

May 5, 2011

The May 5, 2011 meeting of the NIESA Board was called to order at 7:00 pm by the Vice-Chairperson Earl Griffes.

Voting Members Present: R. Hanna, R. Cole, E. Griffes, R. Hayes, R. Pollok, A. Hale, A. Simmons

Non-Voting Members Present: R. Lillywhite

Fire/ EMS Personnel Present: B. Siegel, M. Flynn

Other: F. Wilbrink

Guests: Jason Orton, David Chapman Agency, Tom Parks, MTA

Consent Agenda (Agenda I):

- Minutes to the April 7, 2011 Regular Meeting
- Operations Checking Account Summary for April 2011
- Capital Projects Checking Account Summary for April 2011

Motion by Mr. Pollok to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. Hale. Motion carried.

Public Comment (Agenda II):

Nothing at this time.

Mr. E. Griffes advised the first discuss under will be old business, item D, Insurance Policy Review, and turned the meeting over to Mr. Orton for his presentation.

Insurance Policy Review (Agenda III-D):

Mr. Orton advised he was from the David Chapman Insurance agency, and Mr. Parks was from the Michigan Township Association (MTA) office. They wanted to discuss MTA's new worker's compensation insurance program. Mr. Orton stated MTA has wanted to offer worker's compensation insurance to it's members for some time, and they feel the time is right.

He stated the other worker's compensation carriers are currently running a 110 percent loss ratio. For every \$1.00 they receive in premium they are paying out \$1.10.

The worker's compensation insurance through MTA will be self funded, and the participants will be Townships and Emergency Service Authorities. These types of funds are very difficult to start in Michigan. One of the issues is that all the organizations have to start their policies at the same time, and MTA must have one million dollars in premium. They realize that NIESA is a large emergency service authority in the area, and MTA wants them in their group.

Mr. Orton advised he provided NIESA with a proposal for providing the Worker's Compensation

insurance. NIESA's annual premium would be \$20,619.86, with quarterly payments of \$5,154.97. Mr. E. Griffes advised that NIESA currently pays \$27,552 annually to the Accident Fund, and make monthly payments of \$2,296.00. MTA's policy is a savings of approximately \$7,000.

Mr. Parks advised since this is a self funded program NIESA could also receive a dividend back if all the premium fees are not used for losses. He stated the average is a 33 percent dividend back to the participants. Discussion followed.

Ms. Curtis asked what Mr. Orton needed from NIESA if they elected to go with MTA. He stated they would need a commitment from NIESA, with a 25 percent down payment of the premium by May 15th. Mr. E. Griffes asked if NIESA would have to join MTA. Mr. Parks advised they would need to join as an associate member, which has an annual fee of \$100 per year.

Mr. Hanna asked why MTA thinks it can do better than the other worker's compensation carriers. Mr. Orton indicated it was because they would have a limited risk pool. When you insure with a company like Accident Fund you have all types of business included, such as construction, manufacturing, retail etc, whereas MTA's will be more specialized and will be able to calculate the risk better. Mr. Parks advised they also have considerably lower overhead. Discussion followed.

Mr. Wilbrink asked what would happen to the employee's with open worker's compensation claims if NIESA change carriers. Mr. Orton stated by law the Accident Fund would have to continue to provide coverage as long as the claim is open. Discussion followed

Motion by Mr. Hanna to make a commitment to join MTA's worker's compensation self funded insurance program, seconded by Mr. Pollok. Mr. E. Griffes requested a roll call vote.

Yeas: Mr. Hayes, Mr. Hanna, Mr. Cole, Mr. Hale, Mr. Pollok, Mr. Simmons, Mr. E. Griffes.

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion carried.

Mr. Orton will meet with Ms. Curtis to complete the paperwork. He advised he also provided the Board with a proposal on their other insurance policies, and whenever they are ready to discuss those policies he would be more than happy to return.

