

Moose Lake Area Fire Protection District

600 Hwy 73

Moose Lake Minnesota 55767

Unofficial Minutes for the Regular Meeting of the Fire District

6:30pm Tuesday, January 14, 2025 Fire Hall Conference Room

Board Members present: Steve Aldrin, Guyal Nelson, Walt Lower, Jon Lund and Jeff Kirk. Fire Chief Joyce Hibke, Assistant Chief Corey Hibke, Captain Mike Chambers, Second Lieutenant Steve Trenhaile, Secretary Jim Michalski and Relief Association Chad Davidson.

The Organizational meeting opened by Chief Joyce Hibke at 6:30pm.

Chair: Guyal Nelson nominated Steve Aldrin for the position of Chairman. Lund seconded the nomination and the vote carried.

Vice Chair: Guyal Nelson nominated Jon Lund for the position of Vice Chairman. Lower seconded the nomination and the vote carried.

Secretary/Treasurer: Jeff Kirk nominated Guyal Nelson for the position of Secretary/Treasurer. Lund seconded the nomination and the vote carried.

Motion was made by Kirk for the following:

Official polling place: Fire Hall, postings on the bulletin board at the civic center.

Official Depository: First National Bank of Moose Lake.

Chief designee to make purchases: Fire Chief.

Official Newspaper: Star Gazette.

Meeting Dates: Second Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm.

Legal Counsel: Frank Yetka or other Law Firm deemed necessary for that purpose.

District Financial Manager: Hoffman, Phillips, Martel.

Recording Secretary: Cathy Troskey and sub Kim Wesley.

Nelson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Board compensation rates were set as follows:

\$60 per meeting for Board Members.

\$425 per quarter for the Chairperson.

\$500 per quarter for the Secretary/Treasurer.

\$75 per meeting for the Recording Secretary. \$15/hr. for any additional typing needed.

Motion to approve compensation was brought by Lower and seconded by Lund and the motion passed unanimously.

Add to compensation rates as amended:

\$30 per hour for interviews by Board Members.

Motion to approve compensation for interviews by Board Members brought by Aldrin and seconded by Nelson and the motion passed unanimously.

Add to compensation rates as amended:

\$30 per hour for interviews by Fire Department Officers.

Motion to approve compensation for interviews by Fire Department Officers brought by Aldrin and seconded by Nelson and the motion passed unanimously.

Aldrin reported that the travel expenses remain at equal to the state per diem, and the federal rate .70 cents per mile. The meal expenses were raised to actual meal expenses, not to exceed \$59 per day. The fire department member's per diem was raised to \$50 for up to four hours, and \$100 for over four hours per day. Nelson made the motion to approve, Kirk seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The organizational meeting was adjourned at 6:38pm. Motion to adjourn by Lower and seconded by Kirk and the motion passed unanimously.

Monthly Meeting:

The monthly meeting was called to order at 6:39pm by Aldrin.

Agenda: Aldrin would like to add investing of funds under New Business. A motion was made by Nelson and seconded by Lower to approve the Amended Agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes: A motion by Nelson and seconded by Lower to approve the December, 2024 Minutes and the Truth and Taxation Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report/Bill List: Nelson reviewed the Treasurer's Report and Bill List. A motion was made by Lower and seconded by Lund to approve the Treasurer's Report and Bill's List. Discussion by Kirk about the water, light, energy, cleaning, etc. being for both fire and law enforcement areas of building needs to be revisited when contract is done. Paying these bills for fire and law enforcement side doesn't sit well with Kirk and wants it looked at more. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

- Land: Purchase of land has been completed. Need to pay the attorney bill once received.
- CPR & AED Classes: Kent needs to schedule the final class for instructors. Lions Club is interested in having a class. Nelson stated laptop needs to be ordered.

New Business:

- Audit: Nelson is almost ready for the Auditor's. Motion was made by Nelson and seconded by Kirk to complete the 2024 audit with Hoffman, Phillips, Martel. The motion passed unanimously.
- Investing Funds: Aldrin would like Lund to look into options to invest funds. Lund said it will take a little time and that there will need to be an investment policy that would be approved by the City and Township and that there are other things he will need to look into what options are and follow the State Statutes and FDIC insurance. A motion was made by Lower and seconded by Kirk for Lund to start looking at options to invest funds.

Tabled:

- By Laws
- Future Agreement with City: Kirk would like more information and would like to look more at the future agreement with the city and use of police department, plowing, shoveling, etc. costs. The department members do the shoveling. Kirk feels it may be cheaper contracting these out than paying the City and making services more affordable. Nelson indicated we can look at negotiating again in 2027 when the contract is up. Lower said the City is aware of the concerns and all want what is best for tax payers. Kirk wants it fair and efficient and wants to look at the expenses and what can be changed. Lower stated he worked out figures a year ago with all of the costs and it came out almost even, depending on how much water the Fire District uses. Lower stated most cities provide fire departments with water for cheap cost, but this is a Fire District and it's the tax payers of Moose lake that are paying for the water for the whole District and that's in the mathematical equation as well and this all was decided before any of the current Board Members here today. Lower understands the complaint and is always hearing that the City is ripping off the Fire District and Lower does not see it that way when you put all the numbers together it's rather close. Lower is hopeful this will all get figured out when the

contract is up. Kirk said he is not accusing the City of ripping the Fire District off. Kirk is saying it needs to be adjusted with Nelson agreeing. Kirk said everything they do and pay for now is more expensive and heating will for sure be going up in the next three years along with everything else. Kirk again stated he is not beating up the City of Moose Lake and his goal is for this to be more efficient and fair. Kirk would like a workup of electric, gas, maintenance, water, etc. expenses for the last five years and added to next month's Old Business. Nelson will try put it together.

- Use of the Police Department

Township Information:

- Windemere Township – No report.
- Silver Township – No report.

Department Report:

- Chief – J. Hibke reported they have an interview on Thursday. There are four going to officer's class and 1 EMR class.
- Assistant Chief – Corey Hibke no report.
- Captain/Training Officer – Chambers reported there are four going to officer's class as mentioned earlier.
- First Lieutenant – Hattenberger no report.
- Second Lieutenant – Trenhaile reported they have switched responsibilities and his is EMS and SCBA and mid-last year looked at SCBA tanks that cycle out 3 years and will need to buy more tanks. Talked about CRP classes and public information and would like to look at getting an electronic sign for outside of the fire hall. Nelson will look into a sign that runs through a laptop.
- Run Report - Michalski read over run report.
- Relief Association – Davidson reported they had their annual meeting and went through contributions. The District paid \$6,000 this year and last year was \$7,000 and does not recall that change. Nelson stated when we did the budget last year, we decided to go up with the wage on calls and at the time we would go down \$1,000 and put that into the budget for the hourly rate. Davidson would like copy of minutes showing that change.

Next meeting is February 11, 2025 at 6:30pm.

A motion was made by Kirk and seconded by Nelson to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Board Chair
Steve Aldrin



Clerk
Guyal Nelson