

A regular meeting of the Alma District Fire Board was held at the Alma Municipal Building. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 a.m. by Alma City Manager Aeris Ripley. A quorum was present.

*Roll Call*

Board members present: Kevin Beeson, Tish Mallory, Greg Mapes, Doug Merchant, and Aeris Ripley.  
Board members absent: Ron Hunt and Michelle Pitts.  
Others present: Jim Bailey, Curtis Dancer, and Mark Williams.

**Motion by Mapes, seconded by Mallory, to approve minutes of the July 23, 2025, meeting, as presented. Motion carried.**

**Yes: Beeson, Mallory, Mapes, Merchant, and Ripley.**  
**No: none.**  
**Absent: Hunt and Pitts.**

*Fire – Rescue Reports*

Finance Director Curtis Dancer reviewed financial reports for the quarter. He indicated both Fire and Rescue are right on track for the first quarter, with Fire at 23% and Rescue at 25%.

Ripley called for questions regarding cash disbursements. None were offered.

Public Safety Director Mark Williams spoke briefly, at a request from Ripley, regarding a payment for vehicle repairs. Williams said two fire vehicles had been damaged in minor accidents, and the payment was for a balance due for the repair that was not covered by insurance.

Fire Chief Jim Bailey reviewed the third quarter run reports for both Fire and Rescue. He explained a minor correction related to Arcada's total numbers. Merchant asked about an incident on Tyler, east of Begole Road, and said it was an Arcada fire run, but a GESA rescue run. Bailey said he would make the correction. Merchant said it also needed to be fixed with Dispatch. No other questions were offered.

**Motion by Merchant, seconded by Beeson, to receive Fire and Rescue September 2025 Budget Actual Reports, Fire and Rescue September 2025 Check Disbursement Reports, and Third Quarter 2025 Fire and Rescue Run Reports. Motion carried.**

**Yes: Beeson, Mallory, Mapes, Merchant, and Ripley.**  
**No: none.**  
**Absent: Hunt and Pitts.**

*New Business – MERS Report*

Ripley reviewed the MERS (Municipal Employees Retirement System) annual report for Fire. He said the department is currently 77% funded and the City, overall, is 73% funded, and both are in good shape. He explained an expected credit to the retirement fund related to employees who left before they were fully vested. Brief discussion followed regarding the benefit available to firefighters.

**Motion by Beeson, seconded by Mapes, to receive the MERS Annual Valuation Report Excerpt for 2024. Motion carried.**

**Yes: Beeson, Mallory, Mapes, Merchant, and Ripley.**  
**No: none.**  
**Absent: Hunt and Pitts.**

*Old Business – Verbal Update for the New Fire Apparatus*

Bailey provided an update on the status of the new fire truck, saying he and a few of his team had gone to check progress recently and were very impressed with the capabilities of the new truck. He said they will have a much easier time loading fire hoses, and the new enclosed “clean cab” will provide a much safer working environment for the operator. He said the truck is expected to arrive in Saginaw within two to three weeks for final detailing.

Williams provided an update on grants received for a new drone for the drone program. He explained the capabilities of the new equipment and offered thanks to the Luneack Foundation for their assistance. He also said federal funds are currently held up, but the Luneack grant would be released when federal funds are released, and the team would move forward then with the purchase and training. Williams mentioned three open positions in the department. Discussion followed about the drone program and capabilities of the new drone.

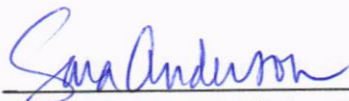
*Public Comment*

No public comments were offered.

Ripley offered a reminder of the upcoming regularly scheduled meetings. The annual meeting is set for January 19, 2026, and the next regular quarterly meeting is set for January 28, 2026. He asked the group to consider discussion of the regular meeting time at the next meeting.

**Motion by Merchant, seconded by Mallory, to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 a.m. Motion carried.**

**Yes:** Beeson, Mallory, Mapes, Merchant, and Ripley.  
**No:** none.  
**Absent:** Hunt and Pitts.



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Sara Anderson, City Clerk

Date of Approval: January 19, 2026