Leroy Township Fire Building Project (Agenda III-A)

Chief Flynn advised they finally came out and completed the items on the first warranty work list. They replaced the cord reel that was not working. Mr. E. Griffes asked if they had completed the items that were to be finished in the spring. Chief Flynn stated he found the punch list letter from January, and it had indicated that everything on the list would be completed by April 30th. Things are not completed. He did contact Mick, and he was advised that the weather had caused the delays. Chief Flynn indicated he understood the weather delays, however

there had been no communication from them. The least they could have done is contacted him to advise that things were not going to be completed. Mick also requested that Chief Flynn send him a list of anything new he discovered that needed to be repaired.

Mr. E. Griffes asked if the final payment had been made to Laux. Ms. Curtis stated she thought it had, however Mr. Hanna disagreed. He thought Mr. Galbreath was still holding the payment. Ms. Curtis advised she will check. She may have their payment confused with Hobbs + Black. Mr. Hanna indicated he knew Hobbs + Black has been paid.

Ms. Curtis advised she would check into it, and send a note with the meeting minutes to advise if the payment had been sent.

City of Williamston - Backflow Prevention Device (Agenda III-B):

Mr. E. Griffes stated that Mr. Galbreath is still working on the issue, and hopes to meet with someone shortly regarding the issue.

Fire Service Billing Review (Agenda III-C):

Mr. Pollok advised the Finance Committee had not met regarding the issue. He did check with his homeowners insurance and they indicated they would pay for fire services. The only fire response that would be questionable would be a grass fire.

Mr. E. Griffes advised he brought this up at his Board meeting, and Leroy Township is against billing for fire calls. When NIESA was initially voted on, a big seller to his township was the fact that individuals would not get billed for fire calls. Mr. Pollok advised his township was also against billing, and does not support it.

Chief Siegel indicated it was his understanding that the NIESA would not bill for "structure" fires, because the millage is based on property taxes. He also thought NIESA's Billing Ordinance indicated they would bill for vehicle fires, grass fires and other services. Ms. Curtis thought the Billing Ordinance allowed for billing of vehicle fires for non-residents.

Mr. Pollok suggested it be referred to the Finance Committee for review.

MABAS & MEMAC Mutual Aid Agreements (Agenda IV-A):

Chief Siegel stated that MABAS is the Michigan Mutual Aid Box Alarm System Agreement, and MEMAC is the Michigan Emergency Management Assistance Compact. More or less these agreements would eliminate the mutual aid agreements that NIESA currently has with the surrounding individual units of government. The agreements go together, so you have to adopt both.

Chief Flynn stated it is suppose to make it easier for us to get money back. Also pretty much every department in Ingham County is on board. Discussion followed.

Chief Flynn and Chief Siegel were in favor of the Board adopting the agreements. Ms. Curtis stated it appeared the MEMAC agreement wanted the Board to adopt the agreement via a resolution.

Ms. Curtis will prepare a resolution for the next Board meeting for the adoption of the MEMAC agreement.

Treasurer Report (Agenda V):

Mr. Hanna stated that attached to the checking account summary for the general fund is a sheet providing a detail of the credit card charges which was requested by Mr. E. Griffes last month. Mr. E. Griffes asked who all had credit cards. Mr. Hanna advised EMS, Ms. Curtis, Chief Flynn, Chief Siegel, and Assistant Chief Johnson. Mr. E. Griffes liked the detail and requested that it be continued.

Mr. Hanna stated on page 2 of the checking account summary there is a payment to Ingham County for \$4,260, which represents our quarterly "Mic Fee" payment. On page 3 there is \$8,600 payment for a thermal imager that was damaged in a fire. However \$6,000 of that payment was money received from the insurance company.

Finally page 3 also had a payment for \$2,100 which represents the health insurance premium.

Committee Reports (Agenda VI):

Committee's did not meet in April.

Comments from Director (Agenda VII):

The Director was not present.

Comments from Department Chief's, Supervisors, Biller (Agenda VIII):

Chief Siegel: Reported Williamston responded to 16 calls in April. Quite a few lift assist, and fire alarm activations. He also sent individuals to Dansville for the Wooden Nickel fire.

He advised Lieutenant Ron Wiegandt has retired from the Fire Department effective May 1st. He did not know if he had resigned his position as the alternate representative for Williamstown Township. Discussion followed.

