Northwoods Emergency Medical Services District

Grant sub-committee meeting Minutes

Friday, March 19, 2026, 1:00 PM

Presque Isle Town Hall and Zoom

A quorum of Town Board members from each of the four member Towns may be present at this meeting. No official Town Board action will be taken by these members during attendance at this meeting.

1. The Meeting was called to order by Phil Harris at 1:04 pm and he verified that the Agenda had been posted appropriately.
   Those in attendance were:
   NEMSD Board: Phil Harris, Steve Herzberg, John Hanson, and Daniel Wahlgren
   EMS Consultant: Dana Sechler
   Administrative Staff: Chief Jason Joling
   Public via Zoom: Cathy Logan-Weber, Robbie Kryzanowski (5-Bugles Design), Joy Kohegyi, Robert Barteck, Joe Discianno, Corky Curtis, Phil Eaton, and Robert Silvis
2. Motion by John Hanson, second by Steve Herzberg to approve the Agenda as posted. Voice vote: all ayes, motion passed.

Old Business:

3. Grant Committee update was given by Steve Herzberg. Felt it was good to diversify the various grant applications amongst the four participating towns
   a. Congressionally Directed Spending Grant – Motion by Steve, seconded by Phil Harris to submit the Grant by the 3/22/26 deadline. Discussion followed. Question asked if the $2.5 million is enough…and if it should be at $3.5 million. The initial voice vote was taken, in which there were all nays, thus the motion failed. A motion was recast by Steve Herzberg, seconded by Daniel to submit the Congressionally Directed Spending Grant to Tammy Baldwin's office, in the amount of $3.5 million, with a lower number to be $3 million. Voice vote: all ayes, motion passed.
   Steve Herzberg reminded everyone that support letters should also be drafted, and they should be sent to Nicholas Newton.
   b. Discussion on the Rural Health Grant. Jason Joling indicated that this would be a type of Community EMS / Community Paramedic service. It was directed that Jason Joling and Kathy Kvern work together to continue working on a definitive proposal plan. A motion was made by Phil Harris, seconded Steve Herzberg to appoint Kathleen Kvern to the Grant Committee.

Voice vote: All Ayes, motion passed.

c. Discussion on Innovation Planning Grant. The District is looking for work-arounds in which they might be eligible to qualify for the Grant, since they have been proactive in forming an entity which is reflective of what the State Legislators want to see as 'shared services". John Hanson read through an update on some of the options that NEMSD could apply for—while not disrupting the current operations of the Ambulance Service. Discussion took place on some of the options that are available, as well as some of the hiccups and draw-backs associated with the Grant. It was suggested that a letter be drafted in which it can be sent to Legislators to identify the hiccups / issues associated with the Innovation Grant—to suggest changes that would make it more viable for Municipalities to apply to.

4. Discussion with Vilas County Fire Chiefs. – Chief Jason Joling gave some background on the Mutual Aid agreements that NEMSD has with Vilas County. There is a request from the Vilas County Fire Chiefs that if a mutual aid request is made from one of their departments, that the nearest NEMSD ambulance responds with the Paramedic ambulance—even if it means that NEMSD has to then staff the next up ambulance with volunteer staff (potentially at the BLS level). Several options were discussed, and it was requested that a formal written request of exactly what is expected by the Vilas County Fire Chiefs be sent to NEMSD, for future consideration. It was agreed that if Mutual Aid is requested from any entity, that NEMSD should not violate State rule by sending out an NEMSD ambulance, without assuring that one ALS ambulance remains in the District.
5. Phil Harris would like to set up a date within the next 14 dates to have a meeting with the Building committee. He will send out a list of available dates for the committee members to determine a meeting time / date.

New Business:

1. Discussion of dates for 2027 Budget committee to meet. The group would like to set up a day / time sometime in mid-May, for the first meeting. Phil Harris asked that a year-to-date Financial report of income / expenses be prepared for the meeting.

2. Discussion of 1st half of equal payment status. Phil Harris gave a Thank you to the Towns for providing the first half of the tax levy payments to the District.

Standing Reports:

- President's report – Phil Harris wanted to express how great the Service is running, and he mentioned the positive actions of the Chief / Deputy Chief, Staff, Towns, and the Community residents in supporting the ambulance service.
- Chief's report – The District has purchased the liability insurance, and also has the revised lease agreement. The Chief went over a few of the wording changes in the

agreement. The Winchester ambulance was involved in an accident the previous week, during a snow storm, in which damage was sustained. All calls were still responded to. Current status of the District is that there are 2 front line ambulances, and 1 standby ambulance. An accident report was written, but no tickets were issued. John Hanson brought up some potential liability related issues, and requested that the four Towns and the District Board should discuss the next steps. It was recommended to contact the District insurance agent and attorney for discussion.
A Presentation was given by 5-Bugles Design to the group, regarding the building of any future buildings / stations for NEMSD. No action was taken.

- Operation's liaison report – Steve Herzberg also discussed the outstanding staff, and continuing education program.
  NEMSD was chosen to participate in a "pain relief" trial, and has shown success very early in the program.
  Jason Joling has been asked to sit on a State-wide committee, which is a privilege and honor to be asked to represent rural EMS.
- Treasurer's report – Jason Hanson plans to print out monthly P&L's for future Board meetings for NEMSD, in order to compare actual income/expenses to the Budgeted amounts throughout the year.

Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned by Phil Harris at 2:50 pm.