

Joint Fire Commission Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 15, 2021 - 6:00 PM
Egg Harbor Town Hall
5242 County Trunk I, Carlsville, WI

James Petersen, President
Pat Gilday, Commissioner
Mack Bonk, Commissioner

Jeremy Schopf, Vice President
Clarence Scherer, Secretary
Bill Edwards, Commissioner

1. Call to order

Petersen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: James Petersen, Jeremy Schopf, Pat Gilday, Clarence Scherer, Mack Bonk and Bill Edwards

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Fire Chief Andy Staats, EMR Crew Chief Ashley Staats, Lynn Ohnesorge

Village and Town Representatives Present: Steve Schopf and John Heller.

2. Adopt agenda

Scherer moved to adopt the agenda.

Gilday second

Motion unanimously carried.

3. Review and approve minutes from August 19, 2021

Corrections: Several commission members noted minor corrections. Petersen moved to approve the minutes from August 19, 2021 with corrections noted.

Edwards second.

Motion unanimously carried.

4. Open session – 10 minutes

Chair Petersen opened the floor for public comment.

- Pam Krauel, Town of Egg Harbor, WI read the following letter.
MANY OF YOU ALREADY KNOW WHO I AM BUT FOR CLARIFICATION I AM PAM KRAUEL, CLERK-TREASURER FOR THE TOWN OF EGG HARBOR FOR 26 YEARS AND A

RESIDENT OF THE TOWN OF EGG HARBOR FOR 43 YEARS ALONG WITH MY HUSBAND STEVE WHO HAS BEEN A RESIDENT OF EGG HARBOR ALL OF HIS LIFE.

I FEEL I HAVE BEEN SILENT FOR LONG ENOUGH AND I WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS THE FIRE COMMISSION MEMBERS ON SOME MATTERS IN RESPECT TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

I HAVE HAD A HISTORY WITH THIS DEPARTMENT FOR THE LAST 26 YEARS BOTH PROFESSIONALLY AND PERSONALLY.

WHEN READING THE MINUTES, I KNOW THERE WAS SOME CONCERNS IN RESPECT TO NOT HAVING LANGUAGE TO REQUIRE HAVING A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA AND OR EQUIVALENT WHEN RECRUITING FIRE PERSONAL. THE MINUTES ALSO SEEM TO REFLECT THERE WAS CLARIFICATION BUT I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH THAT.

APPROXIMATELY 20 YEARS AGO MY SON WAS A SENIOR IN HIGH SCHOOL AND WANTED TO JOIN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, SO FIRE CHIEF AT THAT TIME BOB MUELLER STARTED TO RECRUIT HIM BY ALLOWING HIM TO COME TO MEETINGS, COME ON CALLS TO OBSERVE ONLY AND SIGN UP FOR FIRE FIGHTER ONE CLASSES. OBVIOUSLY, HE DID NOT YET HAVE HIS HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA BUT HE WAS ABLE TO START THE PROCESS AND BY THE TIME HE GRADUATED WAS ABLE TO FULLY JOIN THE DEPARTMENT. HE SERVED ON THE DEPARTMENT FOR MANY YEARS AND ALSO TOOK CLASSES AND BECAME A FIRST RESPONDER ON THE DEPARTMENT. LATER ON WHEN HIS BROTHER WAS OLD ENOUGH HE ALSO BECAME A MEMBER OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT. THIS IS VERY COMMON IN A SMALL COMMUNITY TO OBTAIN NEW MEMBERS THROUGH FAMILY AND WORD OF MOUTH. I HAVE SEEN MANY CHANGES OVER THE YEARS WITH THIS DEPARTMENT BUT THEY HAVE ALWAYS HAD THE SUPPORT OF THEIR COMMUNITY, TOWN AND VILLAGE BOARDS AND FIRE COMMISSION. I NO LONGER SEE THAT WHICH IS VERY DISCOURAGING.

