

Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association

General Business Meeting Minutes

March 05, 2021

The General Business Meeting of the Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association was called to order at 7:00PM. By President Jim Hessler K8JH. Due to safety concerns, the meeting could only be held on Zoom video conference system. It was open to the public.

In attendance was: KE8KOC, Jeff Nawrot, K8JX, NY8D, KN8CK, Nelson Van, K8DAY, Kreigh Tomaszewski, KE8LQH, KE8BGI, K8TB, K8CAN, AC8QE, N8ZVX. K8JH, KD8MEY, KF8QL, W8QZ, WD8USA, KC8NKA, N8UXN. W6EUH, KE8EAL

(Note: not all attendee's names or call signs will display, unless they start chatting)

There was a general discussion on how much Zoom was costing. It was stated we were paying \$15.00 per month. Greg thought that was for a limit of 100 people.

President Jim then ran through what was on the agenda for tonight's meeting; the status of the swap and the progress with GVSU. Jim then had the Secretary make his report.

Secretary: Rich K8JX thanked Greg and Dave for submitting to him the current paid membership list. We currently have 19 paid members. Rich also mentioned he was going to include the new building Steve Provost has for giving VE exams. Steve will present that later.

Tom K8TM, made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Kreigh: it passed.

Jim Then mentioned he had met with the trustee/professor of GVSU. We can hold Field Day in the center of buildings on their campus. He was even receptive to having us mount an antenna on one of the building. He was referring to the down town campus. Either the LV Eberhards building, or the Meijer Broadcast center.

V.P. Report: Greg reported that the new Pay-Pal system is working out well. No problems. Greg has also installed a Donation button on the front page.

Treasurer's Report: Dave KF8QL presented his budget for 2021. He has also filed with the state to renewal our corporation status.

Currently, we have:

Beginning Balance: \$6441.95.

We have taken in: \$215.97

\$112.21

Ending Balance: \$6545.71.

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Dave's proposed 2021 budget:

Starting balance: (adjusted)

\$4250.

\$4180.00

These are estimated on what we've spent during the last year. Steve KD8MEY, suggested that this budget is merely an estimation, based on how much we take in from membership dues, and the swap. It could change drastically.

We are going to need a tower climber, and what other expenses we may experience during the coming year. We will need a new tower climber: our guy retired. Someone suggested "The Antenna Man", who installs TV antennas. Dave will include \$300.00 for equipment expenses.

Jim K8JH then brought up changing the gate fee for our swap. I.R.A. has increased their fee from \$6.00, to \$8.00. John W8QZ made a motion to accept Dave's report and increase the gate fee to \$8.00. It was seconded by Steve KD8MEY: IT passed.

Director-At-Large: Chris had nothing to report, but was glad Dave had told us that one could mute our mike, and use the specie bar like a push-to-talk button.

Trustee: Tom wasn't present, so Jim K8JH shared that we do have a Field-Day site: on the GVSU Allendale Campus.

RED-Cross Joe Bell WD8USA said the Red Cross is moving to the new building. He also suggested GRARA might donate our 50 Foot tower that is in the Red-Crosses garage, to the Red Cross. The motion was made by Joe WD8USA, seconded by Steve: it passed.

Jeff Nawrot brought up that the Red Cross has a new Ham Call Sign: KC8ARC. Jeff also thought that the "Win Link" in the Grara Radio Room was Grara's.

TECH/ V.E. Steve reported they had a V.E. session at the Lowell's ARC; 4 examiners passed. Steve then shared the Following:

Important Announcement: GRARA in-person VE Testing will resume on Friday, March 12, but in a new location. Due to the Red Cross Building situation, for the near term, we will be testing at a church-owned building in Rockford. The building is called Kateri Lodge. Its address is 520 Northland Dr. NE, Rockford. It is about 1/4 mile north of the intersection of 11 Mile NE and Northland Drive on the east side of Northland. Registration begins at 6:30 pm. Again, new location for March 12 in-person VE testing. The usual

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COVID mask and social distance guidelines will be followed. Jim K8JH, president.

Steve then reported that the company discussing buying the Red Cross building is still in discussion. We do have plan "B". GVSU. Steve spent 2 days installing Networks and cables at the new Red Cross site; 36 street and Bradmoore.

Steve KD8MEY offered to purchase from the club, a paddle that wasn't being used. We had a discussion and decided it would be better to be used. Steve offered \$35.00. Tom made a motion to sell it to Steve, seconded by Rich K8JX. It passed.

There was no further business, the meeting ended at 8:03PM.