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**Sent:** Sunday, June 6, 2021 8:22 AM

**To:** Micaela Montagne <[clerk@townoflapointewi.gov](mailto:clerk@townoflapointewi.gov)>; Michael Kuchta <[administrator@townoflapointewi.gov](mailto:administrator@townoflapointewi.gov)>; Evan Erickson <[isg@cheqnet.net](mailto:isg@cheqnet.net)>

**Subject:** Fire chiefs report may 2021

I want to thank my staff and the entire fire department for the extreme efforts they endured during the recent years that included rebuilding a complete fire department from literally the ground up. I have met and talked with numerous chiefs and fire fighters that understand what we accomplished in a couple years normally takes a minimum of a decade or more that usually doesn't result in what we accomplished. Besides the building that ended up being an achievement in itself we had to replace every apparatus and the enormous amount of tools and gadgets that go with effectively being able to fight fires, perform the delicate tasks evolved in search and rescue and the programs that promote fire safety in general. The work will never be done as our training programs are an endless road to getting to know and master all these new tools and apparatus as well a living breathing building that we are merely the stewards to keep it that way.

When I took over as chief and with the help of my officers and staff as well as the town officials many thing have come a long way besides dwelling on the tragedy of loosing a fire hall. We have a actual retirement plan, a fire inspection program that's had to be built twice during my time as chief. A fire awareness with the community that has resulted in less calls due to our diligence in enforcement of burning permits and the rules that need to be followed with said "burning permits " we also now have the ability to ticket and fine violators is these common sense rules are not followed. Not everyone is happy when this gets explained to them, especially if it evolves unattended fires during moderate to extreme fire danger. All these programs and rules are aimed towards life/safety protection with the preservation of properties and dwellings. Any time the department gets toned out to calls whether its a false alarm or not the cost to the town and taxpayers generally is around \$500 and goes higher from there depending on the extent and duration of the call and resources used. Not everyone is happy being told what to do on there own properties but they need to realize the danger and cost to the the taxpayers when we need come running.

Another program that has come a long way is the paying proper respect to our fallen firefighters when they pass away. We will always have a traditional firefighter honor guard funeral when possible. Scott stoltz fire department honor guard funeral unfortunately was the third in my time as chief, Josh Reynolds and Larry Whalen preceded Scott's. This was a very tough send off for the whole crew and took its toll on me being his friend since the early seventies. I feel we did a very honorable job by waiting for the earliest possible time to get his family to the island and negotiate the covid awareness formalities. I can't thank my crew enough for assisting me in getting through this terrible loss of a friend and firefighter.

Our training calander is full and fire inspections will be completed generally before the 4th of July now that the restrictions imposed due to covid are being slowly lifted.

Be safe

Chief Rick Reichkitzer

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy Tablet

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