



## Ester Volunteer Fire Department

### Board of Directors Meeting

Aug 25, 2025

- I Call to Order: 1809 hours. Bill Rockwell, Carol Meyer, Karyn Holder, Syrilyn Tong (ST) and Ritchie Musick present. Mimi Hill and Chief Conner also present.
- II Public Comment - None
- III Approval of July Minutes –approved by unanimous consent.
- IV Reports
  - A. Treasurer’s Report – See attached document. Rec’d \$25k from Lowes (1/2 of grant). Work is underway. July 15 rec’d ½ of Borough money (\$412,017). 2 large-dollar-amount extrication tools were bought from the retained earnings fund (\$20,000). Minimum wages have also gone up.
  - B. Chief’s Report
    - 1) Chief briefed us on 2 calls of note, one of which was a one-day contract with the Nenana Complex fire group requesting support for a trash fire.
    - 2) Personnel numbers are at 31, nearly an all-time high. All but 1 of the live-in’s have moved in.
    - 3) Sept 6 is our annual awards banquet at Flossie and May’s
    - 4) Sept. 13 is “Red Vest Day” (as a result of the grant, Lowes employees may show up to do volunteer work), so Mimi is getting some work ideas for them to do.
    - 5) The Deraco site has been nominated for funding through the Borough’s CWPP (Community Wildland Protection Plan)
    - 6) Josiah still working on the TDMA mobile radio quotes
  - C. Solar committee – nothing going on
  - D. Fund raising – Carol gave a briefing on the status of Lotto Alaska
    - 1) Carol and Karyn took a very difficult test, but passed
    - 2) Bank account is now open through Mt. McKinley, with a \$50 deposit
    - 3) Gaming permit is one of the next steps, which has to be done annually
    - 4) Bylaws need to change to reflect 2 changes:
      - a) The gaming permit verbiage [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 15AAC 160.020(a)(5)].
      - b) The Mission Statement that ST wrote up (added at the end of these minutes).
      - c) Ritchie moved to accept both bylaws changes, and Carol seconded. All approved of both of these changes.

- d) Karyn to put both of these proposed changes in a public announcement advertising them and the annual meeting, and post around Ester
- 5) We discussed the possibility of doing a raffle (another test would need to be taken and passed)
- V Old Business – none
- VI New Business - none
- VII Next meeting date: Annual meeting - Oct. 5, 2025 at 4:00 PM
- VIII Chief's evaluation for last year still needs to be done. A special meeting is set for Sept. 2 at 6:30 in order to accomplish this.
- IX Adjournment – 7:27 PM

Addendum: The mission statement that was approved in Section IV D. 4) b):

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.