, and we will take the boat to our local dealer and get a complete report from them if there is anything else that caused this or if it was not done right that they have to fix and the bill will be submitted to EAM. Lance was not aware of any problems. Berg said EAM's rate is about \$159 per hour. Berg stated the son who does the work has a cabin near Moose Lake and we don't get nailed for the travel expense. Berg agrees a few of the items such as the pickup and boat were higher than what he was told. Michalski still wants EAM to service all of the big trucks. They do not want to bring them to Superior to get serviced and through EAM will have good records and the trucks won't leave the fire hall. Trenhaile stated the issue is they are doing bumper to bumper checks and they are finding issues of DOT inspections that is where we need to scrutinize more as far as what we have to get done and what we can do and what's not a major issue. Trenhaile said we have to have something on record that these trucks are being kept and we owe that to the people who are investing money in them. Berg agrees with Kirk as far as replacing light bulbs and firemen should pick it up at the parts store. Michalski states can't get bulbs for the trucks locally. Berg states even getting the bulbs through EAM. Aldrin stated they should be able to be ordered online. Michalski stated most of them are emergency lights. Berg stated a number of lights have been out on a truck for a while now. Michalski stated can't get lights for 448 anymore. Trenhaile stated he agrees on ATV, boat, pick-ups and discussion was initially that we just have blanket maintenance records on everything, but obviously that bit us. Nelson asked if Berg talked to EAM about any adjustments on the ATV and the boat because he did them at the same time, and the labor was high on it. Berg stated \$159 per hour and that he did not talk to him about adjustments on those. Berg was more concerned about the boat. Berg told EAM those vehicles will not be done anymore. Aldrin asked Kirk how much a bill is on one of the big trucks and how often scheduled for. Michalski said trucks are done yearly and at the same time they do the pumps. Kirk said the EAM bill isn't broken down appropriately. Berg said it is not just the oil change on the trucks, it is a complete inspection on all of the components of each truck. Trenhaile assumes EAM has a DOT list where they check bumper to bumper. Kirk stated some of this stuff needs to be done locally and this should be researched. Berg stated the ATV and boat can go to Implement. Pickup trucks can go to a garage in town and tell them what we need done. Aldrin stated we need to get a hold of garages and get estimates. Michalski states you have to be a member to bring trucks to a garage. Berg stated mechanics have to be certified. Berg will talk to the mechanic on his prices and if they have someone certified to do the work needed.

- **Kettle River Contract** – Berg spoke to Kettle River on Monday and mailed out a new Contract as they indicated they never received one.

New Business:

- **By-Laws** – Mayor Shaw spoke about the By-Laws and the misunderstanding on how By-Laws are amended. Shaw said all three entities need to get together to get the By-Laws squared away. Bob Moffett heard By-Laws have been changed, but according to the By-Laws in order to change them they have to be brought to the Township and City to be approved. If they have been changed none of that has been done and have to revert back to the original By-Laws. Lower stated the By-Laws have to be filed with the City and Township and the City and Township have 60 days to view them, accept them or not to accept them. Nelson stated that they will have to revisit this and do it the right way. Berg mentioned Lois Johnson was going to retype them, but she was not able to get around to it and was going to have Cathy Troskey retype them to be legible and in an order and guess this slipped through the 60 day process. Shaw stated there were two items in which he noticed years ago, when Hartman and Shaw looked over the stuff he didn't feel it was a big problem. If you go in the By-Laws 3.25 p, it talks about the amendment

and gives the last sentence said By-Laws may amend the same manner governs back to the two governing bodies. Shaw stated it is a confusing thing and conflicts with VIII 8.1 these bylaws may be amended from time to time by 2/3rds vote board of commissioners. Shaw said we have two items in this contract that contradict. One is saying that it can be done by the commissioners and one says it has to go to the two municipalities and then back to the board and that there is a 60 day time period which would be normal because usually you present something to the council and the board and they have 30 days to review it and then you come back to it the next following meeting to take action on it. Shaw can understand the 60 days there. But Shaw said it does have two conflicting things in it and Shaw thinks a meeting should be held between all three entities to go over this to clear it up. Moffett interpreted it as the board can come up with a By-Law and then they bring it to the two municipalities. Mayor Shaw interpreted it that way, but also said it can be interpreted another way too. Shaw stated anything that the Fire District has passed is null and void until it goes through the 60 day process and a meeting needs to be set to clear this up. Any board member that is adopted by the Township or the City, they cannot be removed unless it is done by the municipalities. Shaw said that is another item that seems to be messed up in this whole thing. Shaw said any board member that for some reason this board wants to dismiss has to go through the municipality that selected him. Aldrin said with the exception of the one that is at large. Shaw said that would have to be all three, the Board, City and Township. Shaw states at this time to follow the original By-Laws and to schedule a meeting to resolve the By-Laws issues.

