

Gunflint Trail Volunteer Fire Department Board Meeting Minutes

Date: January 27, 2026

Board Members Present: Dan Baumann, Jim Morrison, Barb Tuttle (Zoom), Matt Schuerger, Katie Kelley, Keith Randa (Zoom), Andy McDonnell, Ruth Wagner, Todd Hay, Trisha Haugen

1) **Call to Order.** President Baumann called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm. Attendance was in person at the Schaap Community Center and via Zoom. The meeting agenda was reviewed.

2) **Financials:**

a. **Treasurers Report** – Barb Tuttle

The year-to-date financials for the fire department were presented and discussed including revenues, expenses, and current assets (the fiscal year began on October 1st).

Operating expenses are running slightly higher than the same year to date period last year (up ~\$6,500). Ambulance payments are down (~\$1200) for the period. The annual levy revenue received from Cook County is lower than last year (\$32,000, down from \$36,000 the prior year). The rain damage repair work at Hall 3 has been completed (\$2,500 expense). A thank you was sent to Chris Short for donating his portion of the Hall 3 repair labor.

The major planned capital expense for new radios and extra pagers has been incurred. We received \$80,824 in Emergency Service Aid money from the state in FY24/25. The Aid money was used toward the \$114,880 for new radios, which was paid in December. We also paid \$7,000 for pagers/batteries for new members.

Total current assets are down slightly from a year ago.

Overall, the fire department finances are in good shape.

Action: *Approve the Treasurer's report.*

Motion by Keith, seconded by Jim. Motion was adopted

b. Ambulance Run Fees

The fire department ambulance rates were reviewed and discussed, including our historical and current rates as well as those for North Shore Hospital. Our rates should be fair and supported by regional data.

Action: *Keep the GTFD base ambulance rate at \$1300 and increase the patient mileage rate to \$25/mile.*

Motion by Jim, seconded by Andy. Motion was adopted.

c. Credit Cards

Per Board action at the August meeting, three Grand Marais State Bank credit cards have been issued to the fire department. The Chief Administrative Officer has one (\$5k limit), the Board President has one (\$5k limit), and one will be placed in the Ambulance for fuel purchases (\$500 limit).

d. Financial Policy – Jim Morrison, Barb Tuttle, Matt Schuerger

The draft financial policy was reviewed and discussed. Initial feedback on the draft was positive. Board members are asked to further review the draft and email any questions, comments, and/or ideas for improvement to Matt/Jim/Barb. The Board intends to adopt the draft financial policy with any updates at the next Board meeting.

3) Community Centers – Jim Morrison

Each community center has a designated fire department liaison, currently Laurie Hanson for the Seagull Community Center and Jim Morrison for the Schaap Community Center. Additionally, Mona and Dave Hanson are doing the Schaap cleaning.

The fire department is still seeking a member to take lead for Hall 2.

4) Other Business

Annual maintenance has been scheduled for the emergency generators at Halls 1 and 3.

An Arrowhead grant will be submitted (due February 27) for three new AED trainers and three new AEDs. Barb will put the grant application together with input from Laura.

The next Board meeting will be 5:30 pm on May 12th, at Hall 1.

5) Adjourned at 6:15 pm by unanimous approval.