



ESTER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT INC

Proposed changes: February 2020

BYLAWS of the ESTER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

ARTICLE 1: GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: General Membership: The General Membership will consist of the following classes of members:

- A. Regular members-** The membership of EVFD will consist of property owners in the Ester Fire Service Area. Paid employees of EVFD are not eligible for “Regular” membership.
- B. Active Volunteer Members-** Any person without regard to place of residence may be a volunteer with EVFD. The minimum extent of participation necessary to maintain Active Volunteer membership shall be defined by the Fire Chief.
- C. Honorary members-** Honorary membership may be bestowed by a vote of the Board of Directors. An honorary member has all the rights and privileges of a regular member.

Section 2: Voting Membership: The Voting Membership will consist of those eligible for General Membership present at the annual meeting. No proxies will be accepted.

~~The membership of this organization will be limited to bonafide residents and/or property owners of the Ester Fire Service Area.~~

~~Section 2: Any person without regard to place of residence may be a volunteer fire fighter or emergency medical technician.~~

~~Section 3: Honorary membership may be bestowed by a vote of the Board of Directors. An honorary member has all the rights and privileges of a regular member.~~

ARTICLE 2: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1: Roles of Board of Directors: The roles ~~function~~ of the Board of Directors **include** is the **financial oversight of the department and supervision** ~~administration~~ of the Fire Chief.

Section 2: Oversight of Fire Chief: The Board of Directors will appoint or hire the Fire Chief. ~~select and approve a person to be the Chief of the Fire Brigade. The Chief will serve a one-year term, but may be reappointed to a number of terms.~~

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Section 3: **Number of Board Members:** The Board of Directors will consist of **between five and nine** ~~seven~~ members elected by the General Membership at the annual meeting of the Fire Department,

Section 4: **Eligibility of Board Members:** Any “Regular member” is eligible for election to the Board of Directors. Active Volunteer members or paid employees of EVFD (except for the Fire Chief) are not eligible to be board members.

Section 5: Board member terms: **Board Members** will serve two-year terms. **Terms shall be staggered** with either **four or five** ~~three or four~~ members to be elected **each year** ~~on alternate years~~. ~~Terms of office will~~ **Board membership will begin at the close of the meeting at which the board member is elected.**

Section 6: **Officers:** The Board of Directors will annually elect a president, vice president, secretary, and a treasurer. No **board** member will hold more than one office at a time, and no **board** member will be eligible to serve more than two **full** consecutive terms in the same office. **Elections will be held at the first board meeting with a quorum following the Annual Meeting.**

Section 7: **Removal of Board members:** A member of the Board of Directors shall be removed for cause by a majority vote of the remaining Board.
A **board** member may be removed from the Board of Directors if he or she misses three consecutive **regular board** meetings.

Section 8: **Vacancies:** Any vacancy occurring on the Board of Directors will be filled by a majority vote of the remaining Board, **with** the elected person **servicing** out the existing term of office.

Section 9: **Fire Chief role on Board:** The Fire Chief will be a nonvoting member of the Board of Directors.

Section 10: **Firefighter interface with Board:** The firefighters will have the option of appointing a liaison to the Board of Directors. This liaison will have no voting power and can be excluded from meetings at the request of the Fire Chief or majority of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 3: MEETINGS

Section 1: **Annual meeting:** The General Membership will meet once per year **at the annual meeting** on the first Sunday in October, **or as publicly announced at least 30 days prior to meeting date.**

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Section 2: **Regular meeting schedule:** The Board of Directors will meet the second Monday of each month unless rescheduled by the President.

Board meeting times and locations will be posted for public viewing on our website (esterfire.org)

Section 3: **Calling special board meetings:** Upon the written request from ten members, a special board meeting **will** be called by the Board President. ~~and will be called upon the written request of ten members of the Ester Volunteer Fire Department.~~ The purpose of the meeting will be posted with the time and date of the meeting. ~~be stated in the call.~~ Except in cases of emergency, at least three days notice will be given.

Upon written request of three members of the board, or at the discretion of the board president, additional meetings of the Board of Directors may be called. ~~by the President and will be called upon the written request of three members of the Board.~~ Except in cases of emergency, at least 24 hours notice will be given.

Section 4: **Quorum: Annual meeting: A quorum will not be met unless at least fifteen voting members are present at the annual meeting.** ~~Fifteen members of the General membership will constitute a quorum.~~

Regular meetings: A majority of the current ~~Four~~ members of the Board of Directors will constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE 4: COMMITTEES

Section 1: Committees, standing or special, will be appointed by the President as the Organization or the Board of Directors deems it necessary to carry on the work of the Organization. These committees will include, but not be limited to, the following:

Nominating Committee: The duty of the Nominating committee is to nominate candidates for the offices to be filled at the annual meeting in **October** ~~September~~. The Nominating Committee will report at the annual meeting in **October** ~~September~~, and additional nominations from the floor will be permitted immediately following the report.

Finance Committee: The Finance Committee will be composed of the Treasurer, the Fire Chief, and other members as deemed appropriate by the President. The duty of the Finance committee is to prepare a budget for the next fiscal year and submit it to the Service Area Commissioners immediately following the regularly scheduled February meeting of the Board of Directors.

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Section 2: The President will be an ex officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

ARTICLE 5: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of ~~Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised~~ **the Modern Rules of Order** will govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the organization may adopt.

ARTICLE 6: AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

These bylaws can be amended at any regular meeting of the general membership of the Organization by a two thirds majority of those present provided that the amendment has been submitted to the membership in writing at least thirty days prior to the meeting.

Definitions:

Property Owner: Owner of a tax lot within the Ester Fire Service Area

~~Proposed Amendments to EVFD By-Laws
Summer 2002~~

~~ARTICLE 2: Board of Directors~~

~~(add) Section 10~~

~~No more than one member of the Board of Directors may be an active member of the Fire Brigade and may not concurrently be an officer within the brigade. This person may not hold the office of Treasurer or sign checks for the department.~~

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