

(5)TB, michael, Barb,
micaela, Fire, Public

Fire Department
January 2022

Another trip around the sun.

December was busy for the department in terms of tidying up the membership requirement points for retirement, going through our list of special tasks, calls, and meetings. This year things went smoothly as far as the spread sheets Red uses to keep a running tally that goes to Barb for her precise scrutiny.

I'm giving kudos to Steve Adamski and Big Water Apparatus for getting the apparatus in good order with hopefully no surprises until we replace our lifeline pumper. One issue that cost a bit of time and money was numerous air leaks with the replacement fleet. This became apparent when the brand new compressor that came with our expensive new fire hall broke down. I remain concerned that this gets rectified soon with this equipment is Definitely under warranty. Because the apparatus had almost no air leaks, we were able to use a small backup air compressor. This is not a reason to believe we can substitute a smaller air compressor for the very expensive one that came with the building. My hearing that Brown possibly didn't get the appropriate compressor for our need is definitely not the Town of La Pointe's problem. We were asked once by the builders about what we lost and that was that. Sooooo let's let warranties do what they're there for and not reinvent the wheel. This is Five Bugle's problem to pass to the appropriate subcontractors to make this right. No cost must be endured by the town. We can talk about a different air compressor if we are convinced we need something different BUT we absolutely do not have to lose money for something that falls under warranty. You don't get a smaller transmission in your car because somebody brings up that's all you need to fix your broken car. Coming up, we have a monthly training calendar filled with important in-house training and ongoing setting up our fire hall to best suit our needs.

Jan. 8 we have ice rescue meetings that include inventory of our gear and setting dates to get everyone's ice rescue specialists qualifications up to snuff.

Be safe, as winter has definitely grabbed hold: Look for your furnace exhaust vents (whether they are on your roof or sticking out your walls) to make sure they don't get covered with snow and ice. A house in Moorhead Minnesota took 7 lives recently.

Happy new year.

Chief Reichkitzer

RECEIVED

JAN 6 2022

Initial: dg

(5) TB, michael, Barb, Michael,
Fire, Public

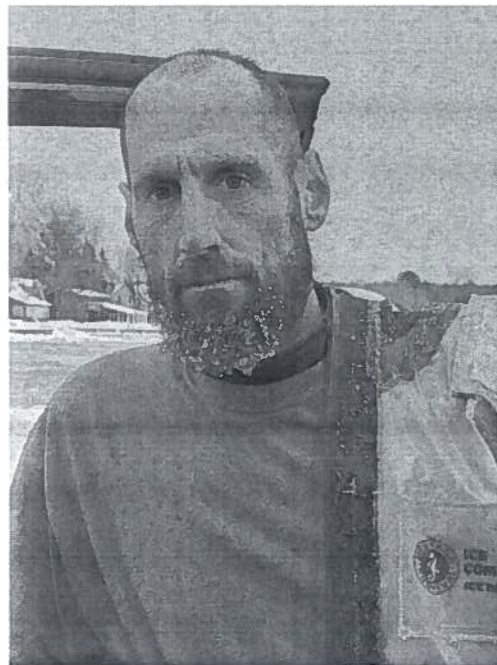
Fire Department Report

January was full of January fire fighter stuff most impressive was our ice rescue certification training. We sent Joseph Wiltz and Nathan Nelson to a "train the trainers" class a couple years ago and we reaped the benefits finally this January.

Assistant chief Wiltz and training officer Tyler Andreas gave the ice rescue squad that two-year recertification training, and newbies earned their patches. It definitely was a bonus having qualified teachers within our own department. Teachers in the past traveled to the island to teach this class knowing full well that we could teach the practical to anyone. We definitely have the premier ice rescue squad in the area hands down; most departments do not have the luxury of 4 wind sleds. Having taken this class myself 4 times, I have to say Jay and Tyler did a grade A job as teachers.

February we will be hands-on training with the Husky wind sled. With Arnie's blessing, our driver program should produce at least 6 more qualified drivers yet this winter. It's shaping up to be a very productive winter in regards to keeping our ice rescue program up to superior standards.

Be safe
Chief Reichkitzer



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FEB 3 2022

Initial: dg

Fire Department Report
February 2022

A good portion of February for our fire department was continuing work with the apparatus committee to get closer to replacement of our #1 pump truck. We had the opportunity to explain to the Town Board our reasoning and needs surrounding this new apparatus. During the special workshop the Town Board granted us, we answered some very good questions asked by board members. I feel it was a very successful workshop and we are pressing forward towards putting out requests for proposals to the vendors we have had considerable dealings with.

We welcomed a new member to the emergency services this month as well. This member doesn't eat, doesn't sleep, has no opinions and doesn't talk back. Randy, the 145-pound-rescue "DUMMY," is perfect. It will be very realistic for training for years to come.

I have been glued to the news with Russia and Ukraine, and something keeps flooding my mind. As emergency services providers, we know when our radios yell, our pagers vibrate, our cellphone beeps or the siren goes off uptown, these devices generally aren't inviting us to a happy/fun event. No matter what the call is, we are heading there as quickly as possible. I couldn't imagine the thousands of emergencies happening in Ukraine, that everyone has to be an emergency responder while protecting their home. I see the bits and pieces of firefighters doing whatever they can to respond to these deliberate events. Very humbling to me, as I know when we're called, we go. Seeing all these brave people reminds me not to take what we have around us for granted. This is my opening thought to our fire department members at our training March 2.

That training, by the way, is our yearly DNR wildfire refresher, given by Washburn DNR.

Be safe,
Chief Reichkitzer

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MAR 3 2022

Initial: dg

(5)TB, Michael, Barb, Micaela,
Fire, Public

Fire Department Report
April 2022

D.N.R refresher went well 3/2, with the Washburn crew sending over 2 of their finest. We covered what the chain of command/events entails if and when we have a "wild fire" on Madaline Island. We discussed many calls in the past that didn't end with the DNR, and a couple that did. We are the first defense and assume incident command until the situations diffuse or the DNR arrives. They can't always come, as they may be at larger scenes, so this is another reason why we need to be vigilant at preventing forest fires.

We have big equipment available for fire lines, but the reality shared by the DNR is we have the best fire line available and that's Lake Superior. We have a memorandum of understanding with the DNR that outlines our mutual aid with their services. Our island gets to be a tinder box and sometimes people don't think or make good decisions when it comes to burning, campfires, fireworks. As friends and neighbors, let's not test our mutual aid with the DNR. If you see something, say something.

The Ice Rescue team had 4 days of great training for our potential wind sled operators. As always, we greatly appreciate Arnie's time and guidance as we now are closer to having qualified, confident drivers for the wind sleds as there used in ice rescue and emergency situations. We have also assisted in two emergency transports, where the ambulance service arrives to the wind sleds with patients to be transferred into the wind sleds then over to a waiting ambulance in Bayfield. This is no easy task but we have gotten proficient in this transfer of care. We have encouraged the ambulance service into a more detailed training of this critical situational response and will gladly spend some time with this important multijurisdictional training.

For about 3 weeks recently, we had the only wind sleds available for our area, as Ashland's "ice Angel" was down for repairs. We had one call where we were toned out to Ashland for possible ice rescue. We were with the sleds and ready to slide down to Ashland when we were given