

Minutes
Stacy Lent Area Fire Department
Joint Powers Meeting
March 6, 2017 at 7:00 pm

LENT CALLS MEETING TO ORDER

Lent's Chairperson, R. Keller called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA

L. Johnson made a motion to approve the agenda. T. Nelson seconds. L. Johnson added item *E. Audit*. **All in favor, motion carried for Lent.**

J. Ness made a motion to concur with Lent's motion. M. Ness seconds. All in favor, motion carried for Stacy.

APPROVE THE DECEMBER 5, 2016 MEETING MINUTES

C. Cagle made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 5, 2016 meeting. T. Nelson seconds. Motion carried for Lent.

J. Ness made a motion to concur with Lent's motion. M. Ness seconds. M. Ness noted that there was an error in the minutes and that he had seconded the motion regarding the bylaws. **All in favor, motion carried for Stacy.**

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief B. Schroeder commented on the following:

- There are currently 28 members
 - 1 is leaving in the next couple months
 - 1 is on a leave of absence
 - 2 new hires
- Operating Budget
 - Subscriber fees are higher
 - The subscriber fees will be a little over \$20k
 - SLFD had some higher utility bills
 - B. Schroeder is taking over paying the Bookkeeper
- Run Volumes
 - 222 total calls for 2016

RELIEF ASSOCIATION REPORT

N. Peltier commented on the following:

- There is a public notice letting people know when their meetings are
 - A reminder is also sent out to members
- There are \$7,600.00 worth of gains
- They had a couple of payouts
 - About 7k total
 - There will be another payout which is a beneficiary payout and that is an automatic 100% payout
 - Another \$3600.00 was due that went to the two children
 - He got the lawyer involved with the process and everyone has been paid out accordingly
 - It will go on the 2015 records

OLD BUSINESS

Digital Display Sign

T. Potrament said that the sign is up and the company is sending someone out to teach them how to run it. It can be done through the computer and the Chief's computer is the only one they can use. He can manually do it on a thumb drive as well.

New Rescue Truck

L. Granberg called Rosenbauer and the new rescue truck should be completed by July. The Ford Chassis should come within 30 to 60 days and they will be billed at that time.

Joint Powers Bylaws

B. Schroeder made some changes to the current Stacy-Lent Area Fire Department Joint Powers Agreement. Some of the proposed changes include:

Article V: Joint Operating Fire and Rescue Fund Section A.

Should be changed from "The City and the Town shall also appoint either the City Clerk or the Town Clerk" to "per the March 2, 2016 Joint Powers meeting minutes, the Joint Powers Board along with the Fire Department Chief can appoint or hire anyone they choose capable of performing the Fire Department bookkeeping".

Article V: Joint Operating Fire and Rescue Fund Section B.

Should be changed from "City and/or the Town Clerk" to "Fire Department Bookkeeper".

It states that the meetings are on Tuesday and it should say Monday. Meetings are now quarterly. There are still some other changes that need to be made. B. Schroeder will make the changes and send them off to the Clerks.

J. Ness asked who should look at the new changes on the bylaws. The City of Stacy is working with Campbell and Knutson out of Eagan and they can take a look at the changes.

Final Operating Budget

The final operating budget was approved December and B. Schroeder noted that they are going to be taking on added expenses that he has to account for. There are extra expenses of approximately \$10 - 12k that were added in without increasing the budget.

NEW BUSINESS

Audit

L. Johnson checked with the Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT) and the Fire Department does not need an audit. The Township had some fire equipment under the Township's insurance. It all goes through Country Mutual. Lent pays the whole bill and then bills Stacy for their portion. B. Seekon asked if it should be run through the Fire Department instead of the City or Township. N. Peltier said he will look into it. T. Nelson said there were some questions about who owns what on the insurance.

M. Utecht asked if Lent would like Stacy to price out insurance for the Fire Department. B. Schroeder said the asset list has been updated. The list should be billed separate. 30% of the equipment Stacy owns, 70% Lent owns. M. Utecht will ask their new City Attorney how to best handle this.

J. Ness asked if they still want an audit every five years. B. Schroeder feels they owe it to the taxpayers. T. Nelson said that the Fire Department is already getting an audit. The Fire Relief is audited once per year. When the Township is audited, the Fire Department is audited. The Fire Relief Association is audited, gambling is audited, and the Fire Department is audited. J. Ness said that he does not feel that the operating budget needs to be audited every year, but feels that every five years seems good. B. Schroeder said he does not have a problem with that.

M. Utecht is going to ask their Auditor and do some research and bring it back to the meeting in June.

Automatic Mutual Aid

B. Schroeder explained how the mutual aid would work. Structure fires within the Isanti Fire District coverage area in sections of Oxford Township will result in automatically alarming both Isanti Fire District and Stacy-Lent Fire Department to seek mutual aid. The Stacy-Lent Fire Department is not obligated to send its fire service equipment or personnel beyond its boundaries if it would leave the municipality without any fire service equipment or personnel available within its limits for service of any fire which might arise therein.

