

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

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

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

Fire Department Members Present: Ormes

Members Absent: none

Guests: Attached sign in sheet

Called to order by Green at 5:37 pm

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

Old Business – Continuation from April 10, 2024

- 1 Titles – Chief Ormes reported we now have all of the titles in the department’s name.
- 2 Engine 1 – Chief Ormes reports that Engine 1 was submitted to Brindly Fire to list for sale for \$15,000.
- 3 County Chiefs Meetings - Chief Ormes reports that he and Captain Arnett attended one of the County meetings.
- 4 Training with other departments – Jason Bowen, Lieutenant Saul and Captain Arnett visited the Ovid Fire Department to talk about training and the relationship between the two departments. Ovid provided them with a training schedule for 2024 and hopes that the two departments can get back to the way they used to be.
- 5 O’Riley’s Credit Card Application – Bowen went to O’Riley’s to purchase parts and check on the status of the department credit card. The wasn’t anything set up for the Fire Department at that time. Chief Ormes will look into.
- 6 Donation Procedure – A Bowen submitted a Donation Procedure for review. Freeman made a motion to accept the Donation Procedure as presented. Wooley supported the motion and motion carried. Roll call vote: Zemla – yes, Freeman – yes, Wooley – yes, Maynard – yes, Bowen – yes, Green – yes.
- 7 2021 – 2022 Payroll Update – A Bowen had reported that all firefighters who were not paid in 2021 & 2022 or shorted pay were paid. Payroll sheet was attached.
- 8 Spectrum Update – The Spectrum bill has been split – Village portion and Fire Department portion. The Fire Department portion is listed under Shane Grinnell with the fire department address and with charged taxes. Wooley made a motion for A. Bowen to call Spectrum and open a new account under the Fire Departments name with tax exempt status. Zemla supported the motion and motion carried.
- 9 Cameras – Three cameras were purchased and placed on the outside of the Fire Station. A Bowen has the cameras set up on her phone. The access will stay as is for right now.
- 10 Chain Saw – Zemla presented information about a new chain saw for the fire department in the amount of \$1549. Bowen made a motion for Zemla to purchase the new chain saw. Freeman supported the motion and motion carried.
- 11 Tires for Van – Freeman presented information about new tires for the Fire Department van for \$600. Bowen made a motion for Freeman to purchase new tires for the department van

and to take the van to have the tires put on it. Zemla supported the motion and motion carried.

12 Officer Meetings -There will be an Officer Meeting on May 14th at 5:00 pm before the department training.

13 Equipment, Maintenance, Building Updates - There will be a cleanup day at the station. Zemla will continue to work with Lieutenant Saul regarding a Building Maintenance Policy. The firefighters discussed needing more lockers and more closet space. Zemla will work with Saul to sketch something for lockers/ closet space.

14 Huntington Bank fee – A Bowen is still working with Huntington to see what the debit of \$16 or \$17 a month is for. Huntington was able to tell Bowen that there were statements being sent to the Village office for a credit card and the credit card was in Shane Grinnell’s name along with the Fire Department. Huntington will continue to see what other information can be provided.

New Business:

1 Zemla made a motion to adapt the presented Social Media Policy. Freeman supported the motion and motion carried. Roll call vote: Zemla – yes, Freeman – yes, Wooley – yes, Maynard – yes, Bowen – yes, Green – yes.

2 Captain Arnett presented a Tool Crib Policy. Bowen made a motion to adapt the presented Social Media Policy. Wooley supported the motion and motion carried. Roll call vote: Zemla – yes, Freeman – yes, Wooley – yes, Maynard – yes, Bowen – yes, Green – yes. Only the Maintenance Committee will have access to the tool room. There will be a small toolbox outside that others can use for other repairs.

3 Smoking & Vaping in a public building was discussed. A policy will be created and presented to the board during the May meeting.

4 Department Survey – Captain McNamara and A Bowen worked together to create a department survey. The survey was distributed to the firefighters to complete and return to a board member unanimously. A Bowen would compile the survey results and present to the board.

5 Maintenance Consultant – Zemla made a motion to create a new position for the Fire Department, a Maintenance Consultant. With the Maintenance Consultant being a member of the department, he will be covered under the department’s liabilities insurance. This position is completely a volunteered, unpaid position. Freeman supported the motion and motion carried.

6 Personnel Committee – Freeman and A Bowen reported there were a personnel issue. The issues were investigated and taken care of.

7 Insurance Claim – A Bowen reported there were two insurance claims opened with the insurance company regarding the Assistant Chief’s situation and investigation.

8 Title for Enclosed Trailer – The department has another enclosed trailer that they have owned for close to a year. It was obtained to transport the ATV. The DNR should be sending a title soon. The department doesn’t have to do anything at this time. There is no paperwork. The Auxiliary Trailer was a donation from Mason’s. Grinnell had once stated that Mason’s said the department could sell the auxiliary trailer.

9 Bowen made a motion to remove Thomas Frink as a signer on the bank accounts at Journey Federal Credit Union and add Richard (Rick) Zemla as a signer to the bank accounts. Wooley supported the motion and motion carried.

- 10 Zemla made a motion to appoint Freeman as the Village of Elsie board representative pending approval from the Village Council during their May meeting. Wooley supported the motion and motion carried.

There were 12 Rescue Runs in March and 5 Fire Runs.

Guest comments: Brush truck should be good and back in service. Helt asked Freeman about tires for the UTV.

Zemla made a motion to enter into closed session at 7:58 pm. Freeman supported the motion and motion carried.

Zemla made a motion to enter back into open session at 8:26 pm. Wooley supported the motion and motion carried.

No additional public comments.

Zemla made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 pm. Freeman supported the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Bowen
Secretary/Treasurer