Ester Volunteer Fire Department 3570 Old Nenana Hwy PO Box 229 Ester, AK 99725-0229



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## **Board of Directors Meeting**

July 10, 2023 Meeting Location: Station 51

## Minutes:

## 1. Call to Order at 1800 hours.

- A. Members Present: Syrilyn Tong, Sarah Albers, Barbara O'Donnell, Carol Meyer, Karyn Holder, Katrina Lehse
- B. Members Excused: Dan Weatherly.
- C. Quorum met? Yes.
- D. Public Present: None
- 2. Public Comment: None.
- **3. Approval of prior minutes:** May and June minutes (minor changes to June minutes) approved by unanimous consent.
- 4. Reports:
  - A. Treasurer's Report: See attached. Both Mimi and Chief will be out of town in a couple of weeks, so Meyer will get the Borough check and deposit it. Mimi stated that we were approved the for Firehouse Sub's grant \$31k which will go towards bunker gear. Chief mentioned that after we regain some money after insurance rates go down, he may consider more competitive salaries.
  - **B.** Fire Chief's Report: See attached. We are coordinating training with CGFR. We received a lot of positive feedback on the awards and picnic thanks to Mimi. 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade tie dyed t shirts are a huge morale booster for the troops.

## C. Committee Reports:

- 1) Solar committee
  - a. Mike Musick was invited to speak. His personal experience is that solar technology is getting better. Communities are being encouraged to solarize the fire stations due to the emergency aspect of stations.
  - b. Solarize Fairbanks in the last few years has given back some money to communities the Give Back program. Last year, Mike nominated CGFR to receive that money. Barb stated that there are no longer community groups any longer, it's all just 1 group. 5% of both vendors' sales is the amount available.
  - b) RES could do a "sun" evaluation to see how much sun we would get, as we don't think we have had one done. Carol asked if he (Mike) has batteries for storage; Mike said no, power generated is subtracted from power use. Barb said batteries are expensive (\$10,000). Chief didn't know if any fire stations had any battery back-up. We have a diesel generator for EVFD use not public use.
  - c) USDA, Inflation Reduction Act are all areas that could assist with funding. Julia Hnilika (Nenana) can assist with writing grants. Mike nominated us for the next cycle of "Give Back" funding.
  - d) Chief stated that this building is a Borough building, so there are challenges with putting anything on the building, and could they take it all back? The Deraco site is 5 acres of flat land, and that could be a possibility, but security is an issue.

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- e) Chief stated that the first thing we need to do is get a sun study, then look at battery storage, then address the Borough owned building issue, and if not the building where?
- f) Someone mentioned that Bob Groves should be contacted to give a presentation to EVFD as well.
- 2) Fundraising Committee
  - a) Pamphlets about the Plaque project were passed out during the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade.
  - b) Email votes for the record (July 3): ST moved to accept the Fund Raising Committee's recommendation for the 2023 version of the plaque project: *Plaque costs have been updated and 48-50% profit factored in.* A donation of \$150.00 would receive a name on a plaque with multiple other donor names. That plaque will be ordered when enough names are received to fill the plaque.

A donation of \$300.00 will receive a 10x3" Plaque. The cost of which, including shipping, is \$186.91.

A donation of \$600.00 (or greater) will receive a 10x6" Plaque. The cost of which, including shipping, is \$302.00.

- c) Dan may still be looking into using another department's permit for Alaska lottery.
- d) June 26 is the next committee meeting.
- e) A mailing for publicity is a possibility.
- 5. Old Business: None
- 6. New Business:
  - A. Change to Bylaws Article V, Section 11: Meetings. Monthly BOD meetings reduced to bimonthly. Barb's opinion is that once a month keeps us in the loop, and the issues. What do other stations do? ST will look into this for next month.
  - B. Chief's evaluation.
- 7. Adjournment at 1955 hours.