

**Kearney Township Board  
Joint Meeting held at  
Bellaire District Fire Authority  
735 Broad St., Bellaire, MI 49615**

March 23, 2026

**Fire Board Budget Hearing Minutes**

Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m.

Kearney Township Roll Call: Niepoth, Hagood, Comben, Valuet and Murray.

Forest Home Township Roll Call: Smith, Kent and Mahan. Absent: Crandell and Steiner.

Motion by Valuet, supported by Kent (Forest Home), to approve minutes of March 17, 2025 fire board meeting, with changes to spelling of Neipoth to Niepoth and paragraph 6d) from 2025 Meeting Date to 2026 Meeting Date, carried.

Public Comment: None.

Financial report presented by Vince Carpenter.

New Business:

Motion by Smith (Forest Home), supported by Murray, to approve 2026/2027 Budget as presented, carried.

Kearney Roll Call Vote: Yes: Niepoth, Hagood, Comben, Murray and Valuet. No: None.

Absent: None.

Forest Home Roll Call Vote: Yes: Smith, Kent, and Mahan. No: None. Absent: Crandell and Steiner.

Motion by Comben, supported by Kent (Forest Home), to approve 2.0 millage rate to fund 2027/2028 Operating Budget, carried.

Kearney Roll Call Vote: Yes: Murray, Valuet, Comben, Hagood and Niepoth. No: None.

Absent: None.

Forest Home Roll Call Vote: Yes: Smith, Kent and Mahan. No: None. Absent: Crandell and Steiner.

Motion by Valuet, supported by Niepoth, to approve Alden State Bank and 4Front Credit Union as depositories for Fire Department funds in 2026/2027 fiscal year.

Kearney Roll Call Vote: Yes: Niepoth, Hagood, Comben, Murray and Valuet. No: None.

Absent: None.

Forest Home Roll Call Vote: Yes: Smith, Kent and Mahan. No: None. Absent: Crandell and Steiner.

2027 Fire Board Joint meeting will be scheduled on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in March, on March 15, 2027 at 5:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Michelle D. Valuet, Clerk