



## **Ester Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.**

### **Annual General Membership Meeting**

Oct. 5, 2025

- I. Call to Order: 1615 hours
- II. Roll Call/Quorum – Quorum met. People present:
  - A. Chief Jeffrey Conner and Office Manager Mimi Hill
  - B. Board Members: President Karyn Holder, VP Sarah Albers, Secretary Syrilyn Tong, Treasurer Carol Meyer, Directors Ritchie Musick, Eli Sonafrank and Bill Rockwell.
  - C. Public: Kim Streeter, Cooper Kenefsky, Dunya Wise, Josiah Volkmann, Kellen Arvidson, Mike Musick, Barbara O'Donnell, Kathleen Sisson and William Morrow.
- III. Reports
  - A. Chief Conner gave a synopsis of last year's highlights. Officer Manager Mimi Hill gave a synopsis of financial and grant matters.
  - B. Mike Musick made a comment that newer solar panels have become bi-facial, and can be mounted vertically. He also wondered if we have ever had a professional energy audit done, and what our current electrical and heating bill was. He thought it might be ~\$100,000/year. Barb O'Donnell mentioned that RES (the local solar installer) did an estimate of about \$180,000 to install panels, and that the main issue is that the Borough owns the building and doesn't want panels on their building. She also thought that Solarize Fairbanks may not even be in existence any longer, and that there are no grants for a project like this. Karyn mentioned that we still have a solar committee on the board, but that the Borough is our biggest roadblock.
  - C. Board President Holder said that she is very proud of the board, and also that of Chief Conner, giving an anecdote of a community member telling her (Holder) that they were very proud of the Ester Fire Chief.
  - D. Board President Holder gave a recap of the work that is being done on the lottery (Lotto Alaska). Carol Meyer and Holder took the test and opened up a bank account, plus 2 pages of items that needed to be done are getting done. They are now ready for the application, however, they need a list of things that EVFD would like to do with potential lottery money. The general membership needs to vote in language that is required of Lotto Alaska, which goes into the Bylaws. Holder read the proposed language: *"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)."* Tong moved to adopt the language, which was seconded by Kay Sisson. Approved by everyone.

- E. President Holder then stated that our current bylaws didn't have a mission statement, so read the proposed mission statement that the board came up with: *"The Board of Directors of the Ester Volunteer Fire Department is dedicated to ensuring the highest standards of safety, service, and support for the community of Ester. We are dedicated to providing oversight and strategic guidance to the Fire Chief, ensuring sound fiscal management and a clear, forward-looking direction for our department. Additionally, we actively support the recruitment, training, and retention of volunteer firefighters and emergency responders, while fostering strong community relationships through education, outreach, and engagement."* ST moved that we adopt the new mission statement, and Kim Streeter seconded it. All present approved the new language.
- F. President Holder then presided over the election of directors whose terms were ending. Carol Meyer, Karyn Holder and Sarah Albers' terms are ending. Ritchie Musick moved that all 3 be re-elected. This was seconded by Barb O'Donnell. All present approved the vote.

IV Conclusion: The meeting concluded at 1740 hours.