

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

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

M. Utecht called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**PERA RETIREMENT FUNDS**

N. Peltier talked to their financial advisor who is merging with a new company. He said that something needs to be decided on before the end of the year. N. Peltier handed out a report he had at the meeting in May. Back then, he thought there was no way to back out of the State, but there is. It is a process but they can get the money back. T. Nelson said at the recent meeting that he and M. Ness attended there was a lot of new information that made him more in favor of PERA. N. Peltier said they make it easy to see the benefits and to sign off on it at the end of each year. It is website based, public info, and anyone can access it. T. Nelson stated that we are not paying the high maintenance fees this way. N. Peltier said they vote on March 31<sup>st</sup> for the previous year. PERA provides an annual funding report and they can request a cost analysis any time. He said that we have 120 days to get approved. M. Utecht said that the market will have to have a significant change to make a difference. If we feel something coming, we can ask for cost analysis.

The members voted in favor of PERA: nine in favor and two opposed; the remaining members did not vote. At the Relief Association meeting, seven members came and voted except the Chief; five voted for PERA and there was one undecided vote. The total members voting: 18 out of 32 members. T. Nelson said that he was concerned that different shifts could not make it to all of the meetings and receive the necessary information regarding both options. He thought another vote should be taken at a later date. M. Ness clarified that the member who abstained from voting has concerns about the October 15, 2021 deadline. M. Ness said he does not like rushing as something may be messed up.

January 1, 2022 is the deadline to get it all organized. N. Peltier spoke to Sherri at the State and they have an October 15, 2021 deadline because they want the paperwork complete by Thanksgiving to allow time to complete everything before the end of the year. All assets would need to be turned into cash. The paperwork does not need to be done by the 15<sup>th</sup>, it just needs to be decided one way or another.

**B. Seekon made motion to allow the SLFD to move forward with PERA. T. Nelson Seconded. All in favor, motion carried for Lent.**

N. Peltier will send updates to the Clerks.

**M. Utecht made a motion to concur with Lent. Second by M. Ness. All in favor, motion carried for Stacy.**

N. Peltier asked which amount they would like to approve. M. Ness said that it can be increased in the first 5 years if they retire, etc. Amounts were discussed. N. Peltier discussed the current benefit amount of \$2400 per year of service. In May, they were 102% funded and had a payout of \$8K, and as of 8/31, the total was \$868,524 and were 104% funded at end of the year. N. Peltier gave the Joint Powers funding options with percentage values and stated that their

financial advisor said not to go lower than 98% funded (\$2600 per year). That does not include the \$20K Joint Powers donation. Increases can be requested as we go. They would be about 94% funded with the current number, but need a minimum of 95%.

**T. Nelson made motion to approve the increase to \$2700 as of 1/1/2022. B. Seekon Seconded. All in favor, motion carried for Lent.**

**M. Utecht made motion to concur with Lent. T. Sawatzky seconded. M. Ness prefers waiting. Ayes 4, 1 Nay (Ness), motion carried for Stacy.**

#### **ADJOURN**

**M. Ness made a motion to adjourn the meeting for Stacy at 7:43 pm. Second by M. Utecht. All in favor, motion carried. B. Seekon made a motion to concur with Stacy. Second by T. Nelson. Motion carried for Lent.**

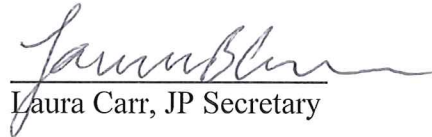
**The next Joint Powers meeting is Monday, December 6, 2021. Stacy will preside.**



Mark Utecht, Stacy



Richard Keller, Lent



Laura Carr, JP Secretary

#### **Firefighters Present**

Scott Olson  
Shawn Bengston  
Nick Peltier  
Dave Freerks

#### **Joint Powers Present**

Mark Utecht  
Tim Sawatzky  
Mark Ness  
Jennie Carlson  
Carolyn Cagle  
Brian Seekon  
Troy Nelson

#### **Others Present**

Laura Carr