LET ME MAKE MYSELF VERY CLEAR, THE CURRENT APPOINTMENTS TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT MADE BY THE THEN FIRE COMMISSION AND APPOINTMENTS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT HAVE MY FULL SUPPORT AS SO SHOULD THEY HAVE THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE FIRE COMMISSION

AND MEMBERS OF THE TOWN AND VILLAGE BOARD AND IT IS UP TO THEM BY EXAMPLE TO OBTAIN COMMUNITY SUPPORT. NOT EVERYONE HAS TO AGREE WITH THE DECISIONS BUT WHAT IS HAPPENING AND BEING SAID IN THE COMMUNITY IS VERY DISCOURAGING. HOW CAN WE RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS WHEN THE PROFESSIONALS ARE NOT SUPPORTING THEIR DEPARTMENT?

THERE ARE TWO SIDES TO EVERY SITUATION. LET'S GO BACK TO MY SON WHO STARTED THE DEPARTMENT WHILE IN HIGH SCHOOL. A NUMBER OF YEARS AGO HE LEFT THE DEPARTMENT ALONG WITH MY OTHER SON BECAUSE OF PERSONAL THAT WERE ON THE DEPARTMENT. BECAUSE THOSE INDIVIDUALS HAVE RECENTLY LEFT THE DEPARTMENT MY SON HAS REJOINED ALONG WITH RETAKING THE EMR CLASS AND HAS RECRUITED HIS WIFE WHO IS AN LPN TO ALSO TAKE EMR CLASSES TO JOIN THE DEPARTMENT. HE IS NOT THE ONLY ONE THAT HAS COME BACK TO THE DEPARTMENT, BUT UNFORTUNATELY THESE AREN'T THE STORIES YOU ARE AWARE OF.

WHEN MEMBERS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AND EMR'S LEFT BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T LIKE THE NEW LEADERSHIP AND OR HOW IT WAS HANDLED, IT WAS SAID BECAUSE OF THAT THE COMMUNITY LOST GOOD PERSONAL AND COVERAGE. YOU SEE, I HAVE A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE ON THAT, BECAUSE THOSE INDIVIDUALS COULDN'T GET PAST HOW THINGS WERE HANDLED AND OR THE POLITICS INVOLVED, THEY ARE THE ONES THAT BAILED ON THEIR COMMUNITY. THIS IS A VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AND IF YOUR PRIORITY ISN'T TO SERVE AND PROTECT YOUR COMMUNITY AND GET PAST THE POLITICS THEN I GUESS YOU'RE NOT IN IT FOR THE RIGHT REASONS.

THE SAME GOES FOR GOVERNMENT LEADERS SUPPORTING THEIR FIRE DEPARTMENT AND SHOWING YOUR COMMUNITY JUST THAT AND GETTING PAST THE ANIMOSITY.

IF THE NEGATIVITY AND LACK OF SUPPORT CONTINUES YOU WON'T HAVE A FIRE DEPARTMENT AND THEN WHAT WILL BE YOUR SOLUTION?? THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

- Scherer: After our last meeting we were a little pretentious regarding SOP's and SOG's. None of these specify anything regarding recruiting. I don't know of any other department that has a brochure.

This was an effort on the part of the department officers to recruit new members. I think we should be commending them and even helping them out. The Village and the Town are the employers of the Fire Department. I would say they are the ones responsible for recruiting. I believe if they should designate to do that work to the commission or the department. I think we should commend them for organizing the brochure.

Chair Petersen opened the floor for public comment.

5. Review bills for the past month

- The bills for the month were \$727.35. No action needed. For review purposes only.
- JJ Schopf: Who is IMS Alliance?
- Chief Staats: That is who we order the accountability tags through. Personnel has multiple tags assigned. When a truck arrives on the scene, the fire fighters' hand that tag to the officer so they know who is on scene. When they leave the scene, they take the tag back, so they know everyone is accounted for.

6. Fire Chief report

- Chief Staats provided an overview of the eight Fire calls in August as outlined on pages twelve and thirteen in the meeting packet.
- Petersen: How did the Forestville call come in?
- Chief Staats: This call was not operated through the MABIS system. When they requested a squad, one of the departments took a pass. That happens when no one is available. They moved on to us as the next in line. I confirmed who we had available to confirm we could respond appropriately and still maintain coverage for our own fire house. Rescue 24 responded. I remained in communication with the Lieutenant during the entire event.
- Chief Staats: I'm still having some issues with the Knox Boxes. We are going to try to service the existing boxes, but we might want to budget for an update in 2022. I've been dealing with Northern Door Communications for our radios and headsets. His expert is retiring so he is turning that all over to Bay Electric in Sturgeon Bay.
- Peterson: How does the headset work? Is that a direct wire plug in or wireless?
- Chief Staats: Every seat has a headset. They are all active, in communication with all the others. They are also noise cancelling. The Squad 24 equipment has some interference and squelching. That

is the oldest one we have. I put radio upgrades planned for 2028. Officers will be discussing this at our meeting tomorrow.

