

**Fire Department
January 2024**

Calls

- Smoke in house, 1/16 (25 fire fighters responded)
- Car accident, 1/20 (8 fire fighters responded)

Training meeting

- Size-up, 1/3 (on-the-scene reporting standards, familiarity with Island roads and building conditions) Attendance: 19 members (3 excused absences, 7 non-excused)

Other meetings

- Planning, 1/17 (non-mandatory): 8 members present
- Apparatus, 1/25 (non-mandatory): 1 member present

Special task/training

- 1/14 (6 members)
- 1/16 (2 members)
- 1/17 (2 members)
- 1/18 (2 members)

Be safe.
Chief Reichkitzer

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FEB 12 2024

Initial: dg

Fire Department February 2024

2/7 training

Water shuttle training with multiple portable ponds. Each of the 3 tankers have collapsible water storage "ponds" that we deploy during calls that need plenty of water. Tankers dump their load into these ponds and head to the trailer pump/dry hydrant to refill and repeat the process. We are training to use multiple ponds (2-4 connected together) and feeding Engine 2; it acts as a manifold delivering water to Engine 1, which can be 1-2 thousand feet away. Engine 1's multiple hose lines supply water to the fire.

21 members present, 4 excused absences, 4 non-excused absences, 1 extended leave

2/21 planning meeting

7 members present

Notable happenings.

Assistant chief Alan Hardie is on an extended leave from the department until further notice. Assistant chief Joseph Wiltz will assume all assistant chief duties.

Assistant chief Hardie was in charge of our drone program as well. Next in line is Jack Nelson, who at 16 years of age will do just fine with this responsibility. Drone pilots are licensed and, besides Jack, Andrew Eldred received his training; two more members are in the process.

New recruits starting Firefighter 1 training as follows:

Kai Castillo
Kevin Crawford
Lilah Guertin
Shadi Joudeh
Hillary Nelson
Jack Nelson
Nick Mantano
Nathan Reichkitzer

If you see these recruits on the street, please wish them luck and thank them for their time.

Be safe,
Chief Reichkitzer

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MAR 11 2024

Initial: cg

Fire Chief Report

3/6 Wildfire Refresher

Kara Oikarinen came from the Washburn DNR station to train and do her yearly inspection of our gear, wildfire training and tools. She gave a brief introduction to fighting wildfire to a lot of new faces this year.

We pulled out our two trucks set up with "slide in" water storage and pumps. We also own one the bigger "pump and roll" rigs in the area with our Tanker #3 Peterbuilt. This 2,500-gallon tanker has an on-board pump that can fill the tank as well as supply hose lines. It's very handy all around, including filling the water reservoirs in our two brush trucks.

Kara, as usual, gave us a super review and thinks highly of our skillset and equipment. We are the first defense in the event of wildfire and are on our own until we ferry over the DNR if they are available to help.

Kara and I discussed again how we go about dealing with people when it comes to brush/grass fires and people without burning permits. Unfortunately, it costs the town a minimum of \$500 when we have to respond to illegal fire activities. The answer is simple: we gather pictures and information on the illegal fire activity, send it directly to the DNR, and they issue the tickets and court dates. Burning without a permit or not following the rules of an issued permit will get you a fine for the first offense. The 2nd offense is a fine and possible jail time. Both get you a date at the courthouse.

Attendance to the wildfire refresher: 21 members, 6 excused, 2 not excused

4/6

The eight recruits for entry-level Firefighter 1 put in a Saturday of learning the proper techniques in spraying water with a variety of nozzles and different-size hose lays. A squad of pumper operators and tanker drivers set up 2 portable ponds behind Engine #1 with a jet siphon that keeps water flowing from one pond to the next and into the truck. The 3 tankers kept filling the ponds and kept constant water flowing to hose lines and a deck gun. This was invaluable training for everyone involved.

4/20

Seven of the eight newbies headed down to the Northwood Tech training center in Ashland to complete the last leg of their FF1 training. This was full of anticipation and excitement (and maybe a little anxiousness) as this day they put on their gear, strapped on the SCBA, and went into a burn simulator trailer. Very real fire and smoke conditions and very hot. Me and training officer Tyler Andreas showed up to watch and congratulate the members as they completed the final testing. Everyone did great some did great 3 times in the burn simulator. One member could not make this training, but he will line up another live burn to complete his training. We can't be any prouder of the largest group of new firefighters to join La Pointe fire/rescue in many years.

Fire departments around the USA have a major problem with recruiting and retention, but not Madeline Island. All is well.

Be Safe,
Chief Reichkitzer

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MAY 7 2024

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Above: Recruits learn to mänge different nozzles. Below: Self-contained breathing apparatus makes recruits Hilary Nelson, Lilah Guertin, "Firecracker Jack" Nelson and Shadi Joudeh incognito during live burn training. Right: Shadi Joudeh (top) and Nathan Reichkitzer, unmasked.



