

**Minutes**  
**Stacy Lent Fire Department**  
**Joint Powers Meeting**  
**June 1, 2020 7:00 pm**  
**Location: SLFD 30785 FOREST BLVD, STACY, MN 55079**

**STACY CALLS MEETING TO ORDER**

M. Utecht called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**APPROVE AGENDA**

M. Ness stated he would like to add Special Meetings under C. New Business.

**M. Ness made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Second by M. Utecht. All in favor, motion carried for Stacy.**

**T. Nelson made a motion to concur with Stacy. Second by C. Cagle. All in favor, motion carried for Lent.**

**APPROVE MARCH 2, 2020 MINUTES**

**M. Ness made a motion to approve the March 2, 2020 Joint Powers minutes. Second by D. Thieling. All in favor, motion carried for Stacy.**

**T. Nelson made a motion to concur with Stacy. Second by L. Sinna. All in favor, motion carried for Lent.**

**CHIEF'S REPORT**

Chief Potrament reported on the following:

- COVID-19 has made for a couple stressful couple months
- 149 calls
- 157 hours
- Last year:
  - 135 calls
- 28 members
  - 1 of the 28 will be leaving shortly, but it is not official
- Joe Meyer retired

**RELIEF ASSOCIATION REPORT**

N. Peltier broke down the numbers and said that there was a pension payout in March.

- Down \$69k
- 10 percent loss
- Took a hit - knew this could happen

- Still sitting above and if this does not go too much lower, they will still be fine

\$692,394.95 Jan 1, 2020

N. Peltier said he is considering not being the Relief Treasurer anymore. If no one decides to take it over, they will have to go with the state fire aid. He is willing to train a person and is not leaving right away. The state has a plan where you get rid of the audit, end of the year paperwork and they take care of finances. You do not have control on what risk you pick. They put it in with the PERA fund. T. Nelson said unless you have someone who wants to do it for ten years, you might as well go with the State. Linwood did. T. Nelson said we should see how long the state process takes. N. Peltier said it is right away. There were 36 members when he first took over.

C. Cagle said he made this announcement last night and said this should be presented to the group to show them what happens with self-investment through the state. It may inspire someone to step up. N. Peltier said he has a year or two left doing it. If we do not have someone else to step in, he wanted to let the Joint Powers know we might have to go to the state. M. Ness said if someone only has 5 years left, it might be okay because the position could be reevaluated. T. Nelson said they need to understand this will affect their pension.

C. Cagle asked if it is legal for the City or Township to take over. N. Peltier said they would have to legally change their bylaws. It would be tough with the Joint Powers. C. Cagle said it would be a shared decision from both sides. M. Thompson said our membership has to know it is up to us to take care of it or we are going to give it over to the state. N. Peltier said, as Treasurer, I cannot be Chief of the department. Treasurer is the seventh member of the board. M. Utecht told N. Peltier that he appreciates everything that he has done and likes the fact that he is not just quitting.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Budget**

N. Peltier said the budget is good and T. Potrament said it is pretty much the same as in the past. M. Utecht said you need to be prepared to budget for the air packs. M. Utecht said I think we can make decisions for our budget planning without formally having a Joint Powers 2021 budget planning.

### **Air Park Discussion and Equipment Discussion**

M. Thompson said he is a member of the Fire Department along with being a representative for MSA which is closely located to SLFD. He said he was here to answer questions. There is no conflict of interest. MSA handles the warranty. He brought a pack and the equipment that was purchased. M. Utecht said there was no early payment penalty. He and N. Peltier spoke on the phone. Those fees are set in the beginning. Those admin fees are still due. It is not a penalty; it is an admin fee from the lease provider. It comes back as a penalty because it is not a hidden fee. N. Peltier said if it is over 3 years it looks like more, but it is the same amount. M. Utecht is perfectly satisfied with the explanation.

M. Thompson explained the equipment in detail and told the Joint Powers that there is an annual flow test. The flow test comes out of the Fire Department budget. The batteries are rechargeable. He also explained the warranty. Labor is not covered under the warranty. There is a 15-year workmanship warranty. Masks are not covered unless a screw falls out. N. Peltier said if they need an additional mask, it will come out of the SLFD budget because no one goes without a mask.

T. Nelson said they went with the 5-year lease. M. Ness said in order to pay it off you have to give 30-day written notice. N. Peltier said this has nothing to do with the SLFD budget and said they hope to pay some off with their gambling money. He said they do not pay for trucks or packs out of their budget. M. Utecht said we would discuss in the Joint Powers if one entity could pay off early, hopefully the other could do the same.

