

**GRAND LEDGE AREA EMERGENCY SERVICES AUTHORITY**

**MEETING**

**JANUARY 19, 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 Williams Architects Kim Nigro and Mark Bushouse, 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: Motion was made to approve the December 15, 2025 Minutes by Mr. Lantz, support was given by Mr. Stahelin, Motion Carried. Motion was made by Mr. Stahelin and support was given by Mr. Lantz to approve the Minutes of December 22, 2025. Motion Carried.
5. Approval of Regular Agenda. Motion was made by Mr. Mulder and supported by Mr. Lantz to approve the Regular Agenda. Motion Carried. Mr. Lantz asked about the Closed Session Minutes for December. They will be on the Agenda for the next Meeting.
6. Committee and Board Reports:
  - A. Building Committee: Veridus Update was presented by Kim Nigros. She introduced the team working on the proposed new station and millage. She gave A Pre-Bond Services Update. The Agenda for the night included introductions, General Project Update, Existing Facility Condition Assessment, Initial Site Layout Concepts, Preliminary Cost Estimates and the Schedule and Budget. Also, a recommendation for the building project and ballot language.

She discussed Project Scope Options: for a 27,000 sq. ft. building on Hartel or new 24300 sq. ft. bldg. on Hartel and renovation of the existing building and a new tanker. She said

the Team was recommending that the ballot request be for the 24300 sq ft. bldg. on Hartel and renovation of the existing building at a cost of 28million. 2.5 million of the 28 million would go towards renovation of the existing building. Mr. Mulder asked the Board what they thought of the proposal.

Mr. Willems questioned the renovation of the existing building. Kim explained that they recommended tearing down the north pole barn. And investigation of the environmental situation of the existing building. Rework the whole building to make it better.

Mr. Lantz said it did not make sense to him, what if the building needed more than 2million in repairs, He also noted that the Authority did not own the building and that the surveys had just gone out. He wondered if we should wait until they were in. He asked if the Bond amount could be adjusted. It was noted that it could be adjusted. Mr. Lantz also was concerned about the future of the existing building and service to the north side of the City in the future.

Mr. Stahelin said we do not want to abandon the North side of the City. He noted that the Building Committee and the Team felt that the smaller building on Hartel and renovation of the existing building and the new tanker was more palatable to the voters than 28 million for two new stations.

Mr. Gillespie said they do want to take into account the survey, and there is flexibility on the use of the bond dollars. Mrs. Schultz said that with the current economy she felt that the smaller building on Hartel and renovation of this existing station and the new tanker had a better chance of passing. Mr. Stahelin said he felt that there is a need for more space and the smaller building on Hartel and renovation of the existing station with a new tanker had a better chance of approval. The Christman Company Rep. said He felt that it was not an excessive estimate but a conservative guess to do something

substantial and maintain a high probability of getting something approved. There was discussion of bringing the request back in August if it failed in May. Then it was noted that a bond request can only be on the ballot once a year. Bakertilly discussed Capital improvement plan and the ability to refinance in 2036. He also discussed the 20-year option. And the life of apparatus and not financing it beyond its life. The Final Draft of the Bond Language will be at the next Meeting. (A preliminary copy of the bond proposal is attached to these minutes.)

Williams Architects presented a Site Plan Update which is attached to these minutes. Mr. Lantz questioned room for growth at the Hartel Station. It was noted that there was room although somewhat limited. Chief Roman discussed the ISO rating and that having two stations would possibly get us down to a 3 in the Township and the City.

Kim then reviewed the Schedule with the Board. Including a Special Meeting February 2, 2026. And the Ballot Deadline. She then reviewed the prebond costs with the Board the amount remaining is \$7,050.00.

## 7. Fire Chief / Staff Reports.

A. Monthly Run Activity: EMS total runs 186 Fire Runs Total 93.

1. Benton Road Fire> Chief Roman said that the Department had done a great job. And that Matt Spalding was alone and had the fire out when the volunteers arrived.

## 8. Old Business:

A. No action.

## 9. New Business:

Financial Transactions for December 1, 2025 thru December 31, 2025. Motion to pay the bills as presented was made by Mr. Stahelin and supported by Mr. Lantz. Motion Carried.

1. Audience Participation: Mr. Weaver questioned if two new stations would require more personnel and what it would do to the operational millage. He also noted people do not realize the environment that personnel have to work in. Tom Driver wanted to Thank the Board and noted that he had been with the Department for 28 years full time and 32 yrs total. The Board applauded him.
2. Communications from the Board. Mr. Mulder wanted to be sure the board let people know about the survey and how important it is to fill it out. Mr. Lantz asked if the survey could be put on the web site. It can be.

10 There was no Closed Session:

11 Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Stahelin and supported by Mr. Lantz, at 7:25 p.m. Motion Carried.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jan Schultz.

APPROVED:

  
Mr. Don Willems, Chairman

  
Mr. Rick Lantz, Secretary