

Range Association of Municipalities & Schools

Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 27, 2024 – 6:15 P.M.

Northeast Service Coop Building

President Pat Medure called the meeting to order at 6:15 P.M.

Roll Call of Board:

Present: **Pat Medure (ISD 318-Grand Rapids); Barb Kalmi (ISD 319-Nashwauk/Keewatin); Glenn Anderson (City of Babbitt); Dale Adams (City of Grand Rapids); Bob Berrini (Morse Township); Ryan Davies (Harris Township); Jim Fisher (McDavitt Township); Gary Friedlieb (City of Virginia); Dan Geotte (City of Aurora); Matt Grose (ISD 318 Grand Rapids); Shane Hoff (City of Silver Bay); Paul Kess (City of Ely); Julie Lucas (French Township); Phil Medure (Great Scott Township); Ron Pittman (Cherry Township); John Tuorila (City of Calumet); Warren Stolp (Nashwauk Township); Dr Rae Villebrun (ISD 319 Nashwauk/Keewatin Supt Assn); Catherine Niemi (City of Biwabik)**

Absent: ISD 2412 St Louis County Schools; ISD 2711 Mesabi East; City of Nashwauk

Also Present: **Paul Peltier, Executive Director; Kristen Kranz, RAMS Admin Assistant; Rep Roger Skraba; Several representatives from RAMS Membership**

(Persons highlighted were present in person; others were via Zoom.)

Call to Order:

President Medure called the meeting to order at 6:15pm.

Review and Approve Agenda:

The agenda was reviewed. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Kalmi and supported by Adams. Motion carried.

Approve Meeting Minutes:

A motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from May 23, 2024, was made by Pittman and supported by Grose. Motion carried.

Finance Committee Report:

Kalmi reported on the Finance Committee Meeting held on June 25, 2024.

1. Expenditures for May 22 – June 24, 2024, totaling \$12,989.40.
2. Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual is 53.7%.
3. Balance Sheet as of June 24, 2024, is \$ 445,016.94.

A motion to accept the financial reports was made by Fisher and supported by Friedlieb. Motion carried.

Appearance:

Representative Roger Skraba (3A) joined the RAMS Board to give his update on the recent legislative session. Rep Skraba noted that a bonding bill did not make it this year. He has voted against his party's recommendation when it involves projects in his district. Rep Skraba hopes for more bipartisanship in the future, saying it is possible. He also noted that RAMS is a unique group in Minnesota, nothing else like it in the state.

Director's Report:

Executive Director Peltier gave an update on his activities in June. Peltier discussed permitting reform (MPCA (Minnesota Pollution Control Agency)), weekly housing meet-up meetings (MN Housing Finance Agency officials), Office of Broadband meeting, NRRI (RAMS Board will do a tour in July or August), Tyler v. Hennepin lunch and learns, brown fields, RAMS was awarded a \$15K Blanden Leadership Grant.

Old Business:

- A motion to rescind the Letter of Support for Mesabi Metallica was made by Hoff and supported by Friedlieb. Those who voted in the affirmative were Anderson, Friedlieb, Goette, Hoff, Lucas, and Pittman. Those who voted in the negative were Pat Medure, Kalmi, Adams, Berrini, Davies, Grose, Kess, Phil Medure, Stolp, Tuorila, Villebrun, and Niemi. Fisher abstained. The motion failed 12-6.

New Business:

- Discussion was held on the 2023 Audit performed by Fort & Co. A motion to accept the 2023 Audit report was made by Berrini and supported by Stolp. Motion carried.
- Discussion was held on a Letter of Support for Malissa Bahr, school board representative, for the Energy Transition Advisory Committee. A motion to send a Letter of Support was made by Kalmi and supported by Lucas. Motion carried.
- The RAMS Board had six nominees to consider for filling two vacancies (one 6-month term ending on 12-31-24 and one 18-month term ending on 12-31-25).
 - A motion to nominate Cheyenne Mikkola-Rahja for the 6-month term was made by Adams and supported by Pittman. A motion to nominate Justin Fosso for the 6-month term was made by Kalmi and supported by Friedlieb. A motion to nominate Stuart Beauregard for the 6-month term was made by Hoff and supported by Grose. With a vote of hands, Mikkola-Rahja received the most votes with nine. A motion to appoint Mikkola-Rahja to the 6-month term was made by Kess and supported by Fisher. Motion carried.
 - A motion to nominate Cathy Erickson for the 18-month term was made by Stolp and supported by Fisher. A motion to nominate Justin Fosso for the 18-month term was made by Kalmi and supported by Tuorila. With a vote of hands, Erickson received the most votes with

eighteen. A motion to appoint Erickson to the 18-month term was made by Berrini and supported by Friedlieb. Motion carried

Board Member Updates:

- Kess: Ely is having a 100-year Anniversary Celebration of the high school with an All-Class Reunion over the 4th of July.
- Adams: Grand Rapids is building affordable “starter homes.” The city will own the land which will keep the price low. Regarding Legionnaires in Grand Rapids, the city started to chlorinate the water on Monday. The city has spent \$700K in consulting fees due to the Legionnaires.
- Berrini: Morse Township was able to get three roads blacktopped with last year’s prices.

Other:

Member Floor Privileges:

Next Meeting:

The next RAMS Board Meeting will be held on September 26, 2024, at 6:00pm, at the Northeast Service Cooperative Building.

Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50PM.