

## Madeline Island Service Report

March 2014

During the month of March we remained in our three team format. As of April 1<sup>st</sup> we will be going back to a two team service. We have tentatively planned to hold our refresher on the last weekend of April and the first weekend of May. This forty hour refresher is required for our state licensing every two years.

We are still using the four wheel drive van ambulance during this ice road season. Drivers are still encouraged to check conditions with Windsled Transportation and ask for assistance if needed. If the ice road is closed due to weather or conditions we will still use the Ice Angel for transport.

We had our regular monthly meeting and training meeting this month. There was a transport and a fire call standby so far in March.

I would like to correct the minutes of the town board meeting held on March. It was stated that I said that we would make up the difference in the cost of CEU's by further fund raising. That is not correct. We will make up the difference by using our Wisconsin State ACT 102 funds. These are funds that a grant is written for each year and is stipulated for education, training and equipment.

The next issue that needs clarification is the retirement plan developed for the fire department by Tom Ketchum. There was only one initial meeting that the EMS officers were made aware of and invited to. The issue with this plan is that it takes a twenty year membership for each individual to reach 100 per cent vestment. A ten year commitment yields only 50 percent. Where this seems like a reasonable plan for the fire department, it is not ideal for an EMT. Twenty years is a very long time for an EMS commitment. Out of our sixteen member service, eight members are also on the fire department. Five of the other members are already nearing or at the age of sixty. This makes the plan less desirable for the EMS service. There are other ways that we are looking into that might better suit the Ambulance Service. I was never given an application or any paperwork to complete. This should not have precluded the fire department from moving ahead with their own plans. Another point to make is that if funds had been needed from our budget to begin this process, there is a line item for retirement and there was money available in our budget if need be.

I have begun the process of reviewing and re-defining the compensation package for EMS. We are members of the organization WEMSA or the Wisconsin EMS Association. I have made the initial contact with a specialist in EMS for the state who is a WEMSA resource. He has been an advisor to many municipalities where levels compensation has become an issue. I have asked him for a proposal on how we work with him as an advisor. I also have contacted Dan Clark of the Washburn EMS Service. He was instrumental in legislation that deals with these issues. Both parties assure me that we are not the first service to face these challenges and that there is a set way in which to proceed

to both the towns and the service's benefit. I have been away for a few weeks and will now get back to working with these resources. Pete Clark is aware of these efforts and I have agreed to inform him on all aspects of this process as we move forward. I believe that in the next few months we will have a solution.

The last item of my report has to do with the transfer of monies from our designated funds. In the budget report of March 20, 2014 there was a summary of these transfers. The ambulance service seems to have a disproportionate amount of money transferred in comparison with other departments. I know this was a discussion after the 2012 budget workshops were completed for the 2013 budget. The amounts that concern us most is the transfer from our Donations account. This account is made up entirely from raffle money, fund-raisers and private donations marked strictly for EMS use. The ambulance replacement fund and the ambulance equipment fund also have some of these donated funds as part of their whole. Pete Clark, Jim Patterson, Barb Nelson and I had a discussion on Monday morning about the issue. There does seem to be a vehicle by which we can protect these types of funds from general use by the town. I have included the page from Barb Nelson's copy of the Wisconsin Town Officer's Handbook. In addition to setting up this account for the remaining amounts from this category, I will be working on getting some of those funds put back into our accounts. I would also like an explanation from the town board as to why the EMS accounts have been targeted more than other departments.

I will be attending the monthly area EMS association meeting this Thursday at MMC.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Dalzell, Madeline Island Service Director