

**Minutes
Joint Powers Meeting
Stacy Lent Fire Department
30785 Forest Blvd., Stacy, MN 55079
December 6, 2021 at 7:00 pm**

STACY CALLS MEETING TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

M. Utecht called the meeting to order at 7:09 pm and the pledge was recited.

REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA

M. Ness made a motion to approve the agenda. T. Sawatzky seconded. All in favor, motion carried for Stacy.

R. Keller made motion to concur with Stacy. B. Seekon seconded. T. Nelson added New Treasurer Status under New Business. All in favor, motion carried for Lent.

APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 13, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

M. Ness made a motion to approve the September 13, 2021 minutes. T. Sawatzky seconded. All in favor, motion carried for Stacy.

R. Keller made motion to concur with Stacy. B. Seekon seconded. All in favor, motion carried for Lent.

APPROVE THE OCTOBER 6, 2021 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

M. Ness made motion to approve the October 6, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes. Second by M. Utecht. All in favor, motion carried for Stacy.

B. Seekon made a motion to concur with Stacy. R. Keller Seconded. All in favor, Motion carried for Lent.

CHIEF'S REPORT

T. Potrament reported on the following:

- 304 hours last year
- 295 hours this year
- 288 call last year
- 271 calls this year
- Purchased a 2021 Chevy Tahoe for \$37k for the Chief 1 Truck
 - Noted that it was a great price
 - Getting lights on it
 - Should be ready soon
 - Will list the old truck in "as-is" condition to sell to another department

RELIEF ASSOCIATION REPORT

T. Potrament said N. Peltier could not attend the meeting, but sent an email stating that they are enrolled in PERA. D. Freerks said everything is in motion and the State has the money in the account.

OLD BUSINESS

Budget

M. Peltier provided a budget report and they are close to what they were last year. A \$13,000 invoice for insurance was received from the Township and they are going to look into it.

PERA SLFD Relief Association

T. Nelson asked if the new Treasurer, S. Bengston is set up in his position. He is not. D. Freerks explained that the accountant, Colleen said that during the process of setting PERA up, it would be simpler if N. Peltier stayed on as acting Treasurer. S. Bengston explained once the state paperwork was done, they would make the change. T. Nelson asked S. Bengston if N. Peltier had been working with him on anything else, and S. Bengston said no. T. Nelson said he is concerned S. Bengston is not ready for the position. T. Nelson said the bank does not have paperwork about S. Bengston being on the accounts as Treasurer. S. Bengston said he brought his paperwork in and there were names to be removed from account too. T. Nelson said that the Joint Powers needs to say to get this done because it has been three months. S. Bengston said he is unsure why the bank does not have the paperwork. M. Utecht directed him to bring the paperwork in again, as things can get misplaced. C. Cagle asked if the Joint Powers were their governing board. S. Olson said that the Relief Association is its own entity. S. Bengston said they still need to do one more audit for 2021. The Relief Association will make a motion in the minutes stating the changes on the bank account. It will be clear about who is on the account and who has been removed. They will have a meeting in January and the President will notify the members. S. Bengston will be a General Fund Treasurer.

American Rescue Plan Act

T. Nelson clarified that the current radio costs are \$4900. 24 portable, 9 mobiles, and one base are needed. T. Potrament said they discussed this with Stacy. E. Coen said there is a price increase next year, every three years prices raise, and this is the end of the third year. T. Nelson said Lent may not act on this in the next few weeks, and asked the money can be used for radios. T. Nelson said if not, Lent needs to budget for them. The current radios are not compatible with the technology proposed in the future and it is going to cost more if they are not purchased now, but not all have to be purchased now unless there is a firm date when the changes will be made; it may be years. T. Nelson said he would like a number so they can plan. M. Utecht said anything we buy needs to be compatible with technology, but why replace them all if they are still working. E. Coen explained that the problem is that radios are old and chargers are beat up. They rattle, pegs get bent, etc. Chargers are not inexpensive and would be used if they purchased more. T. Sawatzky said there is a state grant through OSHA for them. T. Nelson said it is also a maintenance thing, they should get chargers to get through the next two years. E. Coen said there is no guarantee of the money from the government beyond 2024. T. Potrament said that is why they took leftover money for the radios from other funds. J. Eischens asked if the Joint Powers can get the numbers for the radios.

M. Utecht asked if anyone has talked to a company to see if they can be refurbished. E. Coen said it could be discussed, but like anything else, things wear out. M. Utecht suggested asking Mobile Electronics because they may be able to fix the radios. Stacy has budgeted a line item for the radio fund. S. Olson said as of today, it would be \$200k to cover the radios. C. Cagle said with Relief funds and budgeting for them, they need a solid number. M. Utecht said we will have a number early 2022. R. Keller and T. Nelson said to get chargers for now. They are going to check with the attorneys to make sure that the radios can be covered under the ARPA funds.

Radio Replacement

See above.

NEW BUSINESS

Change in SOP bylaws

T. Potrament said the SLFD Chief positions and treasurer are voted on every year, but they want to make them a three-year term instead. He said that it is in their best interest to make the position for three years. They need an approval from the Joint Powers to change this. S. Olson said they would approve all of the positions at the same time as opposed to staggering them. T. Potrament said that the Joint Powers can remove the Chief or anyone under them if they feel like it is not working out. It is unusual for departments to have one-year terms. Staggered voting was discussed. **M. Ness made motion to change the SOP Bylaws stating that the Chiefs and Treasurer will be nominated and approved every third year. M. Utecht seconded. All in favor, motion carried for Stacy. T. Nelson made motion to concur with Stacy. R. Keller Seconded. All in favor, motion passed for Lent.**

T. Potrament said there have been no changes in the bylaws since 2014; Captains get \$100 for any change in budget. They would like to boost the hourly wages to see if that will help. They will go through the numbers and bring it back to the next Joint Powers meeting.

ADJOURN

M. Utecht declared the meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm. B. Seekon made a motion to concur with M. Utecht. R. Keller seconded. All in favor, motion carried for Lent.

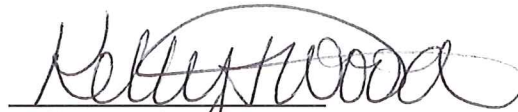
The next Joint Powers meeting is Monday, March 7, 2022. Lent will preside.



Mark Utecht, Stacy



Richard Keller, Lent



Kelly Wood, JR Secretary

Firefighters Present

TJ Potrament
Scott Olson
Eric Coen
Shawn Bengston
Larry Granberg
Dave Freerks

Joint Powers Present

Mark Utecht
Mark Ness
Tim Sawatzy
Jess Eischens
Rick Keller
Carolyn Cagle
Brian Seekon
Troy Nelson

Others Present

Laura Carr

