

**Northwoods EMS District
Board Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, July 16, 2026 – after Building & Budget meetings
Boulder Junction Town Hall

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 their attendance at this meeting.

1. The Meeting was called to order by Phil Harris at 10:47 am and he verified that the Agenda had been posted appropriately. Those in attendance were:
Board: Phil Harris, John Hanson, Steve Herzberg, and Dennis Ruess
Command staff: Chief Jason Joling and Deputy Chief Jessie Mabie
EMS Consultant: Dana Sechler
Others in the audience and online: Al Eschenbauch, Kathy Logan-Weber, Nicholas Newton, Corky Curtis, Tim Schmitt, Doug Zeise, and Dharris
2. Approval of Agenda – Motion by Steve Herzberg, second by John Hanson. Voice vote: all ayes.
3. Discussion of obtaining a bid and timeline for a new ambulance. Discussion occurred on the topic about NEMSD maintaining two active ambulance, and retaining two reserve / backup ambulances. In general, the group was in consensus that NEMSD is interested in developing a plan to acquire the Winchester ambulance in the NEMSD fleet. A sub-committee should be established to develop a plan to acquire the Winchester ambulance, including looking into different financial opportunities. Chief Joling will create a plan to present at the next NEMSD Board meeting.
4. Discussion/Possible Finalization of Chief Joling's proposed 2027 Budget as recommended by the Budget Committee to the District Board was Tabled.
5. Discussion/Possible Action on submitting the Budget Committee's proposed 2027 Budget to the member towns was Tabled.
6. Review of the discussion between Chief Joling, Steve Herzberg, and the Town Chair and Town Clerk of Lac du Flambeau. Steve Herzberg gave a short summary of their meeting. He felt it was a positive discussion with them, as far as what they can do to follow the example set by the current operations of NEMSD. They are experiencing the same issues that NEMSD experienced, prior to creating the District.

7. Reports

- a. President's Report – Phil Harris repeated his appreciation of the ambulance service, including the NEMSD staff, Board members, and the Community members.
- b. Chief's Report – Chief Joling also expressed that is proud of the staff and volunteers associated with NEMSD.
- c. Treasurer's Report – John Hanson gave an update that there has been an average of about \$150,000 a month in expenses, as was indicated in the current Budget.
- d. Operations Liaison Report – Steve Herzberg shared that he gets to brag to others in California about the advanced skills and techniques that NEMSD personnel provides to the Community.

8. Committee Reports

- b. Budget Committee Report – The committee members will be setting another meeting date soon.
- a. Building Committee Report – There are four different places to consider. DesignTech gave a report on the proposed Space needs for a new building. After the space needs is agreed upon, a footprint can be created.
- c. Grant Committee Report – Steve Herzberg reported that the committee reviews different Grants, in order to determine eligibility. There is a Recommendation that the Board consider applying for the Workforce Innovation Grant Program, which would include the creation of a Community EMS / Community Paramedic program that includes telemedicine. It is a tight window, as the application is due August 17th. The Grant period will be for a total of four years.
A Motion was made by Phil Harris seconded by Dennis Ruess that the Board approve applying for the Grant, utilizing Dana Sechler with Strategic Management & Consulting to complete the Grant on behalf of NEMSD.
Voic vote: all ayes. Motion passed.

8. The potential meeting dates for the next Budget sub-committee meeting will either be 7/23 or 7/30. The Budget committee is made up of the NEMSD Board members, and the Town Chairs. An email will be sent out to clarify the date of that meeting.

9. The meeting was adjourned by the President at 11:40 am.