Fire Chief Report

5/1 Training

We spread out pretty good on this training night:

- A group set up and did inventory of all our ropes, harnesses and other equipment used mainly for "low angle steep slope" rescue. This gear could be used at any of our cliffs and ravine.
- Another group took our trailer pump to our Umbrage road "dry hydrant," our primary water source and tanker filling pond for the north end.
- Another group took Engine 1 to Schoolhouse corner, pulled out 2 hose lines, and practiced the fine art of water deployment (sprayed water)
- 3 drivers 3 tankers practiced water shuttle from water source to engine crew.

Side note: the engine team was Lucas Montagne (driver and pump operator) and 3 newer members (Hillary Nelson, Nathan Reichkitzer and Lilah Guertin). I keep reminding the older members that we need to get the next generation comfortable with all the equipment even though it's tempting to be the first to jump in and drive the big shiny new equipment.

Attendance: 16 present, 6 excused, 7 not excused

6/5 training

- Presentation by our "in house" dive team that opened the floor for questions and discussion. They also went over all their gear and explained it in detail. Discussion on how and when to deploy and what the rest of the department's role is. Identified equipment still needed and possible funding scenarios. Dive team as follows: Zach Montagne, team leader; Peter Wiggins; Kyle Kruchten; Lucas Montagne; Jack Nelson, surface support
- Practiced the never-ending training of water shuttle. This month, we exercised the smaller portable pumps carried on each tanker.
- Election of chief. Voted in for another 4 years by unanimous vote of members.

Attendance: 25 present, 2 excused, 2 not excused (Awesome Attendance)

7/3 training

Election of officers that rolled into washing trucks for the parade and assigning drivers. Followed with nice "Chief's Dinner" that was catered by the Beach Club and assistant chief Jay Wiltz.

Results and summary of elections:

Chief: Rick Reichkitzer

Assistant chief: J Wiltz

Assistant chief: Tyler Andreas

Captain: Tim Eldred

Lieutenant: Peter Wiggins

Lieutenant: Tavis Pearson

Lieutenant: Lucas Montagne

Lieutenant: Kyle Kruchten

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JUL 8 2024

Initial: dg

Appointed

Safety officer: Chris Wolf

Lead mechanic: Brian Nelson

Lead pumper operator: Alan Hardie

Head of wildfire program: Joe Noha

Head of dive team: Zach Montagne

Recent calls

4/19: Downed powerline. 14 members full response; 2 stand-by

4/23: Smoke alarm at our school. 10 members full response

5/22: Downed powerline. 13 members full response; 2 stand-by

5/28: Lift assist. 8 members full response

5/29: Lift assist. 6 members full response

Be safe,

Chief Reichkitzer

From: Rick Reichkitzer <firechief@townoflapointewi.gov>

Subject: Fire Chiefs report

6/16

Assisted EMS with a possible heart attack call at BIG Bay town park.

So the patient was across the lagoons outlet (stream coming out of the lagoon) because of that this was labeled a "high water rescue"

Fire fighter's and EMS carried him across the channel to the bottom of the steps. We the transferred him from long board to "stair chair" then up the steps to the awaiting ambulance.

Side note is patient knew the fire chief from 26 years ago and let everyone know that over and over. I'm still not quite sure who he was.

10 fire fighter's full response and 1 standing by at hall.

7/8

Downed powerlines on the sailboat that hit them with their mast. This call was a powerline call that we started using the drone to investigate. We blocked of the area until Excel energy arrived to relieve us.

12 responders to the scene and 8 with stand down orders.

7/14 moped accident with lift assist on the corner of big bay road and north shore road. This corner has had numerous calls over the years. We have asked the county for better signage with no action.

14 responders

A misunderstanding by law enforcement initiated onother false alarm moped lift assist 30 minutes later to the same corner.

13 responders

8/6 search and rescue. We were toned out for a young person that went missing for reasons I'll not report for respect to the family.

We set up a command center and sent out search teams. 90 minutes later we made contact with missing person and was returned home.

We had a little problem with one emergency worker freelancing and making calls to search and rescue agencies without knowledge of incident command. This will be worked out so it shouldn't happen again and have us doubling up on the same calls.

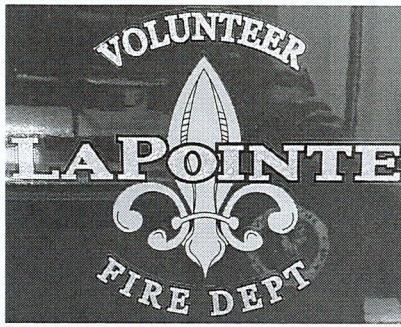
19 responders on this evening call.

8/7 training....We debriefed the search and rescue call the night before. We took the opportunity to brush up on training and pass some knowledge to the newest responders. We also discussed the chain of command on these calls and the incident command system.

Sarah Shram the interim ambulance director came to the meeting to recruit EMR and EMT with pretty good success as 12 people are taking the next steps to further serve our community.

