

Moose Lake Area Fire Protection District

600 Hwy 73

Moose Lake Minnesota 55767

Official Minutes for the Regular Meeting of the Fire District
6:00pm Thursday, March 16, 2023 Fire Hall Conference Room

The meeting opened by Chair Steve Aldrin at 6:02 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, First Lieutenant Dan Hattenberger, Second Lieutenant Joyce Hibke, Tony Bakhtiari of Windemere Township and Recording Secretary Cathleen Troskey.

Agenda: Aldrin would like EAM added to the Old Business. Berg would like new Windemere Contract added to the Agenda.

A motion was made by Nelson and seconded by Lower to approve the Agenda as amended.
The motion passed unanimously.

Jeff Kirk arrived at 6:04 pm.

Minutes: Hoppe would like Hope changed to Hoppe in the Recording Secretary section of the Minutes. A Motion was made by Nelson to approve the Minutes as amended and seconded by Hoppe.
The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Nelson reviewed the Treasurer's Report and check #8832 led to discussion what was included in this cost which was for tow strap, anti-freeze and car wash soap. Check #8834 led to discussion what was included in this cost which was for fire fighter exam 1 and exam 2. Trenhaile noted this may get reimbursed.

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** – Lower reported that he spoke with the City Administrator and the Mayor and the City is not in favor of the power bill forgiveness. City has not done this for all entities, for example HRA and Hillside Manor West asked and were denied because they are financially independent from the City, have their own budget and board and they are similar to what the Fire District has and if Fire District asked to pay the electricity costs, the City would also be paying for the Townships as well and this wouldn't be fair to the City or the tax payers. Lower stated the City was lucky to get what they got for free electricity for the current entities that are receiving it. This still cost the City and the tax payers the money to produce that electricity and provide the equipment, general costs for the power and light. Nelson spoke that the Police Department uses 75% percent of the power and maybe should look into having meters put in and have the City pay the Police Department side. Berg talked about the power company having a rebate program that if you put in LED and motion switches that there would be a rebate for the cost of those products and Fire District submitted it to the power company and the power company did not pay it. Berg stated he met with the superintendent and talked to him about this and the superintendent said the Fire District would be credited one month and that never happened. Berg also spoke about the City owning the Fire Department building. Lower asked board to write up their grievances and he will set up a

meeting. Lower said a meeting should include the power company board to discuss the rebate and figure out what percent is Fire Department and Police Department on electric usage.

- **EAM** – Aldrin came into Fire Department and saw the oil on the floor by the boat motor. The motor was overfilled with oil. Spoke about contract with EAM and paying premium for their services where he feels to sever relationship with them and keep them for testing pumps and fire apparatus equipment, but for everything else look at somewhere else to have work done. Berg stated this has been discussed. Berg agrees with Aldrin. Aldrin does not believe we should pay for the boat motor work. Kirk believes we should keep what we can local. Berg said 442 oil change will be somewhere in town. Berg indicated whoever does the work should have a checklist on the work that is to be done.

New Business:

- **Fire Extinguisher Bid** – Berg reported that Northland Fire and Safety did their annual extinguisher safety check. Berg received a Bid from Northland Fire and Safety for \$1,376 as there were extinguishers missing when the annual safety check was done. Trucks 42, 48 and 49 do not have extinguishers. There is not one by door in Fire Hall by the sign. Trenhaile said they have a couple in the Fire Hall that are not being used. Trenhaile took the Bid and will look to see what they have and make sure they order appropriate number of extinguishers.
- **Windemere Township Information** – Berg reported that he attended the Windemere Township meeting. Berg reports there is an interest in the Township joining the Fire District. The Township had closed their highway department and are bidding out their equipment and there was discussion about making the pole building a substation and purchasing a used fire truck for that substation with the money they make off their equipment. Tony Bakhtiari reported that there is definitely an interest in repurposing the pole building into a substation and that it has everything it would need in the building to make it a substation. Bakhtiari has been talking to the Windemere board and they show an interest and have almost everything needed to start out and would need a fire truck. Bakhtiari has a committee. Michalski spoke about having people to run a truck. Berg said there isn't always guarantee having people for a call. If there is enough interest, it has to be built one step at a time. Kirk asked if adding Windemere Township into the Fire District as a voting member, if it would change the ownership of the Fire District. Berg stated this is not a change of ownership, just another entity joining the Fire District. Nelson shared that attorneys would have to get involved in this and it is possible it could happen in 1 to 2 years if Windemere Township is wanting this to happen.
- **Windemere Township Contract** – Berg reported last year's contract with Windemere was one year. The contract needs to be renewed. Berg stated him and Nelson put together a contract fee for the year 2023 \$88,956. In that contract the amounts charged in following years, next years will include the levy increase set by the district, so if we set a levy at another 2% to what we are asking for City of Moose Lake and Moose Lake Township, we are doing the same 2% gets added to Windemere. This has been specified more in the contract. A motion was made by Hoppe and seconded by Kirk to approve the first billing amount \$88,956 for 2023 and the new contract with Windemere Township. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Silver Township** – No report.

Executive Director Report

- Berg reports that back in August we sent a new Contract to Kettle River and we have not received anything back. Berg will send out a formal letter requesting the signed Contract. If we do not receive the Contract from Kettle River we will not have to respond to auto aid, only

mutual aid. Michalski stated Silver Township is paying us for covering their whole area and we are not getting paged to medical calls in Silver because they are still paging Kettle River. Trenhaile will let Carlton County Dispatch know that Moose Lake Fire District covers Silver Township. Kirk stated we have no mutual aid contract with Essentia and believes someone should be paying for that service when Essentia calls us out all the time. Trenhaile stated he spoke with Matt the Essentia Supervisor that we don't want to be automatically assumed that we could go out unless it is a life safety. The life safety, cardiac, bleeds, trouble breathing we don't want to fight that battle. It has gotten better. We shouldn't be going out to help someone off the floor. Dispatch does what they are told to do by Essentia. Nelson spoke about billing Essentia and that they should be paying for our help. If we leave our contract area to assist Essentia that should be billed.

Department Report:

- **Chief** – Michalski reported the evaluations have been completed. Michalski also would like permission to research body worn cameras as their last two calls involved Fire Marshalls and how it would have been nice to have camera footage. Aldrin advised Michalski to research cameras.
- **Assistant Chief** – C. Hibke asked if he could look into costs of new tool set for the maintenance room where then the tools will be secure and locked up. There are hardly no tools left in the old set. Nelson and Aldrin gave permission for C. Hibke to do so.
- **Captain** – Trenhaile stated the last two months officers have used modules through fire classes. Blue Fire does it this way. Next month will have State Fire Marshall in. Three fire fighters are going to Cass Lake to do a free Ice Rescue Training and then they will be able to do our ice training in the future. A Knox Box was installed at the Covenant Church.
- **First Lieutenant** – Hattenberger reported two helmets and battery packs have been ordered.
- **Second Lieutenant** – J. Hibke reviewed the run report and also stated next month hours will be very high.
- **Relief Association** – No report.

Upcoming Meeting:

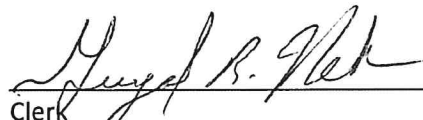
- April 11, 2023 at 6:30 pm in the Fire Hall Conference Room.

A motion was made by Nelson and seconded by Kirk to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Board Chair
Steve Aldrin



Clerk
Guyal Nelson