**Meeting Minutes –** 1-16-2024

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 6:01 pm by B. Jewett

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll call:**

* + Members Present: B. Jewett, W. Floury, J. Hurlburt, K, Manuel, E. Szegda, M. Guernsey, D. Williams, J. Ellens
  + Members Absent: J. Runyon
  + Guests: Jim Peterson

**Approve Agenda:** Motion made by W. Floury, 2nd by K. Manuel to approve the agenda adding in to approve the meeting schedule for 2025. All in favor, motion carried.

**Approve Prior Meeting Minutes:** Motion made by D. Williams 2nd by B. Jewett to approve 11/21/24 minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

**Public Comments: N/A**

**Director Report**: SEE ATTACHED. Motion made to approve directors report and accept the current roster by J. Hurlburt 2nd by D. Williams. All in favor, motion carried.

**Fire Chief Report**: SEE ATTACHED. Motion made by J. Hurlburt to approve the fire chief report 2nd by K. Manuel. All in favor, motion carried.

**Treasurer Report:** E. Szegda gave the report In Forest Area there is $119,594.57 in checking, $25,284.37 in Ambulance savings, $321.98 in Fire savings. CD 1 from fire there is $50,184.44 and CD 2 from EMS there is $105,387.30. In Honor Bank there is $206,017.20 in checking. Grand total in both banks is $506,789.86. Deposits made since last meeting totaled $21,524.32. Bills paid since last meeting totaled $117,493.63 Motion to approve the treasurer’s report and pay all the bills presented by J. Hurlburt, 2nd by W. Floury. Roll call on all members. – W. Floury – yes, K. Manuel – yes, J. Hurlburt – yes, B. Jewett – yes. All approved, motion carried

**Old Business**

1. **Committees:**
   1. **NWEA Building Committee (6/3)** – E. Szegda, J. Runyon, M. Guernsey, J. Stanley – Two pieces of fascia missing at Station 1 to be done in the spring.
2. **Turn out gear** – M. Guernsey met with sales rep and the coats are getting fixed at no additional cost. They are in process and hoping to be done by spring after this everything will be complete.
3. **Townships Follow up –** B. Jewett went to Slagle and he stated they are not interested in contracting with us and are confused about the benefit because they have a county contract with MMR. B. Jewett explained MMR will be their primary responder, NWEA is not contracted, but will respond under mutual aid. In the future, if they should decide they want to contract with us for services, they can come to an NWEA meeting to discuss it.
4. **Snow removal –** Station 1 is being plowed by Dave Szegda and NWEA personnel are salting if required.
5. **Retirement plan –** Still need representative to contact E. Szegda to get this set up within payroll. No updates.
6. **Investment updates –** E. Szegda said Honor Bank has an adjustable, tiered interest rate on the Money Market Account that will currently pay about 2% on balances over $250,000. Money Markets only allow 6 electronic transactions per month. E. Szegda will be creating the account.
7. **EMS billing issues –** In Directors report.
8. **Workers Comp Injury** – M. Guernsey reported that Mike is on the mend and will hopefully return to work in April.
9. **Slagle Township** – Ending EMS service. More information in 3.
10. **Ambulance purchase** – See Directors report for more info. J. Runyon is currently working on 2nd quote - table until next month. J. Runyon was offered a demo lift with one year warranty which is much cheaper than buying a brand new one. Motion to approve purchase of this lift and to put the lift in the vehicle presented by B. Jewett 2nd by J. Hurlburt. Roll call on all members. – W. Floury – yes, K. Manuel – yes, J. Hurlburt – yes, B. Jewett – yes. All approved, motion carried.

**New Business**

1. E. Szegda presented a schedule for meeting dates for 2025. Motion to approve and accept but remove December by B. Jewett, 2nd by K. Manuel. All approved, motion carried.

**Public Comment: -** N/A

Motion presented by K. Manuel to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by W. Floury. All approved, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.

