

## Range Association of Municipalities & Schools

### **Board Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, June 23, 2022 – 6:00 P.M.**

**Iron Trail Motors Event Center**

President Pat Medure called the meeting to order at 6:40 P.M.

#### **Roll Call of Board:**

**Present:** Pat Medure (ISD 318-Grand Rapids); Stacey Scholz (ISD 2909 Rock Ridge); Barb Kalmi (ISD 319-Nashwauk/Keewatin); Dale Adams (City of Grand Rapids); Gary Friedlieb (City of Virginia); Terry Soderberg (Morse Township); Dennis Zinter (McDavitt Township); 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); Travis Vake (City of Chisholm); Cherie Grams (City of Hoyt Lakes)

**Absent:** ISD 701-Hibbing, Supt Assn; City of Babbitt; City of Silver Bay; City of Hibbing; City of Aurora; City of Nashwauk; ISD 2909 Rock Ridge (Supt Assn); Nashwauk Township; ISD 2711-Mesabi East

**Also Present:** **Ida Rukavina, Executive Director; Kristen Kranz, RAMS Admin Assistant; Jeff Anderson; Cal Warwas; Maria Warwas;**  
**(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:**

Moved by Pittman and supported by Scholz to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting held May 26, 2022. Motion carried.

#### **Appearances:**

The Board was joined by Laura Kircher from Enbridge. She talked about going through the regulatory process of getting the Line 3 replacement pipeline permitted for the last 8 years. Last year they started construction and last October they put Line 3 into service. She presented President Medure with a plaque of appreciation to RAMS for the help with getting Line 3 permitted and replaced.

Jim Hunt gave the Board a tour of the new Iron Trail Motors Event Center.

1. The full ballroom can hold up to 500 people or 350 people for dinner.
2. The city of Virginia operates two concession stands in the building.
3. The building has two arenas, Toyota and Cheverolet.
4. There is a walking track above Toyota arena (free to the public, 6:30am-10pm, 7 days/week).
5. There is a space open currently for a retail setting.
6. YMCA has a gym space in the building for Y members to use.
7. There is a dry training room for hockey.
8. The building costed \$38 million.

#### **Director's Report:**

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

1. RAMS hosted the first broadband meeting for townships, they will continue to meet quarterly.
2. A grant was applied for after the Rural Ambulance meeting was held, and we are still waiting for word on that.
3. Meeting biweekly to talk about a housing summit with IRRRB and some of the Chambers.

4. Good news for Polymet: the challenge was thrown out so the permit will stand. Also bad news for Twin Metals: Rainy River withdrawal (30 day public comment period)
5. This Sunday I will have an editorial in the Mesabi Tribune about the need for a special session.
6. New members: Essentia (corporate) and Town of Cotton

#### **Old Business:**

We have had 2 people nominated for the open Board seat: Cal Warwas (nominated by Clinton Township) and Mary Kay Jacobson (nominated by Greenway Superintendent and Greenway school board).

A motion to appoint Cal Warwas to the open board seat was made by Kess and supported by Pittman. Motion carried.

#### **New Business:**

1. Jeff Anderson:
  - A. No movement towards a special session (talks seem to have broken down). If it were to happen, it would probably be after the August primary, and they would likely only take up the Bonding Bill and Tax Bill. To our communities and school districts, that would be welcome.
  - B. House Bonding Committee is still meeting (bipartisan).
  - C. Positive: Vice-Chair of the House Bonding Committee is from Hermantown, and the Chair of the Senate Bonding Committee is Senator Baak.
  - D. Cities/towns should submit letters to the newspapers asking for a special session and explaining to the communities the projects that they have submitted for bonding, as many people in the community have no idea what is at stake.
  - E. The bipartisan Tax Bill that was agreed to by the House and Senate, includes a lot for our school districts and PILT.

#### **Board Member Updates:**

Travis Vake shared that "The wall that heals" is in Chisholm this week, open 24 hours/day and is located on the football field with parking at the armory.

#### **Finance Committee Report:**

Kalmi reported on the Finance Committee Meeting held June 23, 2022:

1. Expenditures for the period of May 26-June 22, in the total amount of \$15,257.53.
2. Profit and Loss Budget vs Actual is on track (47.8%).
3. Balance Sheet as of June 22, is \$379,632.94.

A motion to accept the financial reports was made by Lehman and supported by Scholz. Motion carried.

Kalmi reported on the auditor's report on the year ending 2021. As usual, they found that because we are such a small organization, that we don't have the personnel to have the checks and balances for the financial piece of it and segregation of duties. We try to cover this with our monthly finance meetings. The report was very good.

#### **Other:**

#### **Member Floor Privileges:**

Kess updated the Board about the internet/cable situation in Ely. They had built their own fiber service within a 2 block by 10 block business section in town. This has spurred into action Midco to provide service to more of Ely.

#### **Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the RAMS Board will be held at 6:00 P.M. on September 22, 2022, at Northeast Service Cooperative Building.

#### **Adjournment.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:10.