PRESQUE ISLE COMMUNITY MEN’S CLUB

Meeting Minutes January 5, 2023 9:00 A.M.

**Opening:** Called to order 9:03 a.m. by Mike Bugenske with 16 members in person, 0 member on Zoom, 0 guest

Opening Song Jay Kettler

Pledge of Allegiance Mike Bugenske

Prayer Jay Kettler

**Introduction of Speakers:** Mike Bugenske introduced guest speaker Eric Smith, Sheriff of Alpena County and Cash Kroll, Undersheriff of Alpena County

**Program:** Sheriff Smith is a 1996 graduate of Alpena High and was influenced by his baseball coach to pursue a career in law enforcement. He started his career in Alcona County in 2001, moved into the HUNT Team in Alcona, then came to Alpena as a Deputy Sheriff in 2007. In 2019 he was named the Sheriff of Alpena County. He aspired of becoming a Sargent but was turned down 3 times after taking the exam thus becoming a Sheriff was totally unexpected.

Cash Kroll is a Posen High School graduate who went to Alpena Community College and Saginaw Walley College. He worked airport security in Alpena for a few years, joined the sheriff’s department, and became Undersheriff at Alpena County in 2019.

Law enforcement used to be a highly sought-after profession. When Eric Smith took the law enforcement certification test, he was joined by more than 300 people also trying to qualify for the 14 positions. Now because of bad press and low wages, it’s hard to keep a full staff. The wage of $17/hr doesn’t compare to the $26/hr wages at the quarries in Alpena. The new facility, which cost $11.5 million, is “ugly on the outside, but beautiful and convenient on the inside”. The 50-70 inmates are housed in 2-4 bed pods which are accessible to a “day room”. The employees find it a great building in which to work, and this large facility, which requires 4 correction officers all day, thus a large labor expense, is efficient to run.

There was a movement to buy body cams for all officers in the field, but the cost was so high that the initiative was dropped. However, through a recent federal grant, the body cam program was reinstated at a cost of $100,000. Ninety-five percent of all arrests in Alpena County are drug related, including driving infractions, burglaries, and violent crimes.

**Break and 50/50 Drawing by Bob Beres:**  Les Fissette $18

**Business Reports and Meeting Set-up:**

November Minutes presented Secretary – Tim Lutes

Report Approved as presented Dennis Fay/Harold Levy MOTION CARRIED

Financial Reports November Treasurer – Bill Fay

Report approved as presented Rusty Kauffman/Charlie Phipp MOTION CARRIED

Financial Reports December Treasurer – Bill Fay

Report approved as presented Harold Levy/Ken Diamond MOTION CARRIED

**Set-up for February 2:** Tim Lutes/Larry Fields

**Committee Reports:**

**Health and Family Committee**: Card will be sent to Eugene Cambre

**Project Evaluation Committee**: Nothing to report.

**Scholarship Committee:** Tim Lutes reported that an application was received, and he will submit an article to The Alpena News announcing the scholarship program.

**Program Committee**: Nothing to report.

**Old Business:** Les Fissette announced that the phone directory ads will be submitted to Allegra Printing the week of January 9. The debate continued as to whether or not to put a price on the front cover; nothing was decided.

**New Business:** Bill Fay is collecting dues for 2023. We received a thank you note from NOAA for the PICMC donation to their film festival and invited us to visit again. Mike Bugenske suggested taking NOAA’s Glass Bottom Boat tour as a group.

Mike Bugenske suggested increasing the number of breakfast meetings since they are well attended and greatly enjoyed. It was decided to have 3 breakfast meetings a year: spring, summer, and fall.

Mike Bugenske was contacted by a volunteer agency seeking volunteers for non-emergency transportation to medical facilities. Mileage reimbursement would be provided.

Dennis Fay stated the PICMC logo shirts are available again.

**Adjourned Meeting** at 10:43 a.m. by Mike Bugenske.

**Minutes submitted by Secretary, Tim Lutes**