

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

Elsie Area Fire Association Board Minutes for Special Board Meeting on January 20, 2024

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

Fire Department Members Present: Ormes, Grinnell

Members Absent: Frink, Wooley

Guests: Heath Arnett, Erika Arnett, Mark Helt, Melissa Helt, Kory Witt, Karli Witt, Bobbie Ormes, Chris Goldman, Samantha Salyer & Chris Salisbury

Called to order by Green at 9:01 am.

Zemla made the motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Other Business. Freeman supported the motion and motion carried.

1. The Board had a series of questions for Chief Ormes to establish an update on how things were going with the Fire & Rescue Department. Chief Ormes stated that he has been talking to the firefighters to get a feeling of morale within the department. It is felt that the department has gotten where it is today with lack of transparency and communication. The department had become “clicky”. There was discussion that the training has gone downhill. Often the firefighters arrive and they do not do anything. There is a need for more involved trainings and firefighters need to participate. It was suggested that there should be a list of trainings throughout the year and the Board should be updated of the progress. Chief Ormes stated that he had spoken with Eric Brown with Ovid Fire and 911 Central Dispatch, that if Elsie Fire/Rescue had to be dispatched 3 times, they would automatically dispatch Ovid Fire/Rescue. Chief Ormes stated that it is comforting to know that he can come to the board at any time. The Board asked if there was anything else they should be made aware of at this time, personnel, financial or otherwise. It was stated there was nothing at this time.
2. The Board discussed creating a Personnel Committee. The Personnel Committee duties include being available for the fire & rescue department personnel to talk to about issues withing the department. When personnel leave the department, the Personnel Committee may offer an exit interview. Zemla made a motion to adapt the Personnel Committee with the following board members as the committee – Green, Freeman & Zemla. Bowen supported the motion and the motion carried.
3. The Auxiliary SOG’s were discussed in great detail. Chief Ormes and the Board have reviewed the Auxiliary SOG’s and found additional changes that needed to be made prior to the Auxiliary voting on and adapting the SOG’s. Chief Ormes will continue to work the Board and the Auxiliary to establish SOG’s.

4. The Treasurer stated she received documentation from Grinnell for the new Treasurer role. It was discovered there were delinquent bills that needed to be paid and the Treasurer needed checks from the bank. Zemla made a motion for the Treasurer to purchase checks. Freeman supported the motion and motion carried.

Grinnell apologized for anything that he had done. He has been reflecting on all actions. The end goal is to take care of the community. He believes the Personnel Committee will help the fire/rescue department and the auxiliary. In closing comments, the board members feels trust was broken within the department and they feel they need to get the trust back. The board members are open to any & all communication.

There were additional public comments throughout the meeting on the items presented.

Zemla made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:21 am. Freeman supported the motion and motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Bowen
Secretary/Treasurer