

March 5, 2009

The March 5, 2009 meeting of the NIESA Board was called to order at 7:00 pm by the chairperson Charles Galbreath.

Voting Member Present: C. Galbreath, R. Lillywhite, R. Pollok, N. West, R. Cole,  
F. Wilbrink. Absent: City of Williamston Representative

Non-Voting Members Present: R. Hanna, R. Wiegandt

EMS / Fire Personnel Present: S. Davis, G. Risch, M. Flynn, G. Flynn, R. Oesterle,  
M. Gorsline

Other: None

Guests: Mr. Griffes, Leroy Township Board member

**Consent Agenda (Agenda I):**

- Minutes from the February 5, 2009 Regular Meeting
- Checking Account summary February 2009

Motion by Mr. Lillywhite to accept the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. Wilbrink.  
Motion carried.

**Public Comment (Agenda II):**

Mr. Galbreath asked for public comment regarding the recommended Bylaw changes, or on any other topic.

Nothing at this time.

**Sale of Building - 627 E Grand River (Agenda III-A):**

Mr. Galbreath advised that it's still for sale. He stated that Mrs. Estes had been approached by an individual asking if we would be interested in renting the building. Mr. Galbreath requested more information but before Mrs. Estes could obtain further information the individual had changed their mind.

Discussion followed.

**Review NIESA Bylaws (Agenda III-B):**

Mr. Galbreath advised that the Bylaws were forwarded to Mr. Adams for a review of the changes. Mr. Adams stated that the proposed changes are compatible with the Act that NIESA was incorporated under.

He advised that both Regis and Rick Shuck attended a Grant writing seminar this past week, and the presenter was very knowledgeable. She advised them that the latest stimulus package from

President Obama includes grant money for the renovation and building of fire stations. One of the items she discussed was the wording of the grants, specifically the use of the term department and station. Neither Rick or Regis Shuck could remember exactly which way it was better to have it worded. She did advise them if the wording was incorrect that could eliminate you from the being able to obtain the grant funds.

Dsicussion followed.

Mr. Galbreath requested that the issue be tabled tonight, so he could contact the presenter to obtain further information. He would hate to see NIESA change the wording, and have it eliminate our chance at some grant funding.

Motion by Mr. West to table the review of the bylaws until next month, seconded by Mr. Cole. Motion carried.

**Closing on 315 W Walnut (Agenda III-C):**

Mr. Galbreath advised that the closing on the 315 W Walnut building occurred on February 20, 2009.

Ms. Curtis advised that the utilities have been switched over to NIESA, and she and Mr. West are working on getting the vehicle titles ready for transfer.

**Bids for Professional Services Attorney (Agenda III-D):**

Mr. Galbreath advised that they were only able to meet with one candidate, since last months meeting. They had scheduled a meeting with Mr. Gormley through his secretary, however he had to cancel because of a conflict. They are scheduled to meet with him next Monday evening. Mr. Hitch has been out of town, but they are going to try and schedule a meeting with him some time next week.

Ms. Curtis asked if the Board would like a letter sent to Ms. Gray. They advised to forward a letter thanking her for her interest.

**SUP Revision Request ( Agenda III-E):**

Mr. Galbreath advised that the City of Williamston's Planning Commission, met last month on the same night as the NIESA Board meeting, and discussed our revision request. He advised that Mr. Hanna went to the meeting to represent NIESA.

Mr. Hanna advised there was primarily one commission member that opposed the revision, and opposed NIESA using Churchill Downs. The rest of the commission either supported the change or were at least willing to listen. The individual that opposed the use of Churchill Downs by the fire trucks claimed that their axil loads exceeded garbage trucks.

Mr. Hanna advised that the commission wanted a letter sent to all of the neighbors advising them of our requested change, and they also wanted us to reapply for the SUP and pay the fees associated with that application.

Mr. Galbreath advised that he and Mr. Hanna had reviewed the Planning Commission requirements and could not find anything in the ordinance that would indicated NIESA is required reapply to amend an SUP, or that additional fees had to be paid. There is nothing in the ordinance requirements for this type of situation. Mr. Galbreath does not know how they can arbitrarily request we reapply when there are no guidelines.

Mr. Lillywhite advised he does not think the City of Williamston can put restrictions on the travel of emergency vehicles on city streets. Mr. Galbreath advised he had discussed the situation with Mr. Adams, and they had reviewed the motor vehicle code. Mr. Adams felt that NIESA had a arguable position.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Galbreath purposed that NIESA send a letter to the residents, advising them of the situation and what we are requesting. He would also like to start with contacting the City Manager and see her position regarding the Planning Commissions authority to require us to reapply for the SUP, and to impose fees when there is no ordinance to support that request.

Discussion followed.

The Board members advised Mr. Galbreath to proceed with his purposed course of action.

#### **New Business (Agenda IV):**

*Contracting with Hobbs & Black:* Mr. Lillywhite asked if NIESA should move forward with the Leroy Township renovations and sign an agreement with Hobbs & Black to proceed to the next step of the project.

Chief Flynn advised that he had not received any preliminary cost estimates from Hobb's and Black. Mr. Galbreath advised that he had spoke with Hobbs & Black just after the last meeting. He requested they divide their preliminary estimate into two parts, one for the addition of the apparatus section, and the second for the renovations of the existing building. He was advised at that time they would forward the estimates the next week. Mr. Galbreath has heard nothing further.

Discussion followed.

The Board directed Mr. Galbreath to request a quote from Hobbs and Black on the cost to have them complete the drawings, and get NIESA to the point of sending the project out for bids.

*Michigan Gas & Electric:* Mr. Galbreath advised that NIESA received a fax from Michigan Gas and Electric which indicated they could save us money on our natural gas bill. They offered a 7% discount for the first three months and a \$75 rebate if we stayed with them for three months.

We currently pay Consumers Power \$2.50 per 1000 cubic feet for the use of their pipelines, and \$8.65 per 1000 cubic foot of gas used. With Michigan Gas we would still have to pay Consumers \$2.50 to use their pipeline, but there 1000 cubic foot gas price is currently around \$2.00 less, which would have saved NIESA approximately \$500 on their last bill for the 1296 building. There is no contract requirements, no time frame, and no fees. We can switch back to Consumer's at anytime. He signed up all of NIESA's accounts with the program.

As a side note, this company does not solicit business from residential customers however anyone who is employed by NIESA can contact them and receive the same deal that NIESA is receives.

Ms. Curtis will be sending out a memo to all of the employees, and provide a copy to the Board members so they can take advantage of the savings.

#### **Committee Reports (Agenda V):**

As stated previously the Personnel Committee met with Mr. Adams this week, and plan on additional meetings next week with Mr. Gormley and Mr. Hitch.

#### **Comments from Department Chief's, Supervisors, Biller (Agenda VI):**

**Chief Flynn:** Reported that Leroy Township responded to 11 calls last month. Their training in March is going to be a demonstration of the Rescue Jack out at Bill's Wrecker.

The last information he received regarding the new rescue vehicle is that it is almost completed. The only thing missing is the light tower, which has not been delivered. Chief Flynn asked if Mr. Galbreath had been contacted regarding the financing. Mr. Galbreath advise he had heard nothing from the company, and it sounds like the vehicle will be completed before the financing is ready.

Mr. Galbreath advised the Board that ambulance 15 had to be towed to Lansing for repairs a week ago, and the Bill's Wrecker donated the cost of the towing which was \$200.

**Chief Siegel:** Mr. Galbreath advised that Chief Siegel was unable to attend tonight but had provided a run summary, and short report.

He reported that training in March is going to be on Ice Rescue, which is planned for March 16<sup>th</sup> but may occur sooner depending on ice conditions. They will also be attending Rescue Jack training on the 17<sup>th</sup> with Leroy Township.

He advised they did training with Truck 4 last Saturday at the Community Center. A fluid leak

was found in an outtrigger, so it will be going to Halt for repairs. He has also ordered some equipment for Truck 4 as well as for Rescue 6.

He also reported that Rick Shuck is working on a grant for new gas monitors.

**Sherry Davis, EMS Supervisor:** Advised that it was a slow month for EMS. They responded to 47 calls, with 18 of them refusals. The Leroy Station responded to 10 calls, and they had 1 mutual aid call for Lansing Mason ambulance.

**Charlie Galbreath, Biller:** Reported that billing had collected just shy of \$40,000 so far this year.

#### **Comments from Secretary / Treasurer (Agenda VII):**

Ms. Curtis advised it appears that NIESA can accept credit card payments through Pay Pal. The cost is approximately 3% of the transaction. She would like to do a test transaction to see how it works before we offer the option to public.

She advised Webberville United Methodist Church recently purchased an AED, and NIESA will be training them on CPR and the AED this Saturday.

At the last meeting the Board had requested she obtain quotes for getting additional insulation installed above the office and living area of the Williamston location. She advised she had not completed the project. She is going to request an estimate from Applegate, but was wondering if the Board members could provide additional vendors to obtain a quote from.

NIESA has placed some items on Ebay for sale. Williamston has approximately 12 amplified chargers for Minitor II pagers, and 2 Vertex radios which they elected to try and sell. We have placed three of the amplified chargers on so far and received \$26, \$15, and \$43 for the items. The Vertex radios were put on as a pair, and sold for \$247.

Ms. Curtis also advised that the 2008 records have been submitted to Mr. Haddrill for the audit.

#### **Comments from Board Members (Agenda VIII):**

Mr. Galbreath reported that NIESA hosted an EMS practical continuing education training last Saturday from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm. We had several outside people attend the training and took in approximately \$400. The individuals that attended said they had a good time, and that our location was a great place to obtain their credits.

Our EMS continuing education training sessions are posted on NIESA's website, and outside individuals are welcome to attend for a fee.

**Comments from Association Members (Agenda IX):**

Nothing at this time.

**Public Comment (Agenda X):**

Nothing at this time.

**Adjournment (Agenda XI):**

Motion by Mr. Lillywhite to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 pm, seconded by Mr. Cole. Motion carried.

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Paula M. Curtis, Secretary/ Treasurer

Date