



Ester Volunteer Fire Department

Board of Directors Meeting

Feb 9, 2026

- I Call to Order: 1806 hours. Carol Meyer, Karyn Holder, Syrilyn Tong (ST), Sarah Albers, Eli Sonaf Frank, Bill Rockwell and Ritchie Musick present. Mimi Hill and Chief Conner also present.
- II Public Comment – none
- III Approval of Dec. Minutes – Approved by unanimous consent
- IV Reports
 - A. Treasurer’s Reports (Mimi) – See attached document.
 - B. Chief’s Report – See attached document. Additional comments:
 - 1) Chief mentioned that some big-ticket items are coming up, since we get much of our budget in the final quarter.
 - 2) The department’s retained earnings portion of the budget should cover roughly 6 months of the department’s expenses, and we are nearly there.
 - 3) Grants (Mimi reports)
 - a. Code Blue – Information to be sent out shortly, but money for this program wasn’t in the Governor’s budget
 - b. CAP (Community Assistance Program) grants – we usually use this for heating and fuel
 - c. US Department of Health – mostly for EMS programs
 - d. DOT and GVEA Good Cents – 2 other programs that we may apply for
 - e. Chief stated that due to the Code Blue money not being funded, he would like to ask the Board to consider writing a letter to our legislators to ask for funding. After discussion, the Board agreed to write a letter and possibly each individual board member would also write a letter so that there are more letters in hand.
 - 4) The hose dryer (and the washing machines) is owned by CTC (Community and Technical College) but installed here and used by (primarily) us
 - 5) E51 parts are finally here and Josiah is working on them in his spare time. The lug nuts were installed incorrectly by the Borough shop, but they purchased new rims because the they were at risk.
 - 6) The (Fire) Commission met Jan. 28 to approve the fire budget. The EMS budget will be worked on shortly and both presented to the Board once approved by the Commission.
 - C. Solar committee – on hold
 - D. Fund raising (Carol) – we received \$19,000 from Lotto Alaska on Dec. 15. We have a current priority list if we get more funding, but this \$19,000 will be used for 2 sets of bunker gear. It is unknown the frequency or amount of future money, but we were told to

think big, so a new brush truck and 4 sets of e-Draulics are on the list. All the paperwork is all caught up.

- E. 50th Anniversary (Ritchie) – Eli, ST and she met the other day to divide up the responsibilities.
 - 1) July 25, from 1-4 at the park and the Station. We had to reserve the field in addition to the Pavilion in order to have enough parking.
 - 2) ST is working on activities for out-of-town people, Eli will get volunteers, Ritchie is working on a program (to be held at 2:00 PM), and Mimi is getting the department personnel involved.
 - 3) Other possible activities – car rescue demo, doll house fire demo, simulated medical emergency, bouncy house and an updated Founder’s plaque.

V Old Business – none

VI New Business

- A. Posting of minutes – Karyn wondered if the minutes should be posted (to the website) sooner than every 2 months (when the Board meets to make an in-person approval). After discussion, ST will send the minutes to Karyn for dissemination to the rest of the Board who will then ask for corrections. Once corrections are made, Karyn will then ask to have the minutes approved so that they can be posted to the website.
- B. Ritchie brought up some concerns:
 - 1) She appreciated the budget (handed out by Chief Conner re: the Fire commissions’ approval of the Fire budget), but said this was the first time she’s seen any budget and would like to have more frequent financial reports.
 - 2) Do we have Errors and Omissions liability for Board members? – Mimi stated that yes, it is part of our department’s liability insurance
 - 3) Who do we report to? We report to our constituents and/or members of the community
 - 4) Who said that we didn’t need to have line-item financial reviews – Mimi stated that our accountant, RJG, said that we didn’t need to do as much scrutinizing at the meetings
 - 5) Do we have to do an audit – Chief stated that the Borough would be the one to require an audit, and they never have.
 - 6) What is our job? – Carol – oversight. She also stated that she is comfortable with how we are doing things.
 - 7) Ritchie would like to see a financial report every meeting. Mimi said it wouldn’t be too much to create one, so will do so.
- C. ST said that she and Sarah will be moving out of state in August, so we need to start looking for 2 new board members (we won’t need them until the Annual Meeting in October, as ST and Sarah will be present for August’s BOD meeting)

VII Next Meeting date: Karyn and Eli will be out of town for the next scheduled meeting (4-13-26), so it was re-scheduled to Mar. 30, 2026

VIII Adjournment – 7:27 PM