- Petersen: Could we get a lower rate per unit if we get together with other Fire Departments?
- Chief Staats: That will be on our agenda to discuss. We would have to work out the details on the specific model to go with.
- Scherer: You will be discussing the Knox Boxes tomorrow?
- Chief Staats: This is an ongoing discussion. If we are having issues, there is a good chance it could be isolated to us.
- Chief Staats: I included 24 air packs on the replacement schedule for 2024. Right now, we are running 2,216 PSI. We are one of two municipalities who are still running a low-pressure system. Brussels just received a grant to increase their system to 4,500 PSI. We are projecting over \$320,000 to update our system to a high-pressure system.
- Petersen: Does the increased pressure give the fire fighter an extra 10-15 minutes?
- Chief Staats: Yes, I would say that is accurate. Tender 5 for 2024, Engine 6 is scheduled for replacement in 2025. Truck 21 is scheduled for 2021.
- Scherer: Please email a copy of the equipment replacement schedule to each commission member.
- Petersen: Could you explain the vehicle numbing system? Where are these stationed?
- Chief Staats: Tankers are not referred to as a Tender since it rolls on the ground. At station one we have Brush 20, Engine 6, and Tender 5. Station two has Brush 22, Tender 7, Squad 24, and Truck 21.
- Chief Staats: Asked if any commission members have questions about the 2022 budget items or capital equipment?
- Bonk: In the 2022 budget, what is mileage for? Line 6 and 21 appear to be the same.
- Chief Staats: That is for travel outside the area for conferences and education opportunities. Line 6 is for labor associated to inspections. Line 21 is anything we would need to purchase for doing the inspection.
- Petersen: Does someone from the department do the inspections?
- Chief Staats: For the last few years, we have had the main inspections outsourced. We do any follow ups ourselves. I need to break down those costs with Pam to be sure our numbers are accurate.
- Bonk: The Knox Box is kind of a big deal. It is a critical item. Isn't it?
- Chief Staats: Yes. We do have an override key that we can override

it. We do still have means of utilizing it, but it isn't as convenient. If you take out the turnout gear replacement, we are right in line with last year's budget.

- Bonk: How many sets is that?
- Petersen: What happens to the used turnout gear? Is the turnout gear sanitized on a regular basis?
- Chief Staats: 22 sets. In the past we have donated the equipment through a nonprofit organization that collects similar turn out gear donations to third world countries. Turnout gear is cleaned after every call. It generally takes one to two days for the gear to dry out. Some of the gear that is less than 10 years old I plan to keep as backup equipment. Liners are removed and washed separately.
- Bonk: What is the replacement fire hose line for? Is that for one hose?
- Chief Staats: Fifty-foot hoses are generally \$200 each. It is for any that fail. We used to send it out to replace couplings, but that was almost \$100 to do that. Our larger main supply line hoses are more expensive. I haven't had to replace any of those.
- Petersen: Is each length of hose identified so you know what you are getting?
- Chief Staats: We have all our equipment identified and numbered. If we have one fail, we remove it from service in the system.
- Gilday: During the last training, was that also an inventory check?
- Chief Staats: Yes, we did a monthly truck check at the same time to be sure all the equipment is functioning properly.

7. EMR Chief report

- Ashley Staats provided an overview of the 32 EMR calls in August as presented in the meeting packet.
- Petersen: Will the training of new EMR's help to get more people and improve the situation?
- Ashley Staats: The EMR class started last night with 3 participants. Two are existing EMR's and one would be a new member upon successful completion. We also have one other member who just received her state license.
- Bonk: What are the requirements? You had three enrolled. Were there other people besides Egg Harbor candidates?
- Ashley Staats: I believe they just increased the number of hours for EMR. I would have to check to confirm the new number. Yes, those three are Egg Harbor candidates. There are 8 total in the class from around Door County.

- Bonk: A comment was made in the Village Trustee meeting regarding NWTC, that it is funded by the taxpayers. Several people commented about how disappointed they are in the lack of training for fire fighters and EMR's.
- Staats: That is a sentiment that is shared by Fire Chiefs around the County.
- Gilday: Could you explain the one additional person who got her state license?
- Ashley Staats: She actually works in the ER at the hospital. Now she will also be able to go out on EMR calls. Her experience will be very helpful. We just need to get her equipment.
- Petersen: Can all the Fire Chiefs of Door County get together to push NWTC for better training availability?
- Chief Staats: They have already come to our Chief's meeting and told us everything we wanted to hear. After that, we saw no improvement.

8. Recruitment brochure update/report

- Ashley Staats provided an update on the Recruitment brochure. Once it is finalized, I will share that electronically to post on our website.
- Petersen: Distribution points will be where?
- Ashley Staats: The Village and Town offices, schools, and some of the businesses like the Carlsville gas station. Places that are visited frequently.
- Gilday: Do schools have any involvement with Job Fairs that we are involved in?
- Ashley Staats: Yes, we participate in Job Fairs. Sevastopol just announced that NWTC will be in the school once per week. The EMS services is going to do some recruitment as well.

9. MABIS principles and resources explanation (Box Cards?) update

- Petersen: Could you explain how the MABIS system worked in the example of the Shipwrecked fire?
- Chief Staats: All the fire chiefs got together to agree in advance on what equipment would be available in other communities in the event of a major fire like this. To update our steps this year took the chiefs over 6 hours to figure out. When the first call came in, I immediately activated the MABIS system for Egg Harbor Fire Department only. Key words like "smoke" and "flames" are used to determine an appropriate response. If that call came in today, it will immediately skip to the second step to call in additional equipment and staff as we have agreed in our Mutual Aid agreement. If the event is still bigger than those resources can handle, then we upgrade it to a "Box Alarm"

in the MABIS system. At that point it is recognized by the State as well. That would call in additional equipment and staff. We would like to see more involvement by the Red Cross. There are seven levels in MABIS. Shipwrecked, we hit the 5th alarm level. I believe the Fireside fire went to the 4th alarm level,

- Petersen: So, each step brings in more resources and personal.
- Chief Staats: That is correct. For example, if we go to the Box Alarm level and we need a truck out of Sister Bay, if they are already engaged in their own fire, then the system moves automatically on to the next available municipality. For us that would be Sturgeon Bay next. That is all predetermined, so we aren't trying to figure out resources on the spot.
- Petersen: For clarification, the dispatching is done by the County?
- Chief Staats: That is correct. Everything is setup to make the transition between levels.
- Petersen: The day of the Shipwrecked event, did they assign a single dispatcher to that entire event?
- Chief Staats: They have two dispatchers on staff. That event took both dispatchers to respond. In that case, a corrections officer from the jail that came into assists. We were fortunate that there were no other major events going on at that time. That was a day when it was evident to everyone that we are fortunate that we have the MABIS system in place.
- Gilday: Did the Sheriff's department show up automatically that day?
- Chief Staats: Yes, they showed up right away. The MABIS system is setup through the state, but it is actually a nation-wide system. If you need one specific piece of equipment, like a dive team for example, the system finds the closest available. These costs are not passed on to us as long as it is routed through the MABIS system.
- Petersen: Thank you for the detailed explanation. It sounds like that works very well.

10. Correspondence

- Chair Petersen opened the floor for public correspondence.
- No comments from commission members.

11. Set date, time, location, and agenda items for next meeting

The next meeting will be on October 21, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. at the Village of Egg Harbor Paul Bertschinger Community Center Large meeting room.

Scherer: I would recommend adding a second open session at the end of the meetings.

Chief Staats: We should have updated SOG's and SOP's on the next agenda.

12. Adjourn

Petersen moved to adjourn at 7:14 PM

Bonk second.

Motion unanimously carried.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Lynn Ohnesorge
Village of Egg Harbor
Clerk-Treasurer*

DRAFT