

JOINT FIRE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 6:00 PM
Egg Harbor Town Hall
5242 County Rd. 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, Clarence Scherer, Pat Gilday, Mack Bonk and Bill Edwards.
Commissioners absent: None
Staff present: Dale Wiegand, Justin MacDonald and Lynn Ohnesorge
Municipal representatives present: Steve Schopf and John Heller
2. Pledge of Allegiance
Petersen asked for a moment of silence in memory of Dale Wiegand's brother, who passed away a couple of days ago. It is a family tragedy. Dale on behalf of the Commission our sympathy's go out to you and your family.
3. Approval of agenda
Scherer moved to approve the agenda, second by Edwards, motion carried.
4. Review and Approve Minutes from November 18, 2021.
Bonk moved to approve the minutes from November 18, 2021 as amended, second by Gilday, motion carried.
5. Open session – 10 minutes
Scherer: Asked Dale Wiegand if the three EMR trainees have passed their test.
Dale Wiegand: Two of the EMR trainees have passed the test and are certified with the State. One EMR trainee is waiting to take the test.
Scherer: Is the pump fixed on truck #6?
Dale Wiegand: Yes.
Bonk: Has anyone inquired about the residency for the Fire Chief applicants?
Ohnesorge: She hasn't had any of the applicants inquire with her.
Steve Schopf: The SOP for Fire Chief states everything they need to know about residency.
6. Review of Bills from November/December, 2021.
Dale Wiegand: The bill review goes to the Town & Village Board. The bills aren't in the Fire Commission's scope to look at according to our agreement with the Village.
Scherer: The Fire Commission likes to review the bills.
Dale Wiegand: I don't have any bills for you to review.
7. Fire Chief Report.
 - 11 Fire department calls since November 18, 2021.
 - 3 MABAS calls

- 2 fire alarms no fire
- 1 tree down on road by Chief Oshkosh
- 1 personal injury accident cancelled in route
- 1 outdoor furnace soot only
- 1 called to brush fire with permit (called in by person passing by)
- 1 smoke coming out of vents in shed (tractor running in shed by alpine)
- 1 hazmat fuel oil spill (DNR was involved)
- Held three fire meetings with training.
- Held two officer meetings.
- Engine #6 is back from repair.
- Ladder truck is at Red Power getting repaired.
- The next truck to get repaired is truck #5.
- The Egg Harbor Fire Association approved the \$5,000 for the Wildland PPE. The fitting for the gear is coming up on the 27th. Will get this in for the DNR grant.
- Gas detectors were ordered.
- They are going to be renumbering the trucks. It is required now to have a 3-digit numbering system for all trucks. All of Egg Harbor's trucks will start with the number 3. This will make it easier for dispatch to know what truck is at a scene. Right now, they can have a few #8 trucks at the same scene. Sturgeon Bay Fire Department already renumbered their trucks at the beginning of the year.

8. EMR Report

- 16 Medical calls since the last Fire Commission meeting.
- Held two EMR meetings with bourn pathogen training and ambulance training.
- The County hired seven more paramedics to work the ambulances. They work a 48-hour shift.

Edwards: Who pays for the bills.

Dale Wiegand: The taxpayers pay the paramedics wages and the County bill's the insurance companies for some of the charges.

9. Correspondence

- **Scherer:** Asked if there was something the commission should do in response to an article in the League of Wisconsin Municipality magazine titled "Do Wisconsin's local fire and emergency medical services need resuscitation?" Should we write our state representatives to help alleviate the situation?
- **Steve Schopf:** The Town of Egg Harbor put some of the federal grant money they received towards the fire department wages. This only helps one year. It doesn't continue into future years and is a temporary fix.
- **Dale Weigand:** There is talk about trying work towards legislation to get the IRS the money paid to EMRs and Fire Fighters be tax free and pay mileage. There is an opportunity with the Village to get the Village employees to become EMRs or Fire Fighters. When there is a call, they can leave work and go on the call. This is a win for the Village. During the daytime is when it is harder to get people to respond to calls. If you want more information let Dale know and he will come and talk to you.
- **Petersen:** Justin what is Ephraim doing. Do they have some of their employees as Fire Fighters and EMR's responding to calls during the day when they are working for the Village of Ephraim?

- **Justin MacDonald:** Yes, Ephraim does have some of the Public Works employees as members of the Ephraim fire department. They are allowed to leave work and go on a call. If the call lasts over two hours, then you would need to punch out of work with the Village. Baileys Harbor also has some Public Works employees that respond to calls during their work hours with the Town. Now a lot of employers do not allow you to leave work and respond to an emergency call like they did twenty years ago.
- **Steve Schopf:** You need to get local businesses ok with letting employees leave work to respond to local calls.
- **Scherer:** Has the County considered using the County sales tax for emergency services?
- **Dale Wiegand:** He doesn't think anyone ever pursued that.
- **Steve Schopf:** The County is already using the County sales tax for other things they would have to give up. By law there are certain things the sales tax can be used for. You can't use the sales tax to offset your general fund.
- **Dale Wiegand:** Maybe get room tax changed down in Madison to have a percentage go towards emergency services. It might be worth talking to Joel Kitchens about changing the room tax to get 5% off the top to go towards emergency services in the County.
- **Bonk:** Does an ambulance show up to every EMR call?
- Yes.
- **Bonk:** Can who ever arrives at an emergency scene call off the ambulance if they aren't needed?
- **Justin MacDonald:** If it is a person that fell out of their chair the EMR can call off the ambulance, but otherwise 99.9% of the time the ambulance will show up if called to a scene.
- **Bonk:** Why isn't the Fire Department charging for EMR's responding to a scene?
- **Justin MacDonald:** The EMR and fire department wages is in the budget and paid for with tax dollars.
- **Dale Wiegand:** The County doesn't charge anyone for a call if they don't put you in the ambulance and take you to the hospital.
- **Steve Schopf:** There are laws in Wisconsin that dictate when you can charge someone for responding to a scene. If you are responding to a tax paying resident, you cannot charge them unless it is a grass or wildland fire. If it is someone visiting you can, but you can spend more money trying to collect it than what you gain. Like a nonresident has a car accident you can charge them or collect from their insurance company.
- **Justin MacDonald:** Brussels charges the insurance companies for all the car accidents they respond to. They receive over 90% return. How much time are you going to spend doing all the paperwork.
- **Steve Schopf:** You need to have someone that has time to do all the paperwork.
- **Gilday:** Asked Justin MacDonald if the Ephraim Public Works employees that respond to calls has the same training as everyone else.
- **Justin MacDonald:** Yes. They come to the monthly trainings.
- Dale Wiegand will call Joel Kitchens and find out what plans they have on this issue.

10. Recommend motion to MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION per State Statute 19.85 (1)(c) considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation regarding the Fire Chief position and then to RETURN TO OPEN SESSION to take further action or to adjourn the meeting.

Petersen moved to go into closed session per State Statute 19.85 (1)(c) considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation regarding the Fire Chief position and then to return to open session to take further action or to adjourn the meeting second by Scherer; roll call vote was taken, Petersen – aye, Schopf – aye, Gilday – aye, Scherer – aye, Bonk – aye, Edwards – aye, motion carried.

Bonk moved to return into open session, second by Schopf, roll call vote was taken, Petersen – aye, Schopf – aye, Gilday – aye, Scherer – aye, Bonk – aye, Edwards – aye, motion carried.

11. Open Session – 10 minutes
12. Set Date, Time, Location, and Agenda Items for Next Meeting.
The next meeting will be at the Kress Pavilion on February 16, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.
13. Adjourn
Bonk moved to adjourn, second by Gilday, motion carried.

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