

Range Association of Municipalities & Schools

Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 22, 2024 – 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); Glenn Anderson (City of Babbitt); Bob Berrini (Morse Township); Ryan Davies (Harris Township); Jim Fisher (McDavitt Township); Gary Friedlieb (City of Virginia); Dan Goette (City of Aurora); Matt Grose (ISD 318 Grand Rapids); Shane Hoff (City of Silver Bay); Angela Campbell (City of Ely); Pamela LaFrenier (ISD 2711 Mesabi East); Jim Varichak (French Township); Phil Medure (Great Scott Township); Ron Pittman (Cherry Township); Cal Saari (City of Nashwauk); Warren Stolp (Nashwauk Township); Cal Warwas (Clinton Township); Jim Weikum (City of Biwabik); Cherie Grams (City of Hoyt Lakes)**

Absent: City of Grand Rapids; ISD 2412 St Louis County Schools; City of Calumet; ISD 319 Nashwauk/Keewatin Supt Assn

Also Present: **Paul Peltier, Executive Director; Kristen Kranz, RAMS Admin Assistant; Mayor Pete Hyduke; Justin Fosso; John Upton; Elizabeth Caple; Andy and Mandy Nitzel; Jamielee and Craig Maturi**

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

Call to Order:

President Pat Medure called the meeting to order at 6pm.

Review and Approve Agenda:

A motion to move agenda #6 up to the #4 spot and combine New Business A. and B. was made by Fisher and supported by Pittman. Motion carried.

Appearance:

The Board was joined by Andy and Mandy Nitzel and Jamielee and Craig Maturi from M. N. Technologies (MN Tech). MN Tech is a majority woman-owned company whose mission is to cultivate the highest

quality, sustainably grown cannabis while nurturing a close relationship with the local community. They will be applying for a MN cultivation license as soon as they are available. MN Tech plans to donate at least 2% of their net profits to local Minnesota, Cohasset, and Itasca community organizations. They forecast 45 jobs in year one, 57 in year two, and 72 in year three, along with 150 local temporary jobs during construction and start up stage.

A motion to send a letter of support was made by Fisher and supported by Berrini. Motion carried.

Approve Meeting Minutes:

A motion to approve the regular meeting minutes from January 25, was made by Friedlieb and supported by Fisher. Motion carried.

Finance Committee Report:

Kalmi reported on the Finance Committee Meeting held on February 22, 2024.

1. Expenditures for January 25 – February 21, 2024, totaling \$24,347.69.
2. Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual is at 20.9%.
3. Balance Sheet as of February 21, 2024, is \$ 408,013.50.

A motion to accept the financial reports was made by Saari and supported by Pittman. Motion carried.

Old Business:

1. Executive Director Peltier noted that the Policy and Bylaws Committee met the past Monday. Many minor defects were identified. The Committee will redraft and submit the final changes for Board approval in September 2024.

New Business:

1. Discussion was held on the EMS Bill. A motion to add RAMS' support to the CGMC "one pager" flier regarding the EMS Bill and support for the MN House and Senate Bills (HF3992 and SF 3886) was made by Warwas and supported by Anderson. Motion carried.
2. Executive Director Peltier gave an update on the RAMS Legislative Delegation and Board Dinner on Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at the Saint Paul Hotel.
3. Executive Director Peltier discussed his plan to send a RAMS EMS advocacy bus to St Paul for the RAMS lobby day. A motion to approve the EMS advocacy bus to St Paul was made by Friedlieb and supported by Saari. Motion carried.

Director's Report

Executive Director Peltier discussed his activities for February.

1. Peltier attended many EMS events.
2. MN Chamber Environmental Permitting Report – MN has a longer than average permitting timeline for everything
3. Transportation aid – busing is an issue
4. Mayors and City Administrators meetings are well attended
5. RAMS Merchandise – Peltier will send out an email for RAMS Board members to order RAMS gear (hats, ¼ zip, full zip).

Board Member Updates:

1. Warwas – Paul Bunyan has announced it will provide broadband to 220 homes in Clinton Township, in the densest area of Hwy 37 and 7. This is only 50% of what CTC was planning. This puts the grants to CTC from DEED and IRRR in jeopardy. A motion to send a letter of support for CTC/Clinton Township was made by Pittman and supported by Fisher. Motion carried.

Other:

Member Floor Privileges:

Next Meeting:

The next RAMS Board Meeting will be held on March 28, 2024, at 6:00pm, at the Northeast Service Cooperative Building.

Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.