They have insurance and according to the League of MN Cities, as long as they have their workman's compensation they are covered. The lawyer needs to make changes before giving it to Isanti.

B. Schroeder would like an approval from the Joint Powers to go ahead with the auto aid with the changes made by the attorney to move forward. B. Schroeder would like to do this for the citizens of Oxford Township.

J. Ness asked what happens if there is a fire and Isanti does not show up. B. Schroeder said that the SLFD will put the fire out. J. Ness doesn't like section 4 of the agreement because he does not think that the residents of Stacy or Lent would like to pay for the calls.

B. Schroeder said that he is a tax payer in the community and would want a truck to get to a fire as fast as possible no matter where it is.

J. Ness said that he feels the word; "may" is a huge variable in section 4. J. Ness said maybe they should say there will not be any charges made when assistance is rendered. They were paying the SLFD before and now they are paying Isanti regardless if SLFD goes out. If it is a structure fire then they go out. M. Utecht said he would like the fire trucks to get there fast. He feels that whatever Oxford was paying before should be paid again.

L. Johnson said it was previously \$800 per section. The far west edge of the district is in Athens Township.

M. Ness said, "If we are providing to them and not collecting, it doesn't make sense".

T. Matkaiti said that if a fire starts somewhere the SLFD goes immediately.

B. Schroeder noted that *back in the day* there was discussion to bill car crashes. Lawyers said if you bill one, you have to bill them all. B. Schroeder said he will not charge his residents.

N. Peltier said that Oxford Township has new people and SLFD is trying to "mend bridges".

M. Utecht said up until recently, he did not know that this was a step toward mending bridges.

B. Schroeder said it is about building relationships between Fire Department, Township, and City. If it doesn't work out, they can address it at a later time.

C. Lucia asked if Oxford is paying Isanti. The answer is yes, Oxford is still paying Isanti.

B. Schroeder wants to move forward with the mutual aid. He said that there has been a broken bridge for a very long time. He wants to move forward for the benefit of citizens of all communities. Linwood Township goes out to the south side of Oxford. It is harder to find fire fighters to take daytime calls. B. Schroeder said auto aid is very important.

L. Johnson said that there are only about 7 calls per year. It is only for structure fires and it is not that much money.

M. Utecht would like a consensus from both bodies to look at it in the future if it is deemed necessary.

T. Nelson made a motion to move forward with the automatic mutual aid with the Isanti Area Joint Operating Fire District after the City Attorney looks at it and the proper verbiage is added. L. Johnson seconds. All in favor, motion carried for Lent.

M. Ness made a motion to concur with Lent. J. Ness seconds. All in favor, motion carried.

S. Payne will make the changes and then B. Schroeder will sign it.

Insurance

See above.

Shared Costs with Stacy and Lent

The City of Stacy is 28.95% and The Township of Lent is 71.05%.

Approval of the Chief and Assistant Chief

B. Seekon made a motion to approve B. Schroeder as Chief and K. Olson as assistant Chief. T. Nelson seconds. All in favor, motion carried for Lent.

M. Ness made a motion to concur with Lent's motion. J. Ness seconds. B. Schroeder noted that this will be his last year as Fire Chief and is going to go to a mentor project. All in favor, motion carried.

ADJOURN

R. Keller declared the Joint Powers meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.

BOARD/COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Brian Seekon
- Carolyn Cagle
- Troy Nelson
- Rick Keller
- Lyle Johnson
- James Ness
- Tony Olivolo
- Mark Utecht
- Chuck Lucia
- Mark Ness

FIREFIGHTERS PRESENT:

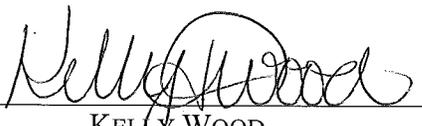
- Brad Schroeder
- Kerry Olson
- Joe Meyer
- TJ Potrament
- Scott Olson
- Nick Peltier
- Larry Granberg



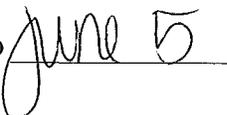
 RICK KELLER
 CHAIR, TOWNSHIP OF LENT

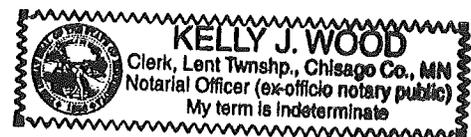


 MARK UTECHT
 MAYOR, CITY OF STACY



 KELLY J. WOOD
 JOINT POWERS SECRETARY

APPROVED , 2017



Minutes submitted by K. Wood, Joint Powers Secretary