

**Minutes**  
**Joint Powers Meeting**  
**Stacy Lent Fire Department**  
**30785 Forest Blvd., Stacy, MN 55079**  
**September 12, 2022 at 7:00 pm**

**LENT CALLS MEETING TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**R. Keller called the meeting to order at 7:02pm and the Pledge was recited.**

**REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA**

**B. Seekon made a motion to adopt the agenda. Second by C. Cagle. Votes via roll call, Ayes 4, Nays 0. Motion carried.**

**M. Ness made a motion to concur with Lent and adopt the agenda. Second by T. Sawatzy. Votes via roll call, Ayes 3, Nays 0. Motion carried.**

**APPROVE THE JUNE 6, 2022 MEETING MINUTES**

**B. Seekon made a motion to approve the June 6, 2022 meeting minutes. Second by C. Cagle. All in favor, motion carried for Lent. M. Ness made a motion to concur with Lent. Second by T. Sawatzy. All in favor, motion carried for Stacy.**

**CHIEF'S REPORT**

**T. Potrament reported on the following:**

- The Bash is on October 1<sup>st</sup>
- 28 members, 2 of which are new, 1 in class and 1 in class in February
- 209 calls, 219 hours
- 199 last year, 218 hours last year
- 2 or 3 members on leave right now. One is being called to active service.

**RELIEF ASSOCIATION REPORT**

**T. Potrament gave the annual report. Info on the liability. They are still trying to figure out how 105% funded/vested even with the market going south. The report came with instructions.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Budget**

**A report was passes around. Testing and some insurance still have to come out. There are three months to go and it is about the same as last year.**

**Wages are at \$35k and are only paid out once per year and it is not in there yet. It is looking okay.**

**Recruitment**

**Have two more guys. The website has a Join Our Team link. One can fill out the application right online. Business cards with the QR code were created. There is one current applicant. C. Cagle said she also told someone to join the SLFD. They also have promotional signs for different events. Scott said he is putting together an informational meeting date for MN Fire Hire. They are going to get the word out at the Bash too. C. Cagle asked if they could hang the**

sign on the fence at Lions Park. Scott said they are going to work on more ways to get the word out.

### **PERA SLFD Relief Association**

S. Bengston said the general fund checking was used. \$4000 was spent on t-shirts along with some money spent on banners. There has been 10,400 taken in. T. Potrament said they have other businesses to ask for donations. The Bash covered and paid for and whatever comes in, goes for next year. C. Pate said they are doing a lot of social media marketing and they will post signs this week. M. Utecht said to make sure the signs do not violate any Wyoming or Stacy sign ordinances. M. Ness asked, referring to the Stacy Daze Car Show, if there is a way to tell people to not peel out at the stop sign. They were okay right off the stop sign, but when they get in front of Hells Angels, they peel out. Families were crossing the crosswalk. He knows that they are not in control. T. Potrament called the Sheriff's department to be there at the end. The Sheriff's Department had a car there until the end when they had a call. There was almost a head on accident one year, so they now contact the Sheriff to watch over things.

### **Painting SLFD Bays**

C. Cagle said she was told that the Chief was going to get some quotes. T. Potrament said that they did get some quotes, but that was six months ago. C. Cagle asked if they got HVAC quotes. They will remind K. Williams to get quotes.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **First Responder Service**

T. Potrament said he learned a long time ago from his mentor, people they serve are their customers. The section Chisago is taking will lose their first responders. They have been paying in since 1995. Our department is the best. We have three Chief vehicles with medical equipment. Chisago does not have first responder so the residents will have to wait for an ambulance. He gave the example of a kid with a bee sting needing an EpiPen. If you cannot provide at least the service they have right now, then it is just a revenue grab. M. Utecht asked if is there not mutual aid for first responders. T. Potrament they do not call his department. If someone calls 911, they would have to wait for an ambulance. S. Olson said North Branch does not either and M. Utecht said those going to North Branch wanted to go. T. Potrament said for fire service it is the same. They will lose all of their first responder coverage as their fire department does not provide first responder service. M. Utecht said the city could address the issue and SLFD could take first responder calls for a fee. He wants those people to have first responder services so he believes a deal should be offered. He did not realize there was none and said it is going to be a change for those residents. M. Ness asked if we would offer the service to all of Chisago? T. Potrament asked if they need to offer at least the same service. The Chisago Fire Chief said they are going to have to wait for ambulance. This is a revenue grab. M. Utecht said there are other things a city provides to their residents. T. Potrament replied saying none of which those people want. M. Utecht asked who can best serve those people in the future. First responder services needs to be available to the public. A conversation needs to be had with the Chisago City Council. T. Potrament said there is a shortage of ambulances. Sometimes we have to wait a long time for one. M. Utecht asked if SLFD can offer first responder services to ALL of Chisago City. Figure it out, T. Potrament. M. Ness said just the annexed sections get it now and J. Eischens confirmed that only current Lent pay for those services. M. Utecht wonders if City Staff or Council has

thought about it or not. We wanted to do this for the whole Township before it comes into Stacy. When you weigh everything, Chisago City is the best thing for those residents. This is the one area where they are not getting what they have been getting and those residents may not be aware. B. Seekon said he has had conversations with residents in that area who are not happy being annexed to Chisago. They are going to lose out on that service, but the line has to be drawn somewhere with the services. M. Utecht said SLFD could provide mutual aid for all of Chisago. M. Utecht said he went through annexation twice in Wyoming Township and they went with what makes sense. There is no reason those 6.5 sections should go to Stacy. M. Utecht said over 95% of the people in Wyoming Township did not want it but the judge did not care. We will talk with Chisago and see what they say. We are asking them to look at this. They paid into this; they expect this. What can you do to give them this service? M. Ness warned that if this discussion becomes more public, it may turn into more of a political push. M. Utecht said they would present it more like "What are you going to do to provide this service to your residents?" M. Ness said we could discuss the cost after we leave it open ended. M. Utecht said there is no way Chisago would only offer services to the 6.5 sections. It is fair to tell them if we cannot cover all of the city. T. Potrament said they get at least 10 calls per year in that area. They are taking it over on the grounds that they are going to provide better service, but they are not. 70/30: First responder calls and Fire Calls. We start right here, the ambulance or Sheriff could be anywhere, but the SLFD is always at the Fire Hall. Sometimes the ambulances go on call in the cities. Sometimes the Sheriff only has three people on. R. Keller and M. Utecht will ask to be on the next Chisago City agenda. T. Potrament said they talked about the Sheriff coverage. Stacy pays for 30 hours. B. Seekon said if it is an emergency situation, they are there. If it is minor, they put it at the bottom of the list. Ness said that as soon as the Sheriff's Department is in the city, that counts toward the 30 hours. M. Utecht said they have never said what the taxes pay for with the Sheriff department.

### **ADJOURN**

**B. Seekon declared the meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm. Second by J. Eischens. Votes via roll call, Ayes 3, Nays 0. Motion carried.**

**M. Utecht made a motion to concur and adjourn.**

**The next Joint Powers meeting is Monday, March 6, 2023. Lent will preside.**

#### **Stacy/ Lent Present**

Mark Utecht  
Carolyn Cagle  
Rick Keller  
Mark Ness  
Tim Sawatzky  
Jess Eischens  
Brian Seekon


#### **Firefighters Present**

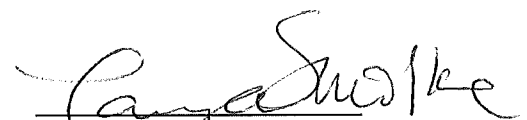
TJ Potrament  
Scott Olson  
Dan Hoffman  
Chris Pate  
Shawn Bengston

#### **Others Present**

Kelly Wood

  
Mark Utecht, Mayor

  
Troy Nelson, Vice Chair

  
Tanya Smolke, Secretary