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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