

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

Elsie Area Fire Association Board Minutes for Board Meeting on March 19, 2025

Members Present: Green, Bowen, Maynard and Carroll

Fire Department Members Present: Chief McNamara

Members Absent: Wooley, Zemla

Guests: Jason Freeman, Craig Hall, Rob Saul, Heath Arnett, Jason Bowen, Mark Helt, Donnie Peterson, Kory Witt, Garette Tabor, Aubrey Arnett, Randy Meder and Deb Price.

Called to order by Green at 5:35 pm

Bowen made a motion to enter into closed session at 5:35 pm to have a quick six month review with Chief McNamara. Maynard supported the motion and motion carried. Bowen – Aye, Maynard – Aye, Carroll – Aye and Green – Aye

Maynard a motion to enter into open session at 6:02 pm. Carroll supported the motion and motion carried. Bowen – Aye, Maynard – Aye, Carroll – Aye and Green – Aye

Called to order by Green at 6:06 pm

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

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

Randy Meder with VMD & Associates presented the 2023/2024 Audit to the Board. Overall the Fire Department received a clean opinion despite the issues with the bookkeeping from April 1, 2023 to January 2024. More than likely the board will have to submit a plan of action to the state for the comments made about poor record keeping.

Carroll made the motion to approve the minutes from the February 12, 2025 meeting as presented. Green supported the motion and motion carried.

Carroll made a motion to approve the Treasurers report with the following balances: \$48,554.03 in checking and \$54,721.99 in the money market. Maynard supported the motion and motion carried.

Maynard made a motion to approve the bills, checks & ACH debits, in the amount of \$2467.17 for February and \$4103.43 for March for a total of \$6570.60. Carroll supported the motion and motion carried.

Carroll made a motion to complete the following budget amendments in the amount of \$5867.45: From Unallocated Balance to \$150 – Audit, \$1117.86 – Payroll taxes, \$519.75 to Software, \$359.97 Fax Line, \$3352.40 to Vehicle Repair, \$241.37 to Rescue Supplies and \$126.10 to Uniform Maynard supported the motion and motion carried.

Chief McNamara had to leave for Officer training. It was reported that any improvements to the building were on hold at this time, inventory is going well, the water softener is currently on hold and Clinton County Chiefs Association is no longer interested in purchasing the Engine 1. Green will work with Ovid Iron & Metal to see if we can scrap the old Engine 1.

Craig Hall presented his Operational Readiness Report and the Pump Test Faults.

Old Business

- 1 Letters of Preservation/FOIA Update: No current update.
- 2 Status of 2023/2024 Village of Elsie Contribution – Carroll stated there was no update and due to the record keeping from the prior Village Manager, there may never be documentation to present.
- 3 Other Old Business: None

New Business:

- 1 Village of Elsie Email Discussion: There was discussion about the letter from the Village of Elsie emailed on 02.22.2025. The sales price was to be \$250,000 and they would accept no less than \$1200 for a monthly lease agreement. Bowen questioned if the Village had reached out to the Village/Township Assessor regarding splitting the building, they had not. Bowen presented a new tax card provided by the Village/Township Assessor showing the property was in fact split. The new value was around \$179,000. It was commented that this would not change the sales price of the building. If Association wanted to do an appraisal, the Village representatives said we could, as they did not have the money to do so. Clarification of the lease amount was asked if it was \$1200 or \$1250 as printed in the paper. It was stated that the amount could change because it wasn't approved by the Village Council. The Association members told the Village Council members that we needed solid numbers so we could look at all options. Green suggested with \$1200 a month lease, the Fire Association could subtract the amount owed for 2025-2026 insurance, the Association should be rent free until February 2027.
- 2 Board Members Discussion: With the Village of Elsie leaving the membership of the Elsie Area Fire Association Board there was discussion about the entities and the Board Members. Bowen made a motion with deep regrets to have a discussion with Robin Wooley about his commitment to the Fire Board. With the current situation the Fire Association is in and there is a strong importance of attending the meetings. Carroll supported the motion and motion carried.
- 3 Appointing Officers of the Association for 2025/2026 - Maynard made a motion to appoint Amy Bowen as Secretary/Treasurer. Carroll supported and motion carried. Maynard made a motion to appoint Rick Zemla as Vice-President. Carroll supported and motion carried. Maynard made a motion to appoint Craig Green as President. Carroll supported and motion carried.
- 4 Approval of 2025/2026 Budget - Maynard made a motion to approve the 2025/2026 budget with the amendments of showing \$5000 for Education & Training, adjusting the Unallocated by \$2500 and to show the Fund Bal Allocation for the Checking & Money Market to reflect the March 31st balance in the accounts. Carroll supported the motion and motion carried.
- 5 Other New Business: None

Guest Comment: None

Association Agreement: Bowen made a motion to hold a Special Meeting on Friday, April 11th to discuss the Association Agreement, time to be determined. Maynard supported and motion carried.

Carroll made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 pm. Maynard supported the motion and motion carried.

Next meeting: April 16, 2025 at 6:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Bowen
Secretary/Treasurer