M. Thompson discussed the big changes from the old equipment to the new. Some of the changes include: Old equipment had a threaded hand wheel and the new has a quick connect from the bottom with an air piston system which is much safer. It is impossible to come off if it is put on correctly. The new equipment swivels and has a lumbar system. The frame can turn into a rescue that supports 500lbs and the drag plate supports 1k lbs. Thermo imaging cameras have been added into the SCBA for search and rescue. The old equipment had alkaline batteries and the new equipment has a rechargeable battery that drives everything in it. No more corrosion. MSA makes the new batteries and if it is to leak, it has a 15-year warranty. The pack is completely blue tooth at no additional charge. If you want more cameras, then you will be charged. The weight of the pack is no longer on the shoulders, it is balanced and it is at your hips. It is required for a Fire Fighter to wear an air pack. Gone are the days of wearing a t-shirt and baseball cap. M. Thompson said they provide all of the training on the equipment. Once they provide the initial training, SLFD will provide additional training.

C. Cagle asked if turnout gear will have to change. M. Thompson said no, turnout gear was purchased in 2016. They went from 800 degrees to 1200 degrees. M. Thompson said you fell into a special deal because you are leasing while you are waiting for a grant. You were allowed to order with the payment in arrears. The cylinders died in May. He sent in photos and documentations. This is an emergency situation and said that this is the good thing about using this leasing company. He said in order to comply with OSHA standards we had to get this order in. We are still in the running for the grant.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **COVID-19 Discussion**

T. Nelson said everyone is following the department of health. It has to be mandatory for PPE every time. Every case should be treated as COVID every time and they need to eliminate personnel going in.

N. Peltier said we have 2 people in a vehicle. Masks, gloves and goggles are worn. They mask the patient. If they are talking and have a pulse, they take care of it from the door. The younger people on the department go in before the older people. N. Peltier said they have been filling out

reports on medicals. They write if someone helped and they write what PPE they had on. We would like the patient to meet us at the door or outside. No ILI environments. T. Nelson would like us as preventative as we can with PPE. He does not want them doing advanced airways. They have minimal exposure and mask the patient. N. Peltier said we do not have hospitals or nursing homes in our area. T. Nelson said treat everyone as ILI. N. Peltier said they have done that since day one. They show up to calls in their street clothes and add in the PPE. The Chiefs have been alone in a vehicle and the other rigs have 2 people. If there is a car wreck, they may add more people due to a rescue situation. They are only sending two people if they go in at all.

M. Utecht said unless the orders change, he does not see a way the Firehouse Bash can happen while maintaining social distancing. He is not ready to cancel at this time and said everyone is hoping things change and return to the old normal. Stacy Daze is canceled. M. Utecht said they will not do anything that directly violates any orders. The band has already been booked. The Car Show was discussed and can be put together quickly if they decide to move forward with it. N. Peltier said they will follow guidelines and keep the Joint Powers in the loop.

### **Fire Department Personnel Issues**

N. Peltier said there was an incident from February 9th where he was accused of stealing money out of someone's home. He took his vitals and walked the person out to the ambulance. It was several weeks later when the Joint Powers were alerted of this happening. There needs to be something in the SOPs. It was not dealt with correctly. He did not steal the money. T. Potrament confronted the accuser who told him that he lied and made the story up. N. Peltier said there were several weeks where there was nothing he could do because he is Chief 2 and explained that tensions ran high, but it was fixed among themselves. He asked the Joint Powers if there is a process that they would like them to follow in the future. After discussion, it was decided that N. Peltier will get with the City and get something written for the next Joint Powers meeting. They will get a personnel committee together. If there is an incident, the Joint Powers will be notified within 24 hours.

N. Peltier said they were sending one person because of COVID and now after this, they have two people. M. Utecht said if it is harassment, theft, retaliation they notify the attorney at the City. C. Cagle said if any of the people are accused, we should be notified within 24 hours. T. Nelson said communication broke down and it could have been handled quicker.

An email will be sent to K. Wood when an incident arises.

### **Special Meetings**

M. Ness asked if it is in our Joint Powers agreement to discuss things like gear because some things, he feels better talking amongst ourselves. Is there a way we can call special meetings? M. Utecht does not know. T. Nelson said we can call a special meeting. M. Utecht said we should have an attorney look into it. K. Wood will find out and let them know.

M. Utecht thanked everyone for attending and wearing masks.

**ADJOURN**

**M. Utecht declared the meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm**

**T. Nelson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:26pm. Second by C. Cagle. All in favor, motion carried for Lent.**

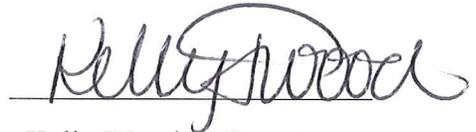
Next meeting is September 14, 2020. Lent will preside.



Mark Utecht, Stacy Mayor



Rick Keller, Lent Chair



Kelly Wood JP Secretary

**Board/Council Present:**

M. Utecht  
M. Ness  
D. Thieling  
P. Authier  
T. Olivolo  
R. Keller  
T. Nelson  
C. Cagle  
L. Sinna

**Fire Fighters Present:**

T. Potrament  
N. Peltier  
K. Williams  
M. Thompson  
L. Granberg  
S. Olson  
N. Dodge  
D. Hoffman

