

GRAND LEDGE AREA EMERGENCY SERVICES AUTHORITY

500 NORTH CLINTON STREET

GRAND LEDGE, MICHIGAN 48837

AUGUST 17, 2020

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Campbell virtually via Zoom. There was audience logged in. The Meeting was monitored by Chief Vandecasteele.

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Campbell at 7:00 p.m.

1. Roll call of Authority Board Members present: Chairman Campbell, Secretary Lantz, Treasurer Schultz, Members Willems and Sowle and Chief Vandecasteele.
2. Pledge of Allegiance was given.
3. Audience Participation: There was none at this time.
4. Approval of the Consent Agenda. Motion to Approve was made by Mr. Lantz and supported by Mr. Sowle. Motion Carried.
5. Approval of Regular Agenda. Motion was made by Mrs. Schultz and supported by Mr. Willems. Motion Carried.
6. Committee and Board Reports: Only item C. Public Education Committee: There were proposals from Harbor Strategies and Byrum and Fisk for publicizing the up coming Millage request to be on the November Election Ballot. The Board reviewed both proposals. The one from Byrum and Fisk was a great deal more expensive at \$25,796.84 including a retainer of \$12,000.00.

Chief Vandecasteele preferred Harbor Strategies as they easy to talk to and listened to him in regards to what methods would be used to publicize the millage. They total cost was \$16,000.00. Or if the phone text contact was not used it be \$11,500.00. They would do two mailings of 5and ½ inch postcards at \$3,500.00 each. The cost for phone and texting was \$4,500.00. They proposed mailings for September 21, 2020 and October 19, 2020 at a cost of \$3,500.00 each.

Mr. Lantz asked how the Union would be able to help. Chief Vandecasteele said they would be looking into a Grant to pay for the Billboard by Subway, and would help with phone calls. Chief Vandecasteele said he could call on Independence Village and Serenity Place as well as Clinton Street and Village Drive to get information out. Mr. Lantz asked the Chief if he had a figure in mind that would work with our Budget. Chief Vandecasteele said \$12,000.00 . He felt that we could afford yard signs and digital media. Mr. Lantz asked if the proposal from Harbor Strategies included the \$4000.00 retainer and Chief Vandecasteele said that it did. So, the cost would be approximately \$11,500.00. Chairman Campbell discussed private individuals and social media. Also, it was noted that the Authority cannot use the verbiage (Vote Yes), but the Union can. There was discussion on digital media and how it should be handled. Chief Vandecasteele said John from Harbor Strategies would assist with that.

Chief Vandecasteele noted that there would have to be timely approvals of the mailing materials and he would need the Boards cooperation for this.

Mr. Willems said he felt that yard signs and mailings were most effective. Chairman Campbell said yard signs cost \$5.00 and post cards 50 cents each. There was discussion on working with the union and campaign materials.

After all discussion Motion was made by Mr. Lantz to approve Harbor Strategies to publicize the Millage Request for the November Ballot at a cost not to exceed \$12,000.00. Support was given by Mr. Willems.

Roll Call Vote: Aye, Mr. Lantz, Mr. Willems, Mrs. Schultz, Mr. Campbell, Mr. Sowle.

Nay, None. Motion Carried.

Mr. Willems asked if Board Members could go door to door. Mr. Lantz said that they could, but could not use GLEASA Resources. Chairman Campbell said we need to explain what the millage is needed for and how it would be used.

7. Chief/Staff Reports:

Monthly Run Activity:

1. Fire Runs for July, Total Calls 48, City 30, Township 13, Mutual Aide 5
2. EMS Runs for July, Total Calls 147, City 100, Township 29, Roxand 11, Mutual Aid 7.
3. Management Report of EMS Runs, Charges for July were \$88,974.39, Receipts were \$46,478.62, adjustments were \$42,750.98. A/R \$118,785.40.

Departmental Activities:

1. The Department is entering phase 3 step down. There has only been one positive case of covid in the past month.
2. The newly hired, Mr. Delano is doing extremely well.

8 Old Business:

1. Mr. Maguire of Exit Realty was present to discuss the Sale of the Hartel Road Property. He said the Board needed to get realistic on the price of the property. The one next door to the south sold for \$160,000.00 and one on the North side of town sold for \$130,000.00. He pointed out that the water and sewer were available but not on site and that was an added cost for the buyer. Chairman Campbell said the site had been annexed into the City so the hookup costs would be less. Mr. Lantz asked about how far off we were on price. Mr. Maguire felt that 160,000.00 to 180,000.00 was reasonable with the buyer having to run the utilities. Mr. Lantz asked if the apartments in the area would make the property more valuable. Mr. Maguire said Grand Ledge was a slow commercial community. The road frontage was discussed, which is 264 feet and it is 660 feet deep. Mr. Maguire said he would like to keep the listing and discussed the sale of other buildings in the area and the time it took to sell them.

After Mr. Maguire left Mr. Lantz discussed whether we should stay with Exit or go with a commercial company. It was the consensus of the Board that Chairman Campbell will get some further information and the Board will look at it next Meeting.

9. New Business:

1. Financial Transactions and Bills for July.

Motion was made by Mr. Lantz and supported by Mr. Willems for approve the Bills as listed for July 30th and August 14th, 202. Motion Carried.

Communications from Board Members: Mr. Lantz asked if the Union Contract was ready for signing. Chief Vandecasteele said there was a slight adjustment in wording that was being corrected and it should be ready very soon. Chairman Campbell asked if the Health Accounts were ready to be set up. Chief Vandecasteele said they were ready. Mrs. Schultz told the Board that at the last Township Board Meeting she was surprised to find out that many people did not know that the EMS service was added after the initial Fire Authority was formed and no additional millage had been requested. She felt that this was an important point to let people know in the request for the new millage. Mr. Lantz said that knowledge was important in getting the millage passed.

Audience Participation: Local 2627 was on line but had no comment.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jan Schultz.

APPROVED:

Mr. Thomas Campbell, Chairman

Mr. Rick Lantz, Secretary