
Fire chiefs report

From Rick Reichkitzer <firechief@townoflapointewi.gov>

Date Mon 1/13/2025 6:52 PM

To Max Imholte <administrator@townoflapointewi.gov>; Alex Smith <clerk@townoflapointewi.gov>; isg@cheqnet.net <isg@cheqnet.net>

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Officer Lucas Montagne has taken on the flooding of the ice rink this winter. In the absence of Alan Hardie who was our main pumper operator Lucas has trained hard to become a good operator. With his assistant Jack Nelson they have put many thousands of gallons onto the rink area. They have used tanker 3 with its on board pump for the most part. I suggested using engine #1 to get some traing with that apparatus and spraying water from hose lines. Upon checking on the progress I noticed some antifreeze under the truck. Since purchase we have smelled antifreeze when working it. Reporting this to Brian Nelson our lead engineer 1st summer hin and Tyler spoke with vendor that put this engine/pumper together. We were told to monitor this and chalked it up to a "new truck smell" this time it was reported to the public works director and the lead engineer. This on-going issue prompted me to bring in the big guns. Calling Steve Adamski from big water apparatus on a Wednesday he showed up the next day. Looking over the coolant system he found numerous hose clamps that needed attention. All this is documented if it turns into an issue down the road. Steve also looked into an ongoing issue with the chiefs truck and also met with our new town administrators. BIG Water Apparatus has a great track record with previous administrators including Lisa Potswald and Michael Kutchta. I'm sure he and Max will also work well together.

...upcoming training.

January 18 we have been invited by the united states Coast Guard to participate in a multijurisdictional ice rescue training. Washburn, Bayfield and Red Cliff will join the Coast Guard in practical joint training. When Coast Guard chief Kyle Love called me he appreciated the history I shared of training and actual calls. He didn't fully realize our role. We are the premiere ice rescue team north of Washburn and our jurisdiction includes the Apostle Islands. We have 4 wind sleds at our disposal, the largest team of fire fighters/ice rescue specialists in the area fully equipped. Jay wiltz is a certified instructor so we can do our own certification on the island. On the 18th we will fly our drone to the souix River sloughs and make sure we have enough ice for the fire departments husky rescue sled. If so we will put 6 in the sled and the rest will have to go by ferry if they wish to participate.

...January 22nd we have a joint training with EMS were we will practicing vehicle extraction with "the jaws of life" I'm always thrilled when the two services train together.

Be safe
Chief Reichkitzer

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