

Elsie Area Fire Association  
140 W Maple St  
Elsie, MI 48831

Elsie Area Fire Association Board Minutes for Board Meeting on December 11, 2024

Members Present: Green, Bowen, Zemla, Maynard and Carroll

Fire Department Members Present: McNamara

Members Absent: Wooley

Guests: Witt, Hall, M. Helt, Arnett, J. Bowen, Tabor, Peterson, Destinee Bryce, Jason Freeman, B. Ormes, K. Ormes and Saul

Called to order by Green at 6:02 pm

The board and guests stood for the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Zemla made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Carroll supported the motion and motion carried.

Bowen made the motion to approve the minutes from the November 13<sup>th</sup> meeting as presented. Green supported the motion and motion carried.

Zemla made a motion to approve the Treasurers report with the following balances: \$82,738.97 in checking and \$44,577.81 in the money market. Carroll supported the motion and motion carried.

Carroll made a motion to approve the bills, checks & ACH debits, in the amount of \$1,561.78 for November and \$2087.45 for December. Zemla supported the motion and motion carried.

Zemla made a motion to amend the budget in the following areas: take \$657.38 from Unallocated Balance and move to: \$336.74 to Payroll Tax, \$100 to Dues & Subscriptions, \$142.39 to Fax Line, and \$78.25 to Vehicle Repair. Carroll supported the motion and motion carried

Chief McNamara presented his Chief's report. He discussed recruitment and retention, staffing, department trainings, officer autonomy, upcoming requirements and discussed repeating a department survey. B. Ormes & K. Ormes passed their class and became stat licensed EMR's. The association will be adopting two families for Christmas

Old Business

- 1 Update on Building Maintenance: The department personnel would like to build a wall upstairs, a door for where the air compressor is stored and fix the upstairs floor. The Village representative has given blessings to complete the repairs to the building. Carroll made a motion for the department to spend up to \$600 on materials to complete the repairs and \$600 is to come from the PPE line item in the budget to the building repair budget line item. Zemla supported the motion and motion carried.
- 2 Update on Tool Crib/ Vehicle Maintenance: Operational Readiness Report, included, was presented and discussed. Hall spoke with Mike Phillips from Mike's Repair in Elsie and mended the broken relationship. Mike is willing to help with servicing the trucks and the DOT inspections at a reasonable price. Mike is willing to let Hall help which will reduce the cost. Zemla made a motion for the 4 big trucks to be serviced as soon as possible. Carroll supported the motion and motion carried. Pump testing will be switched from Apollo to a local representative on French Rd.

- 3 Update on Fire Department Gear/Inventory Update: Personnel are actively working on an inventory system. They are working with Hall with inventory for the trucks. They are still cleaning and scrapping items not used or needed anymore.
- 4 Firefighters Association – Chief McNamara will be working with Tabor on the 501c3 and they should be able to complete this week.
- 5 Association/Authority Bi-Laws: Currently on hold
- 6 Engine 1 for sale update – The Broker backed out of purchasing the Engine. The Clinton County Chief's offered to purchase the Engine \$2500 to use for training for fire school. The board discussed to continue to look into other options for selling the Engine.
- 7 Huntington Bank Update: Bowen stated the payment was made towards the Huntington credit card. Freeman had given Bowen a new bill prior to the meeting started. The payment was not showing on the new statement however a payment of \$73 was showing as an automatic payment however it had not come out of the Fire Departments account. Bowen will continue to research with Huntington.
- 8 Audit Update – The audit is on hold until forensic audit has been completed.
- 9 Letters of Preservation/FOIA Update: No current update.
- 10 Forensic Audit: No updated for the Fire Department. Carroll reported to the board that the Village forensic audit will be coming to a close by Christmas with another ongoing investigation still open. Carroll also stated the forensic auditor is no longer looking into the Fire Department due to no ties between the Village and Fire Department and the department can move forward with the state audit. It was stated that the Village will be pulling out the Fire Association agreement for the 25-26 year, then corrected that it was supposed to be the 26-27 year, giving the board 11 months to work on a new agreement. The Villages attorney and auditor is questioning the legality of the current 25 year old agreement. It was stated by Freeman, the new Village President, that the Village donated over \$18,000 during the 2022/2023 year according to the Village's ledger however there was no documented proof for such donations. The Village is looking at donating the cost of the vehicle insurance only for 2025/2026. The department is to look at increasing deductibles to lower the premium. Bowen stated that Diane with MML will be at the Fire Board meeting in January or February to review the coverages with the board. The Interim Village Manager, Chief Bryce stated that it costs \$600 a month to heat the Fire Department building. The Village President and Village Manager would like to sit down with the Fire Board to begin working on a new agreement at the beginning of 2025. It was discussed that the Fire Board, with one representative from each entity and the members at large, should work on the agreement then present it to each entity for review.
- 11 Chapin Township Board Member: Ron Maynard, the new Supervisor for Chapin Township, was appointed to be the new Fire Board Member from Chapin Township. Todd Carroll was appointed to be the new Fire Board Member from the Village of Elsie, replacing Jason Freeman.
- 12 Budget Committee 2025/2026 - The Budget Committee will consist of Bowen, Zemla, Chief McNamara, Assist. Chief's Saul & Arnett & Captains Bowen & Witt. The first budget committee will be on Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm at the Fire Station.
- 13 Other Old Business: None

New Business:

- 1 Water Softener – It was discussed that towards the end of November, Culligan had called Chief McNamara stating the Village of Elsie would no longer be paying for the water softener and that they needed payment information from the Fire Department. Due to the cost through Culligan, it was decided to remove the current water softener. Zemla made a motion for the department to look into the cost of renting a water softener and to purchase a new softener up to \$650, if cheaper than renting. Bowen supported the motion and motion carried.
- 2 Other new business: None.

Guest Comment: Arnett thanked the board for the support and the gift for the passing of his mom. He greatly appreciated it.

Carroll made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm. Zemla supported the motion. Motion carried.

Next meeting: January 8, 2025 at 6:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Bowen  
Secretary/Treasurer