

MINUTES

FIRE, LIGHTING & BUILDING

WEDNESDAY – JULY 16, 2025 – 3:30 P.M.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, MUNICIPAL BUILDING

Members present: Chair Keith Klimek, Debbie Sievert, and Tony O'Neill.

Others Attending: Mayor Katie Berman and Jim Murphy.

Chair Klimek called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Motion by Sievert and seconded by O'Neill to approve the agenda. Motion carried 3/0.

Motion by O'Neill and seconded by Sievert to approve the June 18, 2025 meeting minutes. Motion carried 3/0.

Elderly Services rate reduction at Henry Drees Community Center:

Reviewed questions and answers by Olivia Cherry, Marinette County Elderly Services, and Executive Director. Also reviewed Drees Center expenses.

The committee discussed the Drees Center's usage, which currently accounts for about 42% of annual days (153 days/year) and contributes to recurring utility and maintenance costs. Marinette County Elderly Services pays \$20 per day for Monday, Wednesday and Friday, totaling around \$3,100 annually. The City pays the Senior Citizens group \$3,750 separately for a donation.

Meals for home delivery are prepared in Crivitz. Local attendance at the Peshtigo meal site is around 9 people served per day. There was general agreement on the importance of the services provided, and O'Neill, Klimek and Sievert expressed a desire to find a fair cost-sharing compromise to help cover expenses. The group discussed the rental costs, utilities, and cleaning expenses, noting that elderly services pay \$20/day (about \$3,100/year) and cleaning costs run ~\$40 per visit, for the three times a week that elderly Services is in the building. Additional groups like the Riverside Cemetery Board, Peshtigo Historical Society, the Women's Club for Memorial Day Luncheon use the space free. While the VFW Veteran's group also use the building at a reduced rate.

Marinette County's budget meeting is set for July 30, ahead of the August 1 deadline. Elderly services continue active fundraising efforts, including events like golf outings, to support their budget. Cleaning costs and weekday closures for senior services limit revenue, though weekend rentals help offset losses some losses.

There was discussion of the need to review current rental rates, usage, and discounts. The committee agreed to revisit the budget in September–November and assess if adjustments or tiered pricing for different organizations are needed. The committee discussed rental usage, noting limited weekday availability and low nonprofit rates (max \$55) but agreed to keep current arrangements in place for Elderly Services until the upcoming budget review.

Motion by Klimek and seconded by Sievert to leave the Drees Center charges at \$20 per day 3days per week.

Facility report: None

Other Matters: None

Set future meeting(s):

The next Fire, Lighting & Building meeting was set for Wednesday, August 20, 2025 at 3:30 p.m.

Motion by Sievert and seconded by O'Neill to adjourn at 4:09 p.m. Motion carried 3/0.

Katie Berman
Mayor