

Egg Harbor Joint Fire Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 20, 2023 – 6:00 PM

Bertschinger Center

7860 State Hwy, 42, Egg Harbor, WI

1. Call to Order

Petersen called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Those in attendance were James Petersen, Pat Gilday, Mack Bonk, Jeremy Schopf, Clarence Scherer, Bill Edwards, Justin MacDonald, Dale Weigand, Ken Mathys, Kurt Krauel, and Nathan Delsart.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Agenda

Scherer moved to approve the agenda, second by Gilday, motion carried.

4. Review and Approve Minutes from February 16, 2023

Bonk moved to approve the February 16, 2023, second by Gilday, motion carried.

5. Open Session – 10 Minutes

Ken Mathys thanked all of the firefighters for their service.

6. Fire Chief Report

MacDonald reviewed the February Fire Report. There were 7 fire calls in February and 9 EMS calls all of which were in the Town. There was one mutual aid call for Gibraltar the was cancelled enroute. There was one training in February, which was an ice rescue training.

Monthly truck checks were completed, and the truck committee met to finalize the specs for the new engine. Lt. Wiegand participated in Fire Prevention at Gibraltar Area Schools and Firefighter Kurt Krauel installed new hand lights in all the apparatus. There was no officers meeting in February.

MacDonald review the March Fire Report. There were five fire calls in March and 13 EMS calls, 11 in the Town and 2 in the Village. There were two mutual aid calls. YTD there have been 21 fire calls and 24 EMS calls, totaling 45 calls. The monthly EMR meeting was held in March as well as the Fire Department business meeting. At the end of March, the department utilized the Sturgeon Bay burn facility to do live fire evolutions. This was well received for the personal that attended and is something that the firefighters don't get a lot of exposure to. After the training, there was discussion about doing this type of training more frequently. There was an officers meeting in March and the truck committee met again in March to finish up specs.

Scherer asked if Sturgeon Bay charges for using the burn facility. MacDonald reported there is no charge. Two full time on duty personnel were available at the facility during the training and the hose was provided as well.

Pallets are burned in the facility, and it is an LP fire.

MacDonald reviewed the 2022 annual report. MacDonald review the staffing listing for the Fire Department as well as the Egg Harbor Fire Department mission statement. MacDonald reviewed the station locations and the equipment listing.

Scherer asked what piece of equipment is in line to be replaced next. MacDonald reported that Engine 306 is the truck looking to be replaced. The next two trucks in line for replacement are the Brush truck 320 and Truck 321.

In 2022, 771.5 hours were committee to training, inclusive of monthly fire meetings, monthly EMR meetings, entry level training and other training. MacDonald reviewed the other meetings relative to the department which include the monthly officer meetings, safety committee meetings, critical incident stress debriefing, truck committee meeting, SOP/SOG meetings, After Action review meetings, LOSA meeting, NFIRS/State update, and new software training.

MacDonald reviewed the 2022 fire inspections, approx. 384 inspections are completed a year between the town and village.

MacDonald reviewed 2022 equipment maintenance which included 184 hours dedicated to truck checks and 82.5 hours dedicated to truck/equipment maintenance. Most repairs were completed in house. These hours also include the annual pump testing and DOT inspections. 54.5 hours were dedicated to station maintenance, including storage management and cleaning. Hose testing included 35 hours and this testing is hired out to FireCatt. Of the 35 hours of hose testing, 11 hours were dedicated to testing the wildland hose and repacking it. There were no major hose failures in 2022. Ladder testing is hired out to UL with Captain Bogenschutz assisting, and this resulted in 13 dedicated hours.

Fire prevention/public education amounted to 104 hours in 2022. The fire department participated in the Annual Dairy Breakfast and a farm rescue was taught at NWTC by Firefighters Andy and Ashley Staats.

Other events included 118 hours including 4th of July staffing of the station, fireworks stand-by coverage, EMS coverage for two runs and staffing the station for Pumpkin Patch weekend.

There were total of 85 fire calls in 2022, with 991.5 hours dedicated to fire response. There was approximately \$102,000 fire dollar loss in 2022.

There were 44 fire calls in the Town of Egg Harbor in 2022 and 21 fire calls in the Village of Egg Harbor with the remainder being MABAS calls to other municipalities. The busiest day of the week for the fire calls was Saturday with the busiest month for calls being August. The busiest times of day were 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

There were 173 EMS calls in 2022 with 115 calls in the Town, 55 in the Village and 3 outside of the jurisdiction. 265 hours were dedicated to responding to EMS calls in 2022. The busiest day of the week for EMS calls was Saturday, with the busiest month begin August.

Scherer asked if the staff listing includes all members of the department in 2022 and asked if there were any new members added to the department in 2023.

MacDonald reported that this report includes the data from 2022 but there have been no new members added in 2023 so far.

Scherer asked about the flyers that were printed. They are currently at the fire stations but none have been handed out so far. Scherer suggested putting some flyers out in the Village office and Town office and potentially the schools.

MacDonald and Wiegand stated that regarding recruitment, it is nice to have some general knowledge of potential recruits, however, there have been new members of the community that have joined the department in the past.

Petersen asked how the department is doing with the turnout gear, and MacDonald reported that the department is currently sitting good with turnout gear. The estimated cost to outfit a fire fighter is \$3,500.

Petersen asked about the conversion of the air packs/air tanks. MacDonald reported that the vast majority of the county has switched to 4500 lb. bottles but we are at the minority at 2260 lb. This will be an expense coming up in the next few year. Petersen asked if the department has a cascade system and MacDonald confirmed it does.

