

**LOOKING GLASS REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY
7720 W. Grand River Hwy.
Grand Ledge MI 48837**

**Minutes of Looking Glass Regional Fire Authority Meeting
September 15, 2009
6:00 p.m.**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. with The Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Board Members Present: **Therrian, Clark, Mitchell, Simmons, Adams and Crego.** Chief Fabiano was also present.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CORRESPONDENCE: **Clark** had correspondence that was a notice of review of a portion of Aldrich Drain.

AGENDA APPROVAL: **Adams** added discussion/action of a bargaining committee and having the bargaining committee communicate with the union. **Motion by Simmons, seconded by Crego** to approve the agenda as amended. **Motion passed.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: **Mitchell** noticed one small typo error that needs correction. **Motion by Adams, seconded by Simmons** to approve the minutes of August 20, 2009 as amended. **Motion passed.**

APPROVAL OF BILLS: **Motion by Mitchell, seconded by Crego** to approve the bills as presented. **Motion passed.**

REPORTS:

Chief's Report:

Chief Fabiano stated that the fire department will be having training on September 26. It will be a large truck (semi) crash training from 10 am until 2 pm with Lansing, Delta, and Grand Ledge Fire Departments in attendance.

Chief Fabiano stated that on October 17, they are having a farm rescue training, which is a group out of Ann Arbor that comes and puts the training on. It will be 8am until 5 pm.

October 13 is the fire department open house with demonstrations, helicopter, smoke house, etc. It is from 6 until 8:30 pm. They will be visiting the schools the week before that.

Chief Fabiano provided an update on the H1N1. The metro chiefs have met and discussed they are expecting a 50% absenteeism rate over the whole population. LGRFA is not doing anything special. They have contacted the health department and first responders are one of the top priorities for the vaccination.

He wonders if perhaps LGRFA should offer the vaccination to Watertown and Eagle residents.

Chief also mentioned NIMS. They have to meet their compliance and do their table top exercise.

Chair's Report:

Financial Review- **Clark** reported on the financials of LGRFA.

Update auditor's disaster recovery recommendation-**Clark** stated that the ad hoc committee met and defined the areas where LGRFA has data that is critical and necessary to recover. There is a plan that will provide back up for all of these areas. The committee will submit the plan to the auditors to see if it is acceptable and then report at the next LGRFA meeting.

MERS pension contribution update-**Clark** stated that the MERS percentage that is applied to payroll has gone down from mid 9.5% to the mid 7.5% range.

Equipment Committee update on equipment bid process and bids received-**Mitchell** stated that they did do the Bid bridge process. He stated that they expected the bids to be slightly less than they came through at. There are still variables out there such as the price for the trade in of the fire truck. They are not finished with the process and will hopefully have a recommendation for the October meeting. **Clark** commented that even though the bids were higher than expected, they should still be under the budget that they have given the townships.

Personnel Committee Update-**Adams** stated they started with reviewing the policy and personnel manual. She stated that there is a board policy already in place for building use. It is policy 14.1 and it provides that there will be no rentals of the fire facilities for public functions or use by community nonprofit organizations.

PENDING BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Discussion /Action on MERS Health Care Savings Program-Clark** stated that MERS has a health care program for Municipal Employees in that you can put money in the care of MERS as a payroll deduction and it accumulates within that program and the value of that investments can go up or down based on the choices you make for the investments. If you leave the employment of the MERS employer, the employee can take the money and begin to spend it for health care costs. **Adams** asked who was interested in participating. **Clark** stated that the Chief is and most of the full time employees. **Clark** feels it could be a great benefit. **Motion by Crego**, seconded by **Adams** to approach the

employees and to determine the group sizes and come back to the next meeting with information for action. **Motion passed.**

2. **Discussion/Action on Equipment Committee Recommendation-Mitchell** stated that there is no recommendation at this time.

3. **Discussion/Action on Bargaining Unit-Motion by Adams**, seconded by **Mitchell** that the bargaining committee consist of the Chair-John Clark, Deb Adams, Billie Crego be reconstituted and that the chair make contact with the union to begin the negotiating process. **Motion passed.**

PUBLIC COMMENT-Simmons asked about working with surrounding departments and seeing how to be more efficient in service. **Clark** responded that he intends to talk with the supervisors of both townships before there is any further discussion on this topic. **Adams** thanked everybody for moving the meeting to accommodate her schedule.

ADJOURNMENT- Motion by Simmons, seconded by **Crego** to adjourn. **Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.**

Date Approved

Ken Mitchell, Secretary