

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

Elsie Area Fire Association Board Minutes for Special Board Meeting on January 12, 2024

Members Present: Green, Bowen, Freeman, Zemla

Fire Department Members Present: Ormes, Grinnell

Members Absent: Maynard, Frink, Wooley

Guests: Jason Bowen, John Anderson & additional guests on sign in sheet

Called to order by Green at 17:30 pm.

Freeman made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Zemla supported the motion and Motion Carried.

There were several guest comments both positive and negative made towards the leadership of the Elsie Area Fire Department. The board actively listened to all comments. There have been several firefighters and officers leaving Elsie Area Fire Department and joining surrounding departments. Comments about distrust, toxic, hostile environment and lack of communication are concerning to the board. The core values of the fire department are fuzzy and the board needs to investigate why.

1. The issue of misrepresentation of funds on behalf of the board Secretary/Treasurer and the Assistant Chief, Shane Grinnell was discussed. There was also discussion about who is approved to sign the checks from the Elsie Area Fire Association. Green, Frink and Grinnell are approved signers. A check payable to Elk Rapids Fire Department in the amount of \$7500 written on 08.24.2023 was presented for discussion. The check was signed by Grinnell and Frink. Grinnell stated that Frink's signature automatically prints on the checks as an electronic signature. Frink had told other board members that he had not authorized such check. There was discussion that the \$7500 check was never presented to the board. It is not in the minutes or in the treasurers' report from August 2023 – January 2024. Zemla made a motion to suspend Shane Grinnell as Assistant Chief for 30 days and removed him from the Elsie Area Fire Association Board Secretary Treasurer indefinitely. Freeman supports the motion and motion carried. Roll call vote: Bowen- yes, Freeman – yes, Green – yes and Zemla – yes. Grinnell is able to respond to fire and rescue calls if he chooses. Grinnell commented that he does not feel it is in his best interest to respond to calls during this time. The suspension will allow the board to further investigate the misrepresentation of funds along with any other issues presented to the board. The board will meet again once the 30 day suspension is up and at that time will discuss further actions.
2. It was moved by Zemla and supported by Freeman to appoint Amy Bowen as the new Secretary/Treasurer for the Elsie Area Fire Association effective immediately, motion carried. Grinnell will be removed from the bank accounts at Journey Federal Credit Union

and Amy Bowen will be added. The approved signers will be Craig Green, Thomas Frink and Amy Bowen.

3. Other business: There was discussion about the Fire Board creating a Personnel Committee so firefighters and auxiliary members had someone that they could talk to if there were issues with leadership or other members of the departments. This will be discussed further at a future meeting.

Guests were encouraged to file any complaints in writing, and they will be reviewed by the board.

Zemla mad a motion to adjourn the meeting, Freeman supported the motion and motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Bowen  
Secretary/Treasurer

Craig Green  
Board President