Next regular meeting February 20th, 2025, at Buckley Station 2

Respectfully submitted by J. Ellens

NORTHWEST WEXFORD

EMERGENCY AUTHORITY

January 1, 2025

TO: Northwest Wexford Emergency Authority

FROM: Fire Chief Guernsey

December: 7 CALLS

YEAR: 130 CALLS

WEXFORD COUNTY: 7 FOR THE MONTH 130 FOR THE YEAR

GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY: 3 FOR THE MONTH 30 FOR THE YEAR

1 Commercial Vehicle Fire (Springville)

1 School Bus in ditch (Grant)

1 Vehicle Accident (Hanover)

1 Structure Fire (Mayfield)

1 Chimney Fire (Grant)

1 Fire Alarm activation (Hanover)

1 Carbon Monoxide alarm (Wexford)

2 Structure Fires

SANTA CLAUS VISITED: STATION #2 12/12 6:30 PM 20 KIDS

STATION #1 12/19 6:30 PM 14 KIDS

Future staff on waiting list:

8/01/2023 Jesse Sloan no certifications or license

8/01/2023 Zachariah Grant no certifications or license

9/10/2023 Thomas Besey FF 1 & 2 Boon Township Fire Department

5/13/2024 Tayler Harper no certifications or license

7/12/2024 Timothy Brownell no certifications or license

10/15/2024 Ian Lone no certifications or license

MICHAEL D. GUERNSEY

FIRE CHIEF / EMT

January 16, 2025

Hello, here is the director’s report for this month.

I have been able to obtain a bid for the purchase of a new ambulance and am still waiting for another comparable bid. I can get multiple bids but the third will be of lower quality and thus cheaper. Please let me know if you still want three bids. The goal is to buy from a company that the module can be remounted at least once. The State of Michigan allows up to three remounts. The idea is that you save about $125,000 and come away with a new truck rather than $300,000 for new. Keep in mind that ambulances keep going up 5-6% per year; our bids have about a 15% buffer built into it for this reason. Build times are 24-30 months. The salesman would present their products to you, if you would like I can arrange that? 9A is a PL Custom and will be able to be fitted to a gas E-450 IN ABOUT 5-6 years. We will need approval for the lift that has been acquired and ready to be invoiced that will eventually find its way into this new ambulance. We saved $24,000 by making an early move on this lift. It also could be utilized in any of our ambulances if needed.

We have been in communication with Slagle Township and have made them aware of the MMR County-wide contract for ambulance services. They have been informed both in writing and verbally that we will be stepping back from the primary response for their Township and MMR will be responding per contract. This will begine Feb. 1st 2025. We will still respond as mutual aid and would entertain a contract if it is equal to what the NWEA townships are contributing. We have encouraged them to put it to a vote of the people. MMR was present and encouraged them to seek a contract with an alternative agency as their response will primarily be out of the Cadillac, Manton and on occasion Manistee area.

Billing is trending up again, I am still aware of a clearing house they are trying to get back in line. I will stay in communication with them. The annual payments received for 2024 (not fiscal year) collected as reported on the portal are $101,674.35. I suspect there are billings yet to be received due to the hiccup that we experienced from the BLS to ALS license change.

We have approved a holiday Stipend which does not move with pay raises. I propose that we move to a time and a half rate for the approved holiday days.

Starting February 21st 2025 the state of Michigan is mandating that we provide 72 hours of accrued sick time for all employees/year if accrued. It’s accrued at a rate of 1 hour per 30 hours worked or two minutes per hour. The State has not ruled on whether you have to let the accrual roll over year after year. I proposed that we allow it to roll over but roll over into a vacation/personal time column while maintaining 72 hours of sick time! If the employee uses sick time, we draw from their vacation/personal time to replenish the 72 hours. Every Thanksgiving an employee that has reached an excess of 350 hours will be paid back down to 350 hours. If they choose to, they could request a pay out down to 72 hrs. without penalty at this same time. If the employee separated on good terms the employee would be paid out down to 72 hours. If they’re fired, they would not be paid out anything. This expense is going to be taken into consideration when determining our annual raise that is coming due in the next few months. Our competing agencies in the area are already giving 7-10 minutes per hour worked for vacation/personal time which covers when you are out sick. The approval to roll it over will be the beginning of our benefit package and can be increased as allowable in the years to come.

I have provided a roster for approval. I would like to remove members in red do to lack of participation, and welcome aboard two Paramedics in Green. Those in blue are on Leave injury/sick. More cuts are to come next month.

Adam is on the mend and was able to help lead the training last night. We had another successful credited training including a CPR element last night! That is minus the crews on the two Ambulance calls that occurred during that time.

We had 626 calls for ambulance last year and currently sit at 34 for the month of January 2005.

If you have any questions or ideas, please as always reach out!

Thanks,

Justin Runyon

E.S. Director

231-645-0455

runyonjustin@hotmail.com