- **Heating System** – Moffett spoke and asked if a large amount of money was spent for the heating system for the building that is not the fire district and who was the contractor and where were the bids posted. Aldrin and Berg said Carlson Duluth Companies. Aldrin stated Berg tried to get bids. Berg stated they started back when having problems with the electric in the building. Meter was changed. Berg stated heating was lost in part of the building. Power Company came in to try to figure out the high bill and then talked to a local contractor and he was too busy to do anything. Then Berg spoke to a local electrical contractor and the contractor was too busy. We were getting to a point where we needed to do something. Berg stated when the building was built they shorted us an air exchanger, vents weren't working in the bathroom. Berg ended up contacting a company in Cloquet, Randal Heating aka Carlson Duluth Company and they saw the piping was too small and could not handle the air and the office up front had no heat at all and it needed to be done. The Police Department heat was operated through the Chiefs office. Berg said they had to do something and talked with Carlson Company and put together a number of packages and got prices and got the job done. Moffett stated it was unethical the way it was done and the job needed to be posted for bids. Berg did not post for bids and stated they would have had to hire an engineering company to engineer the whole works. Moffett stated that is the proper way to do it. Moffett said it is the way the law is written. Moffett said there are supposed to be at least two quotes if less than \$25,000. Lower asked why there were no quotes and Lower was told by Berg that was not necessary. Lower was concerned at the time. Lower said It made it difficult to vote on it when only dealing with one bid and dealing with taxpayers money. Lower felt uncomfortable voting on that without any other bids. Moffett stated our levy is going up and all of this money was put into this building and it wasn't done proper. Mayor Shaw spoke about this and to document what was done.
- **MN League Waiver** – Nelson read yearly waiver. A Motion was made by Nelson not to waive it and seconded by Kirk. The motion was passed unanimously.

Township Information:

- **Windemere Township** – Bakhtiari spoke that the committee met with the Fire District on 4/6/23. Discussed Windemere Township to join the Fire District. He indicated it was a good meeting. He needs to present that to the board and to see where their interests are. Aldrin would like to see Windemere Township in. Berg stated it was a good meeting, discussed costs of running fire department and that there will be another meeting held. Recruitment is going to be needed. Bakhtiari feels it will be easier for recruitment with their location. Lower would like to hear from some from the Windemere Board. Bakhtiar agrees with Lower and stated that this is not new to Windemere Township and that is why there is a committee for this. Lower again stated he would like to hear from a Board Chairman. Berg stated Bakhtiari is on the Windemere Board. Kirk asked if this would change ownership. Berg stated it will not change the ownership right now.
- **Silver Township** – No report.

Executive Director Report

- Berg has no other reports.

Department Report:

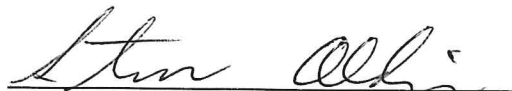
- **Chief** – Michalski is currently researching procedures and guidelines of body cameras and the Northern Lakes Surgery Center has their Knox Box installed. Michalski also stated that Moose Lake Implement does not work on boats and that Tom Sundeen works on boats. Approval was given to bring the boat to Tom Sundeen immediately to be worked on.
- **Assistant Chief** – C. Hibke is still looking into costs of a new tool set.
- **Captain** – Trenhaile reported fire fighters went to Pipeline Safety Training; State Fire Marshall training is this month and three firemen went to ice rescue training and also want to do a Saturday training this month.
- **First Lieutenant** – No report.
- **Second Lieutenant** – J. Hibke reviewed the run report.
- **Relief Association** – Davidson reported the audit is almost complete. Jackets were purchased for all the members. Working on a fundraiser that will start soon.

Upcoming Meeting:

- Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 6:30 pm in the Fire Hall Conference Room.

A motion was made by Nelson and seconded by Hoppe to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Board Chair
Steve Aldrin



Clerk
Guyal Nelson