

**GRAND LEDGE AREA EMERGENCY SERVICES AUTHORITY
MEETING**

FEBRUARY 2, 2026

6:00 p.m.

AT 500 N. CLINTON STREET, GRAND LEDGE, MICHIGAN 48837

1. Roll Call: Present: Chairman Willems, Secretary Lantz, Treasurer Schultz Vice Chair Mulder, Trustee Stahelin, Chief Roman. Also, Present were Members of Glaesa, and the Township and the City. and representing Veridus Katie Jacobs representing Williams Architects, Representatives of Bakertilly, and Representatives of Christman Construction.
2. Pledge of Allegiance was given.
3. Audience Participation. There was none.
4. Approval of Consent Agenda: there was no consent agenda.
5. Approval of Regular Agenda. Motion was made by Ms. Schultz and supported by Mr. Mulder to approve the Regular Agenda. Motion Carried.
6. Chief Roman asked to make the Chiefs Report at this time. He informed the Board that 3 new firefighters had been hired and were going to school for paramedic beginning next week at Delta, and the cost of the schooling was to be paid by a grant that he had secured from the State.
7. Committee and Board Reports: Katie Jacobs presented the report for Veridus. The Purpose of the meeting was the to finalize the project scope and to have the final ballot wording approved. She introduced those present and noted that ETC would present a review of the preliminary results of the survey that had recently been sent out. Jason said that 321 surveys had been returned at the present time and that Question 1 asked about the use of the service in the past 2 years it showed that about 85%were satisfied with the EMS Service and 35% were dissatisfied. It showed 66% supported a new fire station and 22 percent did not support a new fire station. The survey showed favor for having a station north of the river and also for a new station on Hartel. The survey asked their age and how long they had lived in the City or Township.

Jason said they would continue to collect data for the next two weeks. Then a final report would be presented to the Board. Mr. Lantz asked about demographics, such as age and whether the person lived in the city or the Township. And how long they had lived in the area.

The presentation then moved on to Project Scope Options.

Option 1. At a 21.1-million-dollar cost includes a 23,200 sq. ft. building on Hartel Road with a 3.2 million remodeling of the current building, and fire apparatus.

Option 2. At a cost of 24,300 million includes the 23,200 sq. ft. building, a New 10,000 sq. ft. satellite building

On the north side and fire apparatus

Option 3. At a cost of 22.5 million includes the 23,200 sq. ft. new building on Hartel and a 10,600 sq. ft. satellite station on the north and some bonds for fire apparatus.

Jake from Christman noted that some buildings in the final options had been slimmed down.

The Capital improvement plan was presented by Bakertilly for review by the board. Which showed a Debt Service Millage rate and a Proposal Summary for the amount of bonds. which showed an interest rate beginning at 330 and an ending millage rate of 2.39 at 20 years.

8. Old Business: There was none.
9. New Business: Three Resolutions were presented for the options to move ahead with a new fire station. Resolution 01-2026, 02-2026 and 03-2026. Chairman said he would accept motions at this time. Mrs. Schultz made a Motion to approve Option 3. Resolution 03-2026 to build a new station on Hartel and a new satellite station north of the river and bond for some fire apparatus at a cost of 22.5 Million. Support was given to the Motion by Mr. Mulder. Discussion: Mr. Mulder noted that survey results go against option three. The people like to see renovation of the existing building on the north side. He noted that the Building Committee had discussed this at length. Mr. Lantz

pointed out that option 2 does not preclude us from purchasing the current lot and building,
Mr. Willems said it was evident that people want a building on both sides of the river. Mr. Mulder discussed the river and the railroad and the implications of both. Mr. Stahelin asked how many respondents had actually been in the existing building. He felt cautious about the renovation of this building. He noted that a safe working environment was supported by the people. A reasonable renovation cost is not what we are looking at here. Mr. Mulder felt that we should build something good for the least cost, we are dealing with real money from the community here. He also said it is critical that we have some new buildings. And he noted that professionals here tonight have fought tooth and nail to come up with the best possible building at a nominal cost, they have tried to take care of the people's money and get the best for them, he also like that the fire apparatus was in option three.

Roll Call Vote on Option 3 Resolution 03-2026: Aye: Mrs. Schultz, Mr. Stahelin, Mr. Lantz, Mr. Mulder, Mrs. Willems.

Nay: None

10. Audience Participation: Chief thanked everyone and noted that the team has worked hard, it shows how much they care about the community. Melissa Goschka thanked the team and committee for all the hard work and caring about the community. Mr. Weaver thanked everyone and said he liked option 3. Discussed return on investment and hoped we have money on hand to purchase land.
11. Communications from Board Members: Mrs. Schultz said glad to be moving forward. Mr. Stahelin thanked the team and the committee for all the hard work and caring about the community. Mr. Mulder noted that now the hard part comes going out to sell education and Bret will help.
12. Closed Session. There was none;
13. Adjourn Meeting: Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Stahelin and supported by Mr. Lantz. Meeting Adjourned at 7:00 p.m.
Minutes respectfully submitted by Jan Schultz.

Approved:


Mr. Don Willems, Chairman


Mr. Rick Lantz, Secretary