

Range Association of Municipalities & Schools
Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 17, 2022 – 6:00 P.M.
Northeast Service Cooperative Building

President Pat Medure called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Roll Call of Board:

Present: Pat Medure (ISD 318-Grand Rapids); Barb Kalmi (ISD 319-Nashwauk/Keewatin); Dale Adams (City of Grand Rapids); Glenn Anderson (City of Babbitt); Jim Fisher (McDavitt Township); Shane Hoff (City of Silver Bay); Jennifer Hoffman-Saccoman (City of Hibbing); Doug Greggor (City of Aurora); Paul Kess (City of Ely); Stuart Lehman (City of Buhl); Julie Lucas (French Township); Philip Medure (Great Scott Township); Kim McLaughlin (ISD 701-Hibbing); Ron Pittman (Cherry Township); Cal Saari (City of Nashwauk); Reggie Engrebritson (ISD 712 Supt Assn); Warren Stolp (Nashwauk Township); Cal Warwas (Clinton Township); David Zins (City of Hoyt Lakes)

Absent: ISD 2909 Rock Ridge; ISD 701-Hibbing, Supt Assn; City of Virginia; Morse Township; ISD 2909 Rock Ridge Supt Assn; City of Chisholm

Also Present: Ida Rukavina, Executive Director; Kristen Kranz, RAMS Admin Assistant; Jeff Anderson (Persons highlighted were present in person; others were via Zoom.)

Review and Approve Agenda:

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Kalmi and supported by Lehman. Motion carried.

Approve Meeting Minutes:

Appearances:

There was no guest this month.

Director's Report:

Director Rukavina highlighted her activities for the month of November 2022.

1. The housing summit was a success and well attended with over 120 people. The planning committee is still meeting weekly and there will be more sessions in the future. Housing survey results were handed out that were submitted from cities and employers.
2. See also the Director's Report.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

1. Jeff Anderson:
 - a. Anderson went over the November 8 Election results and noted that Governor Walz, Secretary of State Simon, Attorney General Ellison, State Auditor Blaha, and Congressman Stauber all won re-election. Other local winners include Senator-Elect Hauschild, Senator Eichorn, Senator-Elect Farnsworth, Representative Igo, Representative Lislegard, Representative-Elect Davis, and Representative Kresha, and Representative-Elect Dotseth. Two races are still undecided and heading towards a recount on December 5: Representative Ecklund vs Skraba and Representative Murphy vs Zeleznikar.

- b. The DFL will have control of the Governor's Office, Senate, and the House of Representatives.
 - c. There are 68 new members in the Legislature.
 - d. IRRR Board will have a Republican majority for the first time, as well as a new Commissioner with the retiring of Commissioner Mark Phillips.
 - e. A budget must be passed in 2023, along with a tax bill. If no special session is called, all bonding bills will need to be redrafted and reintroduced again in 2023.
 - f. January 3rd is the first day of the session.
 - g. Legislative Priorities draft is included in the packet. Discussion was held:
 1. Saari: consider adding language to address ambulance/EMS.
 2. Pat Medure: use the same language as other organizations to make the greatest impact; support 5% increase per student is 5% each year.
 3. Anderson: this list is given to all the local delegation so that they know how RAMS feels on issues that they are voting on and it does have an impact on them.
 4. Rukavina: trying to set up a meeting with new and current legislators to discuss priorities.
 5. Adams: Hospitals/clinics are losing money. Don't want to lose quality healthcare. This is a statewide issue.
 - A. Anderson: "request our Legislators to support and advocate on behalf of rural healthcare reform" (Adams: include metro)
 6. McLaughlin: support healthcare education in Duluth.
 - h. Legislative Dinner in St Paul is a great event to speak with the Legislators.
2. A motion to hold a special election to fill Baribeau's open seat was made by Fisher and supported by Warwas. Motion carried.

Board Member Updates:

No update tonight.

Finance Committee Report:

Kalmi reported on the Finance Committee Meeting held November 17, 2022:

1. Expenditures for the period of October 27, 2022 – November 17, in the total amount of \$11,596.25.
2. Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual is on track (87.1%).
3. Balance Sheet as of October 26, is \$384,285.18

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

Other:

Member Floor Privileges:

Kalmi would like the Board to meet with the local delegation instead of only the Legislative Committee. The Board agreed. Anderson mentioned that there is a possibility sometime in December.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the RAMS Board will be held at 6:00 P.M. on December 15, 2022, at Iron Trail Motors Event Center. This will be the Annual Meeting.

Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm.