

Egg Harbor Joint Fire Commission Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 21, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.
Bertschinger Center
7860 State Hwy 42, Egg Harbor, 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, Clarence Scherer, Pat Gilday, Bill Edwards, and Mack Bonk
Commissioners absent:
Staff present: Fire Chief Justin MacDonald, EMR Crew Chief Dale Wiegand and Lynn Ohnesorge
Municipal Representatives present: John Heller
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of Agenda
Edwards moved to approve the agenda, second by Scherer, motion carried.
4. Review and Approve of Minutes from June 16, 2022
Petersen moved to approve the minutes from June 16, 2022, second by Bonk, motion carried.
5. Open Session – 10 minutes
 - **Schopf:** Asked what the Commissioners thought about going to having the Joint Fire Commission meetings every other month or once a quarter. The monthly meetings last about 25 minutes. Personal issues seem to be quiet and smooth.
 - **Bonk:** He would go along with meeting less often. Also, Ohnesorge is by herself for some period of time in the Village office and this might give her a bit of a break.
 - **Scherer:** It is ok with him.
 - **Petersen:** He agrees. If something urgent came up the Commissioners could call a meeting if needed.
 - **Schopf:** We should keep the third Thursday as a stand-by if needed.
 - **Gilday:** Maybe try every other month & then try quarter.
 - **Petersen:** What is the consensus of the group?
 - **Scherer:** I would start with every other month.
 - **Gilday:** Was the Door County Emergency Support Coalition started by the Fire Chiefs in the County because of Covid?
 - **Fire Chief MacDonald:** Yes.
 - **Gilday:** How about the other organization that supports during fires.
 - **Fire Chief MacDonald:** That is our incident support team.

- **Gilday:** If people are interested in joining the support team who would they go to?
- **Fire Chief MacDonald:** He will point people in the right direction of who to contact. Chief Hecht out of Sister Bay and Chief Bertges out of Gibraltar are running that.

6. Review of Bills from June, 2022

See bills attached

- **Petersen:** what is the fiscal calendar year for operations?
- **Ohnesorge:** The fiscal calendar year is from January to December.
- **Petersen:** Do we have any idea where we are with expenses to budget so far this year?
- **Fire Chief MacDonald:** They will be starting to work on the budget soon. He is waiting for the Town Clerk to get the numbers audited so she can send this to him. He wants to make sure all of payroll is in the numbers the Town Clerk sends to him.
- **Petersen:** What are the different phone bills for.
- **Fire Chief MacDonald:** Frontier is for fire station #1's internet and phone. They hope to change to charter.
- **Petersen:** In regard to the Packer City International bill is the pumper truck issue solved?
- **Fire Chief MacDonald:** Yes, the pumper truck is fixed.

7. Fire Chief Report

See report attached.

- The intersection of Hwy. County E and Heritage Lake Road has a place for car accidents lately.
- Windsong Bluff Drive is a gravel driveway halfway and the other half is just a grass drive going up a hill.

This fire was dispatched as a grass fire and then turned into a house fire.

The Fire Chief upgraded the auto aid to one of the Mabas cards to bring some more resources.

The truck from Carlsville arrived in about 12 minutes which is pretty good for a volunteer department.

He made the decision to lay large damer hose up the driveway.

They ran out of hose at 1,500 feet. They laid another 1,000 plus feet of hose.

Jacksonport Fire and Sturgeon Bay Fire helped complete the water supply.

They put another truck part way up the hill to boost the hose pressure.

He gives Andy Staats a lot of credit for being able to get the fire truck in the right spot.

The house was in a wooded overgrown area that sat right on the bluff.

It was a very windy day.

Luckily where the fire crew was there wasn't any wind to contend with or they would have had a forest fire to contend with too.

Lots of credit goes to Jason Staats's son Jasper Staats.

Jasper just joined the department a year ago and ran the pump seamlessly.

Jasper gets a lot of kudos from the Fire Chief and the guys for doing such a great job.

Unfortunately, when the fire crew got to the scene the house was a good part involved in the rafters.

The home was built about 25 years ago and it was the owner's summer home. The homeowner was burning something in the burn barrel and went back inside the house and when he came back outside the side of the house was on fire.

The owner tried to put out the fire with a garden hose.

They had all the main land fire departments at this fire including eight from Kewaunee County, Algoma Fire, Denmark and New Franken out of Brown County.

They are part of their Mabas cards. Denmark Fire is on the Mabas card to back fill the Carlsville station in case they get another call.

They set up a fill sight at the Carlsville station.

Gibraltar Fire went to the Carlsville station fill sight.

The secondary fill sight was down on White Cedar off of Bay Shore.

The large Sister Bay fire truck blew a tire out on the way to the secondary fill sight.

He asked Chief Dietman from Sturgeon Bay for another fill sight at Tractor Supply.

They were using a lot of water to knock the fire down.

The Carlsville fire station only has 20,000 gallons of water under the floor and cistern.

It takes a couple of days to fill up the cistern with 20,000 gallons of water.

They had a couple of trucks bring up water to fill the cistern, so they had water in case they had another fire.

It was about \$100,000 loss to the property owner.

The fire department used about 100,000 gallons of water fighting this fire.

They used about 100 gallons of foam, which they typically never use on a fire.

They used the foam because they couldn't get safely in the building to put the hot spots out.

The fire fighters were at the scene until about 3:30 p.m.

They washed the hose because it was laying in poison ivy.

Fire Chief MacDonald went back to the scene about 9:00 p.m. and there wasn't a hot spot to be found.

Fire Chief MacDonald can't thank the mutual aid partners enough for coming.

Fire Chief MacDonald received a phone call from the DNR about concerns of how much foam they used on this fire because of the recent concern of P-phos in foam being hazardous.

Fire Chief MacDonald explained to the DNR that he purchases the foam from the DNR so it doesn't have P-phos in it.

The forestry service uses the same foam, and it is USDA approved.

- **Petersen:** How is the fuel situation at fire scenes handled when trucks from other departments are hauling water into the scene? Does this department pay for the fuel or do the other departments pay?
- For run of the mill calls each department pays for their own fuel for trucks.
- Two weeks ago, when they responded to a call in Combined Locks, Quick Trip paid for all the fuel for every truck that stopped there.
- **Petersen:** Do you want to go into the Combined Locks call?

- Fire Chief MacDonald:** The Egg Harbor fire department was requested to go to a call in Combined Locks with a large fire at a paper bail storage warehouse. The fire started about 10:30 a.m. The Sister Bay fire department has a truck with a mile of hose on it. About 5:15 p.m. Fire Chief MacDonald received a call asking to send five engines to the Combined Locks fire. Fire Chief MacDonald made some calls and put a crew together with two Fire Chiefs from the County and four other fire trucks from the County. The crew arrived in Combined Locks at 9:40 p.m. They pumped water from 11:00 p.m. that night to about 5:00 a.m. the next morning supplying an aerial ladder and hand lines. They started their journey back home around 7:45 a.m. and arrived home about 10:00 a.m. That is the first time the Egg Harbor fire department has been deployed outside Door County as a strike team. There were about 67 different fire departments and about 700 emergency personnel working at the fire.

Gilday: When your team goes in is it to relieve the people that have been there for 8-10 hours.

Fire Chief MacDonald: Yes. The current team working the fire shut down their hoses and our moved in and hooked up our hoses. This was a 130,000 sq ft warehouse of paper on fire.

8. EMR Report

See attached report

- The neck braces arrived, so they will be training on putting those on.

9. Correspondence

10. Open Session – 10 minutes

- **Scherer:** He would like one of the Joint Fire Commissioners to be on the New Truck Committee.
- **Fire Chief MacDonald:** He will talk to Assistant Fire Chief Jason Staats about that.
- **Scherer:** Does anyone want to volunteer to be on the New Truck Committee?
- **Bonk:** He is out of town too much.
- **Petersen:** In the past were there one or two Joint Fire Commissioners at the New Truck Committee meetings?
- **Scherer:** They would talk about it at the Joint Fire Commission meetings in the past.
- **EMR Crew Chief Wiegand:** They are just getting started with gathering information. Once they have some information, they plan on bringing it to the Joint Fire Commission. Approving any new apparatus is part of the Commissioners job.

Petersen read the letter below for the official record:

July 20, 2022

Chief MacDonald
Egg Harbor Fire Department
Egg Harbor, Wisconsin

Chief MacDonald,

Recent responses to Major Fire Incidents by the Egg Harbor Fire Department, have most certainly taxed the resourcefulness of your Department and all neighboring Fire Departments, have not gone unnoticed by the Egg Harbor Fire Commission.

The June 26 structure fire at 6072 Windsong Bluff Drive, Town of Egg Harbor was most certainly a challenge...with the half-mile long driveway with encroaching trees, initial water supply, LDH hose lays, tender water shuttles and the suppression of the house fire most certainly deserves a big community Thank You!!!!

The Combined Locks Paper Warehouse Fire calls into focus just how well the MABAS, (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System) works for the benefit of all. The job done by all the participating Fire Departments is most commendable.

The Egg Harbor Fire Commission acknowledges and thanks the men and women of the Egg Harbor Fire Department, and all neighboring Fire Departments for their response in dealing with the June 26 Fire response.

Egg Harbor Fire Commission



James B. Petersen
President
6/24/22

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

- **Ohnesorge:** The Village has an Owl and TV to be able to do hybrid meetings in person at the Bertschinger and by Zoom.
- The Commissioners discussed how often to meet and meeting less often.
- **Ohnesorge:** You might have to meet more often in the 4th quarter because of it being budget time.

The next meeting is September 15, 2022 at the Bertschinger Center at 6:00 p.m.

12. Adjourn

Schopf moved to adjourn, second by Gilday, motion carried.

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