

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

Elsie Area Fire Association Board Minutes for Board Meeting on January 10, 2024

Members Present: Green, Bowen, Freeman, Zemla, Maynard

Fire Department Members Present: Ormes, Grinnell

Members Absent: Frink, Wooley

Guests: Attached sign in sheet

Called to order by Green at 18:03 pm.

Zemla made the motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Personnel Issues after Closing Comments. Bowen supported the motion and motion carried.

Bowen made a motion to approve the December 13, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. Zemla supported the motion and motion carried.

Zemla made a motion to approve the Treasurers report as presented. Maynard supported the motion and motion carried. There was a discussion about the funds in the Major Equipment / Savings Fund. The funds were taken out of the Major Equipment Savings Fund to purchase the new helmets and gear. Once the extensions have been completed, then the entities will be reimbursed and the Major Equipment Savings Fund will be reimbursed. The grant was last extended to January 1, 2024.

There were no Guest Comments.

There was no New Business.

Old Business:

Setting the 2024 Fire Board Meeting calendar was discussed. The board discussed leaving the meetings on a monthly basis.

A new Elsie Area Fire Authority contract was brought to the board for review. The board discussed that they will review and it will be discussed in depth at the next board meeting.

Rescue Assistant Chief Grinnell:

There were 15 calls for the month of December, 237 year to date.

Fire Chief Ormes:

Chief Ormes broke down the fire calls; month to date, year to date and by Township.

Closing Comments:

There were no Closing Comments.

Personnel Comments:

There were several questions the board asked the Chief & the Assistant Chief to get a feel how things are going at the department. It was discussed that some current and previous firefighters approached some of the board members about issues within the department. The board was told the department has become toxic, hostile, there was no change of command, there was no trust, people did not feel safe. There was discussion about if anyone had brought complaints to the Chief or the Assistant Chief. It was stated no they had not. The board asked for a detailed explanation surrounding the purchase of the auxiliary ambulances. It was stated that the Elsie Area Fireman's Fund donated \$7000 to the Fire Association to purchase the ambulance. The question was asked where it was mentioned in the Treasurers Report about the purchase of the ambulance. There was no check presented to the board for the purchase. Grinnell stated it was in the reports.

It was discussed that the Chief & the Assistant Chief needed to talk to their fellow firefighters to get to the bottom of the issues. There was a concern about where the department was going, and it needed to get corrected. At least one member of the fire board would attend the fire department meetings & training.

Next meeting is February 14, 2024.

Bowen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 20:19, Zemla supported the motion and motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Bowen
Secretary/Treasurer