7. New Fire Truck Committee Report to Fire Commission

Lieutenant Wiegand, Firefighter Krauel and Firefighter Delsart made up the New Fire Truck Committee along with Chief MacDonald serving as an ad hoc member.

Wiegand reported that the process to replace engine 306 started quite a while ago. This engine can pump water, has water on it, as well as a lot of gear on it as well.

The goal was to build a truck with the same systems as well as compressed air flows as this uses less water and is better for hose handling. With the help of Chris Hect from Sister Bay Fire, the committee put a bid together. The bid was sent out to different companies and during this process the committee realized that this truck was going to much more expensive than previous truck purchases.

It takes a long time to get a vehicle right now. About halfway through the process the committee became aware that there are new engine specs coming out that will increase the price as well.

Four companies were contacted about the bid and the specs were put out. There was only one response to the bid, and it was provided by Pierce. Pierce's response came in at \$1,136,723.17. Every quarter the truck price goes up 1.7% which is about \$20,000 every quarter. Some of the other companies could not guarantee to have the truck completed in the next couple of years.

There is a leasing program where the down payment can be delayed, but the price is locked in. Wiegand will be discussing the lease program in more detail at the joint boards meeting. Wiegand

explained that the lease program was utilized when the ladder truck was purchased. Prepayment offers a \$69,052.12 discount; the lease program also offers this incentive also.

Wiegand reviewed the specifics and details of the truck as well as the exceptions that were took on it, which the committee agrees with. Wiegand explained that the truck will have a WAZE system, which will tell people that have WAZE systems in their vehicles that a fire truck is coming up behind you.

Wiegand said that the cost seems to be constantly going up and there are different things that can continue to increase the price, so in his opinion the sooner the signing the better.

Sawyer asked if the lease program is utilized if the truck would need to be purchased outright before the new engine specs come out in order to avoid possibility jeopardizing compliance. Wiegand said the truck would be delivered before the new engine specs come out.

Schopf asked what the interest rate is on the lease. Wiegand said he had the lease agreements worked out for 2, 3, and 5 year terms so it is different depending on the term, but less than 5%. Schopf asked Wiegand to have this available for the joint boards meeting. Wiegand explained that the Bureau of Land Management for Wisconsin especially for joint departments, can work with each municipality individually on their financing preferences. This program is at 5% right now, and all the interest that is made on this program goes to financing libraries and schools. Last year they gave \$35 million to library and schools in WI.

Wiegand said that as the lease program has been utilized in the past and worked out well, that might be the way the joint boards decide to go.

Petersen asked if there are any grants available for the purchase of the fire truck.

Wiegand said that he doesn't think there are going to be grants similar to what Sister Bay received again. Wiegand said that grant matching will also be likely. Typically, with grant funding you have to match right away.

The Sister Bay grant wasn't a match but was just written into the budget.

Petersen asked if the committee was shocked that no other companies responded to the bid. Wiegand said the only company the committee wasn't shocked by for not provided a bid was Seagrave because they said they couldn't produce the type of truck the committee wanted. Wiegand said he thinks there are labor shortages that contributed to the other companies not being able to get the truck completed per the proposed timeframe.

Bonk confirmed that the radio and headset system will work with what the committee was thinking and Wiegand confirmed that it will.

There is nothing extra-ordinary about the truck. The committee did review the specs and eliminate unnecessary items from the spec. The truck has an increased pump size from 1,500 to 2,000. It will be a five-man cab instead of a six-man cab. The front intake was eliminated on the

truck. MacDonald had the drawings available for review. There will be 1,000 gallons of water on the truck, and a side mount pump panel versus a top mount pump panel.

Petersen confirmed that nothing has changed in terms of wheelbase.

Petersen asked Scherer and Edwards if there was anything they recalled about the last time this process was gone through that should be taken into consideration now. Edwards said there is a lot of time put into creating the specifications for the equipment.

Mathys said sometimes with sticker shock like this, we are automatically drawn to try and cut back but he is wondering how many years this engine will take us and will we still be getting what we need for that time with this truck. Mathys asked if there is something that might have been eliminated that we really ought to have that was eliminated because we are worried about the price. Wiegand said that he doesn't think so, this truck will have a lot of cabinet space for rescue equipment. The department as a rescue truck but it is located at the Carlsville station. Wiegand said the truck should last at least another 20 years or more. Mathys asked if the truck will continue to meet the needs of the community. Wiegand said he thinks so and with the MABAS system, other departments have equipment that can be utilized when needed.

Mathys asked what other ancillary equipment we are going to need in addition to the fire truck from a planning standpoint. MacDonald said there is very limited large expenditures for equipment because we already have a lot. All the existing equipment on the existing truck will be added to the new truck. New equipment will not be purchased just because we are buying a new truck.

The Commission reviewed their role in terms of reviewing the fire truck apparatus. The Joint Village and Town Board will need to review and approve of the purchase or lease of the new truck.

8. Correspondence

None received.

9. Open Session – 10 Minutes

Gilday asked if it would be possible for the fire department to show the public something like an AED machine maybe at Pumpkin Patch. MacDonald reported that this is something the fire department could consider.

10. Set Date, Time, Location and Agenda Items for Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for May 18th, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Paul J Bertschinger Center. Petersen asked the Fire Commissioners to consider if they would like to meet on a different date and/or time for discussion in the future.

11. Adjourn

Edwards moved to adjourn at 7:08 p.m., second by Gilday, motion carried.

Minutes completed by Megan Sawyer Village Administrator, Village of Egg Harbor, submitted for review and approval on May 18th, 2023