Chief Siegel advised Dansville fire requested Ladder 4 at the Wooden Nickel fire. They took it over and after they set it up they could not get the nozzle at the top of the ladder to deploy. It is down at Halt for repairs. It is an electrical problem and they have traced it down to somewhere in the boom area. It will also be getting it's annual maintenance while at Halt.

He stated he had started working on his 2012 budget, however needed to know if the Board was

allowing pay increases. Mr. Hanna indicated the budget funds for this year were going to be the same as last year, if not a little less. Mr. Pollok asked what a 1 or 2 percent raise would mean to the budget. Chief Siegel felt it would be approximately a \$1,000 increase in the fire pay for his personnel. Discussion followed.

Mr. Hanna advised Chief Siegel to include a 1 to 2 percent pay increase in his budget, at this time.

Chief Siegel stated the Grant proposals are coming out, and under health and safety grants they are going to submit a grant for an oxygen fill station for the EMS department. The cost of a fill station is approximately \$20,000. Discussion followed.

Chief Flynn: Reported Leroy Township responded to 10 calls in April. They all seemed to fall on just a few days. Last month they had training scheduled at ADM in Webberville. They did go and tour ADM and do a walk through prior to the training date and had 58 people from surrounding departments participate. However the Saturday training was cancelled because on the night of the walk through they had an accident with the Engine 6-18. It was backed into a pole at ADM, which caused damage to the back bumper of the Engine, and took out a pole at ADM..

ADM did not bill NIESA for the damages to their property. Cost to NIESA was \$1,450 for a new bumper. The driver has also been suspended from driving for a few months. A claim was not submitted to the insurance company.

Chief Flynn stated at last months meeting Mr. Galbreath asked him to contact Delta Electric to obtain prices to add circuits to the generator. The new generator provides power to the new construction. It does not supply power to the old portion of the building, so the radios are not powered. They provided him with an estimate of \$925.00 to add 6 circuits to the generator.

Chief Flynn stated he asked them for a quote on providing power to the entire older portion of the building. He was advised by Delta that it would be too expensive, so they only provided the 6 circuit option. Chief Flynn again requested a quote for doing the entire building. He felt it was for NIESA to determine if the cost of the project is too expensive. Discussion followed.

Comments from Office Manager (Agenda IX):

Boiler Leaks: Ms. Curtis advised Rod's Plumbing repaired the leaks in the boiler system. They did find additional problems once they took the valve apart. We are still awaiting the final bill.

Gutter Repairs: Ms. Curtis spoke with the gutter contractor today, and he is behind schedule because of the bad weather . He has two other projects to complete before he can get to ours. He advised he should be able to do the repairs in 2-3 weeks.

Radio Protocols Revisions: Ms. Curtis advised she forgot to forward the protocols to fire center. She will get the information to them this month.

Lawn Care Services: The contract for Leroy Building was given to Chase Lawn Care, which is the same company that provided the service last year. The service for the Williamston building was given to Grant Services. Their fee was \$20.00 less per mowing than the previous contractor.

Open House for Leroy Station: Ms. Curtis asked Chief Flynn if they had considered doing an open house for the new station. Chief Flynn advised they had thought about it, however with everything that has been going on they had not discussed it. He will get back to Ms. Curtis with a date.

Chief Siegel advised he had one more thing for the Board to consider. Since it is the 10 year anniversary of 9-11 tragedy, the Jubilee Committee has decided to go with a red, white and blue theme and honor police, fire and EMS personnel. Williamston's Police Chief will represent the "blue" portion of their theme, Chief Siegel will be representing the "red" or fire portion of their theme, and the NIESA Board needs to select someone from EMS to represent the "white" portion of the theme. All of these individuals will be the Grand Marshall for the Jubilee parade. They need to decide who the EMS person will be by June's meeting. Discussion followed.

Comments from Board Members (Agenda X):

Mr. Simmons apologized to the Board for not being present at the last few meetings. He indicated that there was some miss communication at the City, and his alternate was not advised that he needed to attend the meetings.

Comments from association Members (Agenda XI):

Nothing at this time.

Public Comment (Agenda XII):

Nothing at this time.

Adjournment (Agenda XIII):

Motion by Mr. Cole to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 pm, seconded by Mr. Hale. Motion carried.

Paula M Curtis, Secretary

Date