

**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, September 12, 2023 Fire Hall Conference Room

The meeting opened by Chair Steve Aldrin at 6:30 pm. Fire District Board Members present were Steve Aldrin, Gual Nelson, Walt Lower and Jeff Kirk. Others in attendance were Captain Steve Trenhaile, Assistant Chief Corey Hibke, Second Lieutenant Joyce Hibke, Dan Hattenberger, Chad Davidson, Tony Bakhtiari of Windemere Township, Paul Horgen, Donna Kirk and Recording Secretary Cathleen Troskey,

**Agenda:** A motion was made by Nelson and seconded by Kirk to approve the Agenda being amended to add Moose Lake Foundation, Tax Levy and mission and direction of the Board to new business. The motion passed unanimously.

**Minutes:** A motion by Nelson and seconded by Lower to approve the July minutes. A motion by Kirk and seconded by Nelson to approve the August minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

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

**Old Business:**

- Executive Director Osten Berg resigned. Resignation was read by Aldrin.

**New Business:**

- Proposed tax levy to be submitted by end of the month. Will raise it 5%. A Motion was made by Kirk and seconded by Lower to raise tax levy 5%. The motion passed unanimously.
- Donna Kirk, Program Director with Moose Lake Foundation spoke about what she does and what the Moose Lake Foundation does for the community and also extended an invitation to everyone to the Appreciation Event at Camp Miller on October 7<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm-9:00pm. This event is not a fundraiser. The foundation wants to engage with people in the community and share what they do in the community. Donna Kirk shared that the Foundation has partnered with the Kiwanis for a mental health program for Moose Lake, Willow River and Barnum Schools and recently put in new ventilators in the ambulances.
- Kirk spoke about issues with the City cleaning up the By-laws; the replacement of Bob Hoppe and the Relief Firemen feeling micromanaged. Kirk feels the Fire Department needs to run the day to day problems and the Board does not need to get involved. We don't need to lose fire fighters. Kirk would like to see one board member be a liaison. Trenhaile spoke and stated the last year there had been some division and that division has been partially solved now. Trenhaile stated always had a great relationship with the Board. Trenhaile feels the problems were from one person. Trenhaile feels steps are being made to get back on track. Davidson feels maybe there should be a liaison person from the Board, have one person from Board that firefighters can speak too. C. Hibke spoke how the last couple years have been hard. C. Hibke said it used to be fun and it is not anymore. J. Hibke felt pressured herself as she didn't know who to take direction from and being a secretary has got extremely harder. Nelson stated we need to look forward and Kirk agreed to make it back to where all are happy and be respectful

of boundaries. Lower stated they can call him any time day or night with anything. Lower is always available.

**Township Information:**

- **Windemere Township** – Bakhtiari asked who is going to take Berg's place as they have worked together a lot. Nelson and Aldrin will look into this more and work on it this transition. Windemere sold all the equipment and the goal is to have a substation.
- **Silver Township** – No report.

**Executive Director Report**

- No report.

**Department Report:**

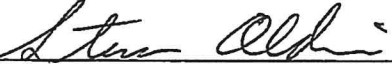
- **Chief** – None.
- **Assistant Chief** – C. Hibke reported had recruitment open house and no one showed up. Levi Schoenrock is now on the Department. Department has been at County Road 11 fire since Saturday. The UTV with 1 personnel still at fire every day. Tomorrow is demote day. Fire is 100% contained at this point. Fire was 85 acres and cost \$489,000. Currently there are 20 firefighters on the Department. Need 32 firefighters. Kirk spoke about next recruitment and advertising it more so we can get more people in. Nationwide firefighters are short everywhere. We have two firefighters who live in the City of Moose Lake, one lives Silver Township, two live in Windemere Township and the rest are Moose Lake Township.
- **Captain** – Put in for DNR grant and asked for everything. 5 new radios coming in. Batteries on portable radios are reaching their life and is looking at costs for new. Propane burn is next month.
- **First Lieutenant** – No report.
- **Second Lieutenant** – J. Hibke reviewed the run and call reports.
- **Relief Association** – Davidson reported golf tournament is Friday, 9/15 and have 17 teams of 4 signed up.

**Upcoming Meeting:**

- Tuesday, October 10, 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 7:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Chair  
Steve Aldrin

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk  
Guyal Nelson