



Ester Volunteer Fire Department

Board of Directors Meeting

July 14, 2025

- I Call to Order: 1804 hours. Bill Rockwell, Carol Meyer, Karyn Holder, Syrilyn Tong (ST), Sarah Albers and Eli Sonafrank present. Ritchie Musick excused. Mimi Hill and Chief Conner also present.
- II Public Comment - None
- III Approval of May Minutes – minor change noted: Lowes awarded a grant, not Home Depot. Change made, then approved by unanimous consent.
- IV Reports
 - A. Treasurer's Report – See attached document.
 - 1) The 1st check from FNSB just arrived. 1st half of Lowes grant is reflected in 7-1-25 figures.
 - 2) Chief spent \$10,000 from retained earnings in order to repair the well. We still have \$218k in retained earnings.
 - 3) The insurance premium finally came down, saving us \$123k from last year's cost.
 - 4) Chief also had to restructure the pay scale (Mimi and Josiah, plus the new minimum wage pay scale).
 - B. Chief's Report
 - 1) Presentation by Hunter Goff on the Nenana Complex fire
 - 2) A couple of EVFD personnel have been fighting the wildfire in addition to their duties at EVFD
 - 3) Volunteers – will be around 27, but several appear to be really strong volunteers
 - 4) Minimum wage will take effect next year
 - 5) There is now a 3 person recruiting committee. We'll have 5 new live-ins
 - 6) July 4th – Mimi - we ran out of otter pops, but it went well. Trail EMS was in the parade, but got a call for service immediately after the parade. CGFR assisted with traffic control.
 - 7) The public briefing on the wildfire took place in the bay.
 - 8) Money from fighting the wildfire goes into our Borough saving's account
 - 9) Grants – the Lowes grant (\$50,000) will help with flooring and storage (new ATCO)
 - 10) New hose dryer will dry bunkers and hose
 - 11) 2 tenders and the well are down (might make an emergency draw from the Borough saving's account).
 - 12) Trail Team 56 (trail EMS trailer) lent support at the Triannual Exercise at the Airport
 - 13) Contracts didn't change from last year, but are signed

14) E51 still awaiting parts

C. Fund raising – Carol gave a briefing on the Lottery. She talked with Dave Lambert of LottoAlaska.

- 1) 150 non-profits benefit.
- 2) We need to get a gaming permit, 2 people need to take the test, we need to open up a separate bank account, and 25 Alaskan members are req'd in order to participate. Priority given to special projects and/or training. Can't use funds for out-of-state travel.
- 3) This clause must be added to our bylaws: "Upon dissolution, any remaining net proceeds from gaming activity under AS 05.15 will be distributed to one or more existing permittees, other than a multiple-beneficiary permittee, in accordance with 15 AAC 160.020(a)(5)." We agreed that we need to approve this language so that we could add this to our Annual Meeting agenda.
- 4) Carol and Karyn will take the test.
- 5) We discussed that we needed Board approval to move forward with this proposal. Approved by unanimous consent.

V Old Business – Board mission statement – Karyn said that she liked the 3rd statement. ST said that most of the proposed statements addressed what the department did, not the Board of Directors. She read another that was more specific to the Board's duties. Chief mentioned that the mission statement should reflect safety, security, etc., in order to be covered by State law, and that we should possibly seek legal advice. After further discussion. ST to re-write something, and send it out via email for comments. Sarah suggested that we change our meeting date so that we could finalize the statement prior to the 30 day public comment period before the Annual General Membership meeting (Oct. 5). All agreed to change the date.

VII Next meeting date – Aug. 25, 2025

VIII Adjournment - 1924 hrs