

Moose Lake Area Fire Protection District
600 Hwy 73
Moose Lake, Minnesota 55767
Official Minutes for the Regular Meeting
Tuesday, June 10, 2025

Fire District Board Members present: Steve Aldrin, Guyal Nelson, Jon Lund, Walt Lower III and Jeff Kirk.
Firefighters present: Fire Chief Joyce Hibke, Captain Mike Chambers, Second Lieutenant Steve Trenhaile, and Relief Association Chad Davidson.
Others present: Kimberly Wesley, Substitute Fire District Secretary.

The meeting was called to order by Steve Aldrin at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was recorded.

Agenda: Nelson motioned and Kirk seconded for approval of the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes: Kirk motioned and Lund seconded for approval of the May minutes. The motion passed. Nelson abstained from voting on the approval of the May minutes on the advice of legal counsel.

Treasurer's Report: Nelson reviewed the Treasurer's Report and Check Detail. Lund motioned and Lower seconded for approval of the report. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

- **Guyal's Turn:** Nelson shared that he was not able to attend the May meeting. He felt during his absence he was verbally attacked by Owens and Lower and was not able to speak and defend his position on the matter of treatment of the shared city employee. He denied verbally attacking the employee in question. He expressed that the matter could have been handled so much better by gathering the involved parties together to discuss the matter, not in a public meeting. He shared he has always accommodated the employee in the past and stated "You all know me and this is not how I act." Nelson felt the Mayor needs to call a meeting to resolve the issue.

Lower strongly stated he felt Nelson had a "bone to pick" with the city and took it out on the shared city employee. He added that in his opinion Nelson has an issue with the city administrator and used this opportunity. He doesn't feel the employee made it up as she told the same story multiple times. Aldrin reaffirmed the issue should not have been handled the way it was in an open meeting. There were many in verbal agreement.

Kirk repeated this was not the forum for this. There should be a mutual understanding that grievances are handled privately. He respectfully requested that if more attention was needed, it be given in a closed meeting with an unbiased account. He added that from this day forward, it should be taken up by a small committee of the involved parties.

Nelson expressed that he was disappointed he did not get any support at the May meeting. Kirk reassured him that he did stand up and make comments in support of Nelson.

- **Firefighter Retirement:** It was announced that Second Lieutenant Steve Trenhaile is retiring as of September 1, 2025. Nelson expressed the department was losing a great firefighter. Aldrin added everyone appreciates all Trenhaile has done. Trenhaile reassured everyone he will still be around.

Old Business:

- **Future Agreement with City:** Aldrin stated he felt that not much had been accomplished when meeting with the city regarding In-Kind Services. He said the City is not willing to acknowledge what they get out of the Fire District. Aldrin shared he was told by Owens the ladder truck was purchased for the prison. He stated if it was not needed, it may get sold. Chambers emphatically assured him it is needed. He stated it has nothing to do with In-Kind Services and should not be included. It was used in the Kerrick fire and was the first truck at the hospital and Manor fires. Nelson stated to Chambers that there is agreement that it is needed. Lower repeated the ladder truck is not included in In-Kind Services. He stated it was not bought for the prison. He said the accounting should be done by hours spent and what equipment goes to what call. Further discussion ensued.

Aldrin shared his opinion that if the City paid for all In-Kind Services there wouldn't be a problem. Lower told Aldrin that he says the City is ripping the Fire District off. The City is giving the Fire District free water. Lower emphatically feels some members of the Fire District board have a list of personal grudges against the city. Kirk stopped the discussion by stating it was getting out of hand. He shared he saw no agreement at the In-Kind Services meeting. He felt the two sides were 180 degrees apart and there was a need for compromise. He acknowledged the problems go back a long time. Lund added that he has no history in this matter, but that the current happenings are not constructive. He suggested the attorney for the Fire District review the lease agreement to see where the Fire District is at. He also suggested getting away from the In-Kind Services and spell out what the City pays and what the Fire District pays.

Lower shared the City made a list and the Fire District made a list. He stated the ladder truck and insurance should not be on the list. Kirk stated Owens pointed out that mowing the grass is needed. Kirk felt some prices were pretty outrageous. He hoped with another meeting coming up both sides would move forward working together with cooler heads prevailing. Lower said the City is tired of being accused of ripping off the Fire District. He has felt persecuted for his place on the board. Kirk said if you sit on a board, you do need thick skin. He offered if Lower feels persecuted, he apologized for how he feels. Davidson spoke up and stated he felt nothing will get accomplished with Aldrin and Nelson at the In-Kind Services meetings. He suggested Lund attend and maybe a firefighter as another set of ears. He shared as a firefighter they hate to hear about this disagreement. There is a need to compromise. Lund agreed to be a representative when asked by Nelson. Kirk reminded there should be no discussions like this. It should be calm and constructive.

Tabled:

- **By-Laws:** Nothing to report.

Township Information: No Reports

Chief Report: Fire Chief J. Hibke reported they sent a truck to the fires up north and made \$2200. She shared she is figuring out her new position.

Firefighter Reports: Captain Chambers reported in the future there will be 10 months of Blue Fire training, along with other trainings in house. They were approached by a homeowner and will be participating in a training burn at a house in Kerrick on July 12th. It is in Kerrick's district so Kerrick will be responsible for completing the paperwork. Nelson asked if there was any way to video the experience to use in future trainings. He shared it would be valuable. Chambers said it is a fast paced event but they will try. He shared upcoming events they will be part of include Barnum's Spring Fever Days, June 14-15th, with the parade and rodeo, and the Fly-In pancake breakfast on June 21st. Second Lieutenant Trenhaile stated he was working with Chambers to spread out his responsibilities before his retirement. He repeated he was leaving the fire department but will stay involved. He said he has 30 years in and it's time to move on.

Run Report: Fire Chief J. Hibke reviewed the Run Report for May, 2025 detailing the 43 calls responded to. She shared the glow in the area call was really the moon.

Relief Association: Davidson indicated ticket sales for the raffle were going extremely well. He shared they now have a canopy with the fire logo to use at events. He has a check for Nelson for PERA.

Nelson motioned to adjourn and Kirk seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 8, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kimberly Wesley, Substitute Fire District Secretary.