

**Consolidation Committee/Area Fire Department Meeting Minutes**  
**September 16, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.**  
**Dorchester Community Emergency Services, Inc.**

The September 16, 2015 meeting of the Area Fire Departments was called to order by Rick Rinehart, Fire Chief of the Dorchester Community Emergency Services, Inc. at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Nancy O'Brien, City of Colby; Ross Rannow, Colby Fire/EMS; David Martin and Scott Kloth, Dorchester Fire; Peter Horacek and Marty Schwantes, City of Abbotsford; John Staab and Richard Gumz (Richard arrived at 7:10 p.m), DCES Corporation; Jeremy Totzke, Abbotsford EMS; John Austin and Jeff Diedrich, Abbotsford Fire; Larry Oehmichen, Town of Colby; Pat Tischendorf and Richard Bartnik, Town of Holton; Kurt Robida and Billy Colby, Town of Hull; James Dukelow and Bryon Broeske, Township of Mayville; Wayne Rau, Village of Dorchester. Also present: Rick Rinehart, Chairman and Carol Staab, Secretary.

Rick Rinehart asked for questions/concerns regarding the June 17, 2015 meeting minutes. A motion was made by John Staab, second by Wayne Rau to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Public Discussion

Rick Rinehart opened the floor to public discussion; John Neihart opened this discussion sharing information on the recent meeting(s) held with the area fire chiefs regarding department evaluations. Public discussion continued to include TIF districts, duplication of equipment within the three departments, possible cost savings, existing retirement plan in place within the Colby Fire Department, fire halls within the proposed fire district (who owns/maintains). John Neihart also shared that this would be his last meeting to advise the committee but would meet with each department individually to address concerns if needed.

Roll call vote of the municipalities was taken to continue possible consolidation discussions: City of Abbotsford, yes; City of Colby, yes; Town of Colby, yes; Town of Holton, yes; Township of Mayville, yes; Village of Dorchester, yes. It was reiterated that any entity can opt out at any time during this process.

Roll call vote of the municipalities was taken on the next meeting date of October 21, 2015; City of Abbotsford, yes; City of Colby, yes; Town of Colby, yes; Town of Holton, yes; Town of Hull, yes; Township of Mayville, yes; Village of Dorchester, yes. The Board appointed at this meeting will be the initial working Board.

The next meeting will be held on October 21, 2015 at the Abbotsford Fire Hall beginning at 7:00 p.m. Rick Rinehart, Chairman and Carol Staab, Secretary will attend and run this meeting.

John Neihart was thanked for his past contributions.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Marty Schwantes, second by Larry Oehmichen to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Staab  
Secretary

**Minutes pending approval at the 10/21/15 meeting.**