

December 19, 2013

The Special Meeting of the NIESA Board was called to order at 7:00 pm by the Chairperson, Roger Pollok.

Voting members Present: R. Hayes, R. Lillywhite, R. Pollok, R Cole, S Whelton, S Diderich, R. Hanna

Non-Voting Members Present: F. Wilbrink

Fire/EMS Personnel Present: Holmes, Davis, Waltersdorf, Bisard

Other: None

Guests: NIESA EMT Students

Public Comment (Agenda I):

Nothing at this time.

Reimbursement of EMT Students (Agenda II):

Mr. Hanna advised the NIESA EMT students had paid approximately \$6,030 in tuition to NIESA for the class. He felt NIESA should reimburse the students the tuition fees paid. He would also like to see them repaid before the end of 2013. Mrs. Whelton agreed it should be reimbursed.

Mr. Hanna indicated even if we decide to reimburse the students, it would not mean that NIESA is not going to continue their efforts to get the class approved by the State of Michigan.

Mr. Hayes asked what funds would be used. Mr. Hanna advised the ambulance revenue we have collected to date has exceeded the budgeted amount, so we would use those additional funds.

Ms. Curtis advised she had received paperwork from the State of Michigan acknowledging the change in Program Sponsor Representative from Mr. McGuire to herself, but there was nothing regarding the EMT class. She did email Ms. Godde at the State of Michigan, and was advised that "she" could not approve the EMT class, but it had been referred to a Supervisor.

Also the State of Michigan department head for this division has changed. Robin Shivley has retired, and Marvin Helmker is the new department head. Attorney Adams has sent another letter to the State of Michigan today concerning the EMT Class addressed to the new department head.

Mr. Pollok wonder if NIESA was going to fast, and if it was necessary to refund the tuition at this time since we don't have an answer from the State of Michigan.

Discussion followed.

Motion by Mrs. Whelton to refund the tuition paid to date by the students of the NIESA EMT class, seconded by Mr. Hanna.

Discussion followed regarding; what would happen if the State of Michigan approved the EMT Class and the students could test, would they pay the tuition at that time; and what is to be done as we move forward with this issue.

It was indicated the students would not pay the tuition again. They would get the training at no cost. Discussion followed.

Mr. Pollok called for a roll call vote on the motion.

Yeas: Mr. Lillywhite, Mr. Hayes, Mrs. Whelton, Mr. Hanna, Mr. Diederich

Nays: Mr. Pollok, Mr. Cole

Motion carried.

Ms. Curtis will issue the refunds, and provide a letter of explanation to the students.

Discussion of EMS Education Department (Agenda III):

Mr. Pollok advised the Board on December 17th he received a registered letter from Ms. Karber. She resigned from her Paramedic position, and the IC position with NIESA effective December 13, 2013.

Motion by Mr. Lillywhite to accept Ms. Karber's resignation, seconded by Mrs. Whelton.

Mr. Hayes asked who was responsible for the errors that had occurred. Mr. Hanna felt it was multiple things. He stated when the Board set up the Education Department we never set up a line of command, and did not complete the establishment of the department properly before trying to operate it. He felt if NIESA is going to move forward with the department we needed to get everything in place and start over slower. Just do continuing education and CPR classes at this time.

Mrs. Whelton indicated it was a lot of "he said", "she said" and a horrible experience. Mr. Wilbrink stated we should take it as lesson's learned and move forward.

Mr. Pollok called for a vote on the motion to accept Ms. Karber's resignation. Motion carried.

Public Comment (Agenda IV):

Frans Wilbrink: In the future he felt the entire Board should be involved in the Education Department.

Mike Takovich: He has a copy of the course syllabus if the Board would like it. Mr. Pollok indicated he would appreciate a copy. He advised there was a course approval listed in the syllabus, what was that number. Ms. Curtis advised it was the certification number for NIESA to be a "Program Sponsor." It was not a "class" authorization.

Travis Roome: If the State of Michigan says no, what then. The students that attended the class have a lot of time invested in the class, paying babysitters, etc.

The Board advised no decisions will be made until a final determination is received from the State of Michigan.

Mr. Hanna advised Ms. Curtis has been placed in the position of the Program Sponsor Representative and she will be the one held responsible in the future for the Education Department. Is the Board giving her the authority to do what is necessary to run the department. Mr. Cole asked what type of authority. Mr. Hanna stated communicating with EMT students, searching for a new Instructor Coordinator, interviewing them with assistance, authority to contact the attorney regarding this issue. Discussion followed.

Motion by Mr. Lillywhite to give Ms. Curtis the authority to run the EMS Education program, and to make decisions regarding the program operation, seconded by Mr. Hayes. Motion carried.

Jordan Hague: Requested a NIESA meeting schedule for the NIESA EMT students.

John Bisard: Asked if the CE credits they received in 2013 were valid. Ms. Curtis advised she felt they were, but is not assuming anything and will be confirming it with the State of Michigan.

Eric Holmes: Asked if the new IC was going to be a per diem Paramedic. If so he felt the EMS Supervisor should be involved in the selection.

John Bisard: It would be nice to have a full time person take up the Director/ NIESA Manager position. Mr. Hanna advised it's an active conversation.

Zach Waltersdorf: When we fill EMS positions NIESA needs someone to complete Tri-County authorization paperwork. We need to find an IC rather quickly.

Robert Hayes: Suggested checking with the State of Michigan secondary complex to see if they could provide some assistance in looking for an IC. They provide some good classes.

Sandy Whelton: Whatever NIESA does we need to do it upright and honest and have it on paper.

Mr. Lillywhite requested the Board give Ms. Curtis, Ms. Davis, and Mr. Waltersdorf the approval to find a temporary IC that is willing to assist us with Tri-County paperwork until a permanent one can be hired. The Board members agreed with Mr. Lillywhite's recommendation, and authorized the individuals to move forward with finding a temporary IC.

Mr. Pollok suggested checking with Meridian and Dehli Fire to see if they can assist us. Mr. Pollok requested that EMS Education be added to next months agenda.

Adjournment (Agenda V):

Motion by Mrs. Whelton to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm, seconded by Mr. Diederich. Motion carried.

Paula M Curtis, Secretary

Date