



## **Ester Volunteer Fire Department Board of Directors Meeting Jan 13, 2025**

- 1) **Call to Order** – 1808 hours. Members present: Syrilyn Tong, Karyn Holder, Carol Meyer, Sarah Albers, Ritchie Musick and Bill Rockwell. Eli Sonafrank missing. Mimi Hill and Chief Conner also present
- 2) **Public Comments** - none
- 3) **Old Business** – Lotto Alaska – Carol – nothing to report. Karyn – will call either North Star or Steese to see how the process goes.
- 4) **Reports**
  - A. Treasurer's report – see report. In addition to the report, Mimi stated that we paid \$41,000 for insurance and that we got \$2700 from the Pick, Click Give Program. The following grant status was updated: DOT grant – denied. VFA grant – will find out in a couple of months. Code Blue grant – for a snowmachine will be submitted shortly. Carol is overseeing the monthly billing statements, and Carol, Karyn and ST are the signers on the account, which needs to be updated with the current officers. The State of Alaska form for the change of officers also needs to be updated.
  - B. Fire Chief's Report – see report. Chief Conner added the following to his report:
    1. The minimum wage increase will take effect July 1 and incrementally change every year.
    2. He is adding a 401(k) cost sharing plan (12% department match), as the other volunteer departments have it and it will force participants to put money into future savings. He estimates an additional \$40,000 for the program. This requires a positive vote from the Board for implementation.
    3. New equipment – the Department obtained a refurbished Lucas device from the last Code Blue grant, and a refurbished Zoll device from SVFD.
    4. He passed out his 5 and 10 year plan.
    5. One of the capitol projects is the purchase of TDMA mobile radios, a project that has been pushed back since 2002. The cost is \$250,000 if all radios were to be changed, but SDO Josiah Volkman came up with the idea of using the fire trucks as a repeater (7 trucks), which will drastically cut costs (estimated: \$75,000).
    6. 14 of the 25 personnel at EVFD were involved in the Midway Placer fire, which got down to -40.
- 5) **New Business**
  - A. Ritchie motioned that we adopt the 401(k) plan for the department. Karyn seconded. Approved by 6-0 vote.

- B. Auxillary – Ritchie inquired as to the status of the auxillary program. Mimi said it hasn't been active in many years, but several people may be interested in starting it back up. She'll put out feelers in the Facebook site.
- C. Downed branches – Karyn asked if there was anything EVFD does to clean up flammable debris, like downed branches. Mimi said EVFD is still part of Firewise, but it requires 1-2 public, proactive fire safety events during the year and we haven't had any recently. She said that the Firewise program rented a chipper in the past, and could probably do so again.
- D. ST said that she and Sarah will probably be moving out of the country by the end of the summer, which will necessitate 2 additional board members by then.

8) **Adjournment** – at 1926 hours. Next meeting: March 10, 2025