

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

Elsie Area Fire Association Board Minutes for Board Meeting on January 15, 2025

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

Fire Department Members Present: McNamara

Members Absent: Wooley

Guests: Witt, Hall, M. Helt, B. Helt, Arnett, J. Bowen, Tabor, Destinee Bryce, Saul and Diane Jones with MML

Called to order by Green at 6:01 pm

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

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

Diane Jones with Michigan Municipal League presented options for the Fire Departments insurance. Different deductibles were presented which provided very little difference with the annual premium. Diane reminded the board that MML pays a dividend for members renewing. The dividend for 2025 is estimated to be \$965.

Carroll made the motion to approve the minutes from the December 11th and January 8th meeting as presented. Zemla supported the motion and motion carried.

Zemla made a motion to approve the Treasurers report with the following balances: \$79,738.20 in checking and \$44,624.62 in the money market. Maynard supported the motion and motion carried.

Zemla made a motion to approve the bills, checks & ACH debits, in the amount of \$256.57 for December and \$3869.17 for January. Carroll supported the motion and motion carried.

Zemla made a motion to amend the budget in the following areas: take \$1090.52 from Unallocated Balance and move to: \$582.61 to Payroll Tax, \$100 to Dues & Subscriptions, \$38.71 to Fax Line, \$47.65 to Vehicle Repair and \$321.55 to Rescue Supplies. Maynard supported the motion and motion carried

Chief McNamara presented his Chief's report. He discussed recruitment and retention, staffing, department trainings, upcoming requirements and trainings for Chief. Chief has registered for all required classes in 2025. The repeat survey is overall very reassuring that we are moving in the right direction. There is still some quiet negativity but no issues have been brought to leaderships attention.

Old Business

- 1 Update on Building Maintenance: No updated
- 2 Update on Vehicle Maintenance: The Operational Readiness Report, included, was presented and discussed. Hall and Mike Phillips from Mike's Repair have been working on servicing the departments trucks. The brush truck died at the Ovid Christmas light show. Hall was able to find the issues. The brush truck now holds a charge, starts and is running great at this time. Hall is to provide the board with 5 of the top issues with the equipment that needs to be fixed and the estimated costs to fix it.
- 3 Update on Fire Department Gear/Inventory Update: Zemla made a motion to allow Captain Witt to purchase a new computer up to \$600 to replace the current computer that recently stopped working. The \$600 is to be taken from the PPE Budget. Maynard supported the motion and motion carried.

- 4 Firefighters Association – Chief McNamara is still working with the IRS. Chief stated the Firefighters Association are safe to operate as all activities up to 27 months before the binding document was approved are protected no profit activities retroactively when the 501c3 is finalized.
- 5 Engine 1 for sale update – The firefighters leadership will reach out to the Clinton County Chief's Association to see if they are willing to pay \$3500 for the Engine 1 and include all of Chief's training costs.
- 6 Huntington Bank Update: Bowen is still trying to work with Huntington Bank to see if there is any resolution. Destinee Bryce provided Bowen with the most recent Huntington Bank credit card statement. It shows additional fees. Bowen will reach out to Huntington Bank again the next business day.
- 7 Audit Update – The auditor stated he received everything he needed and would be able to provide the audit shortly.
- 8 Letters of Preservation/FOIA Update: No current update.
- 9 Water Softener – Purchase/Rental: No update. The firefighters leadership will look into rental costs and prices for a new water softener.
- 10 Budget Committee 2025/2026 - The Budget Committee met and came up with a preliminary budget. The committee will meet again in February.
- 11 Other Old Business: None

New Business:

- 1 Village of Elsie Termination Letter – The Village of Elsie served the Elsie Area Fire Department Board a Termination Letter on December 26, 2024. The letter stated that the Village of Elsie made a motion in December to withdraw from the Elsie Area Fire Association and terminate all contracts & agreements with the department. Effective March 31, 2025, the Village of Elsie is terminating their membership from the Association. Effective November 24, 2025, the Elsie Area Fire Association is to vacate the Village property and the fire barn. The Village Council supports the Fire Authority and is willing to consider a renegotiated Elsie Area Fire Associate agreement. There was a lot of discussion about the letter and what the Village would like to see going forward. Carroll stated the Village has already committed to “donating” the costs of the insurance for the equipment for the 2025-2026 year however it is not known when those funds will be “donated” due to the situation the Village is currently in. The Fire Association is not able to move forward with the 2025-2026 budget or association agreement until it is known how much will be contributed for the 2025-2026 year, what a new lease agreement will look like and what their contribution will be for years to come.
- 2 Insurance Decision: Zemla made a motion to purchase insurance with Michigan Municipal League with the annual premium of \$17457 plus the \$200 MML associate membership dues and with \$250/\$250 deductible for the 2025/2026 year. Carroll supported the motion and motion carried. The Fire Association is to keep the dividend paid by MML for the 2025-2026 year instead of giving it to the Village of Elsie as done in the 2024-2025 budget year.
- 3 Association Agreement: Carroll stated he would begin retyping the existing agreement then share it with the board members for all to start making suggestions for changes.
- 4 Other new business: None

Guest Comment: Chief thanked the board, fire fighters and the guests for all their hard work.

Zemla made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm. Carroll supported the motion. Motion carried.

Next meeting: February 12, 2025 at 6:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Bowen
Secretary/Treasurer