Be safe

Chief Reichkitzer



(5) TB, TA, A, Clerk, Public

To the Chief and Town Board,
Fire Training Weekend Summary:

The LaPointe Volunteer Fire Department applied for and received a training grant with the help of Northwood Tech. The grant was only open to rural & remote departments that normally have trouble getting the school, all their props and trainers into these areas for training. This is something that has been on the table for about a year now, so it was nice to see it come to fruition.

The school showed up with all of their big guns. They brought 10-12 instructors and some props that involve live fire. Other training opportunities included Tree Stand Rescue, involving ropes & knots. The school also brought their SCBA Confidence Course trailer, which is a large trailer full of obstacles to climb through while wearing air packs, in the dark. This can very intimidating for the newbies and provides great training. The "burn trailer", designed to simulate a structure fire. This gives us an opportunity to practice an interior attack on live fire, helping us become more confident in very dangerous situations. Northwood Tech also brought some props, such as a mock car, that connects to propane tanks and can be triggered to blast huge amounts of fire on demand. These are designed to get us into a live fire under a controlled and safe situation, so we can get used to these conditions and make the best decisions possible when the time comes.

By the school's standards, this was a huge success. They were very impressed with our large and highly motivated department. Our roster is one of the largest in several counties and that is something the school does not take lightly. Normally, they offer these classes one at a time, at a centrally located department or campus and many surrounding departments show up to participate. Not the case here,

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the school was promised a room full of eager learners and we delivered.

In conclusion, several of the top brass with the Northwood Tech Fire Services Program, from campuses south of here, showed up for this event. They had a great time and saw how seriously we take our training. Many of the top decision makers for the school & fire department are already excited at the prospect of doing it again next year.

Respectfully,
Tyler Andreas, Firefighter #002, *Since 1994*
Training Officer & Assistant Chief

From: Rick Reichkitzer <firechief@townoflapointewi.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, December 17, 2024 6:46 PM

To: Glenn Carlson <carlson@townoflapointewi.gov>; Alex Smith <clerk@townoflapointewi.gov>; isg@cheqnet.net <isg@cheqnet.net>

Subject: Fire chiefs report

As 2024 is wrapping up the department is in good shape with a ton of training this past year. We have a full roster with 3 members probably ready to hang it up. I'll let everyone know so we can thank them for thier service. I'm proud of the fire fighters that signed up for the EMR training program as that will most certainly fill in the EMT roster. A big part of being in good shape is the way we keep up general maintenance and preventative maintenance on our apparatus. We have our lead engineer (Brian Nelson) who's job is as follows.

....exercise the apparatus that hasn't been on the road for a month. The amount of weight on the 2 engines and 3 tankers will actually affect the tires when sitting in the same position too long. A few miles down the road keep them in shape (round)

....start all apparatus and check all fluids and battery levels monthly.

...Brian also takes on a few extra tasks that don't need to be outsourced. Setting up pumps/brackets/general equipping of apparatus that all goes through our "apparatus commitee"

...Brian also services all our smaller gas appliances...chainsaws, portable pumps and wild fire gear.

....The major maintenance and repairs goes to BIG Water Apparatus who we have under contract to do just that. Chief Jeff hood a decade or so ago seen our frustration as we had many problems with apparatus that a part time lead engineer could never keep up with. Having emergency vehicles/equipment that don't function properly can be a huge liability for the town and the fire chief. Jeff as a mechanic had the same problem with the red cliff fire department equipment. Redcliff, Washburn, Port Wing, Iron River, Hayward, Bad river, Ely Minnesota, HermanTown and a couple dozen other departments highly recommended Steve Adamski the owner of the company BIG Water Apparatus for fleet maintenance and repairs. With a recommendation from Jeff Hood Steve Adamski gave our fleet a look and we were very lucky to get him under contract. The first year he had his hands full with getting our equipment up to N.F.P.A. standards (national fire prevention association) finally when the call went out and the doors opened we could pretty much count on everything starting, running, moving and operating properly. Over the years we had a few major repairs i couldn't imagine where we would have secured a mechanic with Steve's background without breaking the bank. A very important thing Steve does is keeps maintenance records on all of our vehicles. When the tragedy happened and we lost our hall and apparatus Steve was here the next day to offer his help on replacing what we lost. As we rebuilt the fleet he started over with the maintenance and record keeping. Most of our equipment was used and needed to be gone through with a fine toothed comb. The phrase preventative maintenance is seeing and identifying future problems that could be expensive, dangerous and often avoidable through preventative maintenance. This is what big water apparatus does for many departments and we are very lucky to have him. Last year alone we extended the life of tanker 2 to make sure it serves us well until it's upcoming scheduled replacement.

Big water apparatus also performs our mandatory yearly pump testing on our 2 engines/pumpers. This used to be done by a company from Blaine Minnesota for almost double the cost.

Just a summary of why we contract with Steve and BIG Water Apparatus.

Be safe and rest assured that when our department heads to a call we have done a lot to make sure everything gets there.

Chief Reichkitzer