

Minutes

**Stacy Lent Area Fire Department
30785 Forest Blvd, Stacy, MN 55079**

**Joint Powers Meeting
September 9, 2019 at 7:00 pm**

LENT CALLS MEETING TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA

B. Seekon made a motion to approve the agenda. Second by T. Nelson. All in favor, motion carried for Lent.

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

APPROVE THE JUNE 3, 2019 MEETING MINUTES

B. Seekon made a motion to approve the June 3, 2019 meeting minutes. Second by T. Nelson. All in favor, motion carried for Lent.

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

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Potrament said they are doing really well and have 28 members. One is in a mentoring program which is a 5-year gig for a 20-year person. They do not have to go on as many calls or do as much training. The person is T. Pottsmith. T. Potrament passed out budget report which showed they are sitting good. The Bash is at the beginning of October. They will have a pinning ceremony for 3 members that have made their 1-year probation period on the 4th Wednesday of the month from 6:00pm – 7:00pm. Their family and everyone on the Joint Powers is welcome.

RELIEF ASSOCIATION REPORT

T. Potrament said N. Peltier is absent because he is on shift. T. Potrament said they are at 210 runs for year and there were 204 runs last year. There have been 235.5 hours this year and there were 244.5 hours last year at this time. There have been more medical than structure fires. There is \$629,630.69 in the special fund. Gain: \$49,329.00. They were at 105% when they asked for the raise and they are way over 100% now. If it stays the way it is, they will ask for an increase in 2020. They got rid of the short term.

OLD BUSINESS

Radio Update

C. Cagle said they had a meeting and a lawyer named Roger Knutson was hired. The group said they are not going to pay except for the maintenance and the purchasing of the radios themselves. There were questions with how much the County would save if they only had to have radios for the Sheriff. M. Utecht said the meeting was good because everyone was on the same page. T. Nelson asked if we were going to pay the County for the Maintenance. M. Utecht said the County has to program them because they have the encryption. It is appropriate by State

Statute. The program fee also includes a de-programming fee. He said we talked about having the County do any repairs. L. Sinna asked if there was a set rate. C. Cagle said it is an hourly fee.

T. Nelson said he is frustrated that they do not have a choice in who programs the radios. The maintenance and programming are a concern for him. M. Utecht said re-programing or narrow banding is supposed to happen in the future. When that happens, we will have to buy all new radios. Narrow banding was discussed. M. Utecht said it allows more radios on the same frequency which makes it more efficient. It is a better, more secure and encrypted way to do it. They need to distribute more and squeeze everyone into a tighter frequency. It is a new progression of technology. M. Utecht said the County has no choice or influence, it is Federal government pushing the State. There was discussion to go back to VHF. We put money into this system and it is better. B. Seekon said WI uses VHF. T. Potrament said they narrow banded their VHF. There was discussion regarding other States using VHF. M. Utecht said this is a better technology. T. Potrament said the 800-megahertz system is better because you know the signal went out and that you are connecting. You know that someone heard you. T. Potrament said the 800 will *bonk* you if you do not get through. It is the same system as Nextel. T. Potrament said the handhelds are equal to the mobiles in the trucks. It would be hard to go back the other way.

There is another meeting on the 19th. C. Cagle will attend and the Lawyer will be doing most of the speaking. M. Utecht feels that the Lawyer will represent us well.

Fire Chief and Assistant Chief Cell Phones

M. Utecht said it will be \$30-\$40 per month at most for each phone. He said the more phones you add, the cheaper it is. M. Utecht said we want to be on the priority network which only emergency services are on. **T. Nelson made a motion to get 3 phones with a cap of \$150 for the Stacy Lent Fire Department. C. Cagle seconds.** These phones have a better chance of working in an emergency situation. J. Meyer said if there is an overload, they can go to any tower. L. Sinna asked if they can reach the City or the Township. M. Utecht said the City already has these phones. Lent uses personal phones. **All in favor, motion carried for Lent.**

D. Thieling made a motion to concur with Lent. Second by T. Olivolo. All in favor, motion carried for Stacy.

Budget

M. Utecht said the City Clerk wants to know what their budget is going to be. M. Utecht said the budget should not change. C. Cagle said they discussed an extra \$20k for the radios. T. Potrament said the possible radios and the SCBAs. T. Potrament said they have a grant writer who has applied for some grants. They did not receive the last one applied for. They have applied for another grant to get radios but cannot rely on being a recipient.

M. Utecht said he is going to have \$8k added to the budget.

NEW BUSINESS

None

C. Cagle said there have been County officials approaching some Fire Departments about the ARMER radios. She said, "if they do approach you, please say our committee is handling it just fine". She asked to be told who it is if approached. There was discussion regarding the ARMER radios and the roles of the entities. L. Sinna asked who is funding the lawyer. M. Utecht said Stacy is paying for it right now and the cost will get distributed. M. Utecht said the lawyer is watching the time closely. The payment will be spread across each City, not the Townships at this time.

ADJOURN

T. Nelson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 pm. Second by B. Seekon. All in favor, motion carried for Lent.

M. Utecht declared the meeting adjourned at 7:44 pm.

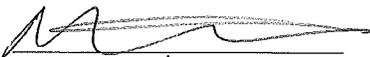
The next Joint Powers meeting is Monday, December 2, 2019. Stacy will preside.

Board/Council Present:

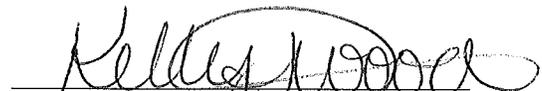
- C. Cagle
- T. Nelson
- L. Sinna
- B. Seekon
- R. Keller
- M. Utecht
- T. Olivolo
- D. Thieling

Fire Fighters Present:

- T. Potrament
- J. Meyer
- L. Granberg


Mark Utecht, Stacy Mayor


Richard Keller, Lent Chair


Kelly Wood, Joint Powers Secretary

