Northwoods EMS District
Board Meeting Minutes

Friday, May 29, 2026 – after Building & Budget meetings
Presque Isle Community Building

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 10:30 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
   EMS Consultant: Dana Sechler
   Command staff: Jason Joling and Jessie Mabie
   Others in the audience and online: Al Eschenbauch, Jim Nelson; dharris; RSilvis; trevorgreene; Tim's iPhone

2. Approval of Agenda – Steve Herzberg asked to move the salaries topic to a closed meeting. John Hanson indicated that it might not be appropriate to do so, per State laws. After discussion, it was decided that the topic will be tabled for this meeting, pending discussion with the WTA.

3. Reports
   a. President's Report – Phil Harris gave a glowing report of the NEMSD staff, Board members, and Community members. Dana Sechler also reported that he is speaking at a conference for Towns, Cities, Villages, and Counties to discuss the successes of Northwoods EMS District.

   b. Chief's Report
      - The District was two short full-time employees recently, but they will be back to normal staffing next month.
      - The NEMSD Training Center hosted a 108-hour EMR course, and graduated a total of 15 students as EMR's that can respond with the ambulance.
      - NEMSD received a Mission Lifeline Silver award from the American Heart Association, based on data that had been submitted to the AHA.
      - The Training Center provides Continuing Education up to the Critical Care level, and Initial Education to the AEMT level.

c. 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.

d. Treasurer's Report

- The report that was passed out earlier in the Budget committee meeting should be counted as the Treasurer's Report. He would like to generate a comparison report at some point in the future.

7. Committee Reports

a. Building Committee Report – next meeting is June 11th in Manitowish Waters.
b. Budget Committee Report – the committee members will be setting another meeting date soon.
c. Grant Committee Report – Steve Herzberg reported that he and Dana Sechler are working on the configuration of the Innovation grant, and that NEMSD is still up for consideration of the Tammy Baldwin grant. There will be a second round of the Innovation Grant later this year. Dana Sechler gave the statistics on the first round applicants for the Innovation grant. He is going to draft a document of possible changes to present to the Legislators, regarding the Innovation Grant.

8. New Business

a. The topic for discussion/action regarding engaging a consulting firm for EMS facility planning and site evaluation will be tabled to the next meeting.
b. The topic of purchasing land for future EMS station site near County Highway M and Kitten Lane will be tabled for this meeting, and forwarded to the Building committee to discuss at their next meeting. John Hanson mentioned that he plans to work with the DOR on some possible land (7 acres) at the junction of M and V.
c. Discuss PRN wages – Phil Harris stated that the Chief would like to increase the hourly wages for the PRN employees. After discussion, there was a Motion by Phil Harris, second by Steve Herzberg to allow the Chief to negotiate up to $3.00 more per hour for PRN staff new hires.
Voice vote: All ayes; motion passed.
e. The discussion of current Bylaws/Intermunicipal Agreement vs. John Hanson's proposed changes that he drafted will be tabled to the next meeting.
f. The discussion of District Board Members' responsibility to Town Members and Electors will be tabled to the next meeting.
g. The discussion of getting quotes for a new ambulance will be tabled to the next meeting.

h. Discussion occurred specifying each Town's alternate representative. Corky Curtis is the alternative for Presque Isle. Doug is the alternative for Manitowish Water. It was requested that formal verification of the alternates for each of the Towns be provided at the next Board meeting.

i. There was discussion on the Vilas County Chief's Mutal Aid request from NEMSD. Phil Harris gave a history of the previous request, and the decision of the NEMSD Board. A letter had sent to clarify the Board decision. Jason Joling further clarified the current practice of NEMSD providing Mutual Aid to agencies requesting assistance. The current practice of responding to Mutual aid requests by NEMSD is to send the volunteer (or third out) ambulance as it is available to respond.

9. The meeting was adjourned by the President at 11:15 am.