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

Elsie Area Fire Association Board Minutes for Board Meeting on May 21, 2025

Members Present: Green, Zemla, Bowen & Maynard
Fire Department Members Present:
Guests: Craig Hall, Jason Bowen, Wayne Bowen, Kam Washburn, Garrett Tabor, Sam Frink, Kory Witt, Jason Freeman, Todd Carroll, Mark Helt, Heath Arnett, Destinee Bryce, Joe Ondrusek, Donny Peterson, Aubrey Arnett, and Erica Arnett

Called to order by Green at 6:00 pm

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

Zemla made the motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Huntington Credit Card under #6 in Old Business. Maynard supported the motion and motion carried.

Maynard made the motion to approve the minutes from the April 16, 2025 meeting as presented. Maynard supported the motion and motion carried.

Zemla made a motion to approve the Treasurers report with the following balances: $145,888.71 in checking and $54,849.17 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 $1,744.01 for April and $4,581.15 for April for a total of $6,325.16. Maynard supported the motion and motion carried.

Zemla made a motion to complete the following budget amendments in the amount of $600: From Unallocated Balance - $ 75 to Dues & Subscriptions. Maynard supported the motion and motion carried.

Chief McNamara was absent so Assistant Chief Arnett filled in. There was good combined training with Ashley Fire and Ashley Salvage. Chief McNamara was in the process of completing Officer 1 class and would be starting Officer 2 right afterwards. Helt & Saul were completing officer training.

Craig Hall presented his Operational Readiness Report. Hall notified the board of a complaint from one of the firefighters. The issue will be addressed by the Officers.

Village of Elsie Presentation: Jason Freeman emailed the board a copy of the appraisal on Tuesday, May 20th. The appraised value was $300,000. It was questioned if the Village has prepared a suggested Lease Agreement, Purchase Agreement or Land Contract. Nothing has been started at this time. The EAFA Board stressed the need for a written agreement so they knew which path to take. Witt stated that the Village of Elsie doesn't want to see the Fire Department leave the Village.

Old Business

1. Engine 1 Update: Bowen made a motion to accept the offer from Mike Phillips with Mikes Service for $3650 for the purchase of Engine 1. Zemla supported the motion and motion carried.
2. Grant Update: No update
3. Board Members Discussion – On hold
4. Letters of Preservation/FOIA Update: No current update.

5 Other Old Business: None

6 Huntington Credit Card: Huntington Bank zeroed out the balance of the credit card and mailed a check to the department. The check was made payable to Shane Grinnell. It was discussed the check was to be mailed directly to Shane. The balance was from an over refund of fees that was charged to the account.

New Business:

1 Discussion with Ovid Fire: Ovid Fire Department personnel met with a couple EAFA board members and Elsie Fire Department personnel. A possible merger of departments was discussed. No decision was made.

2 Earned Sick Time Act: Board members will continue to research to see how the Department is effected by ESTA.

3 Appointment of Advisory Committee: Zemla made a motion to appoint Kam Washburn & Wayne Bowen as an Advisory Committee to help the board with direction. They would have no voting rights. A. Bowen supported the motion and motion carried.

4 Other New Business: None

Association Agreement: On hold for now.

Thoughts/Questions from Fire/Rescue Personnel: Helt commented that by creating an advisory committee, it was the Boards way to go around from adding a Member at Large onto the board. This Member at Large is to be chosen by the Firefighters. President Green commented that he is the Member at Large that was chosen by the previous Chief & Assistant Chief.

Zemla made a motion to enter into closed session at 7:02 pm. Maynard supported the motion and motion carried. Roll call: Maynard – yes, Bowen – yes, Zemla – yes and Green – yes

Zemla made a motion to enter into open session at 8:16 pm. Maynard supported the motion and motion carried. Roll call: Bowen – yes, Zemla – yes, Maynard – yes and Green – yes

The EAFA Board told the Village of Elsie representatives at the meeting that they were interested in a Land Contract or a Lease Agreement. A. Bowen would email the Village of Elsie Council this information.

Zemla made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 pm. Maynard supported the motion and motion carried.

Next meeting: June 18, 2025 at 6:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Bowen
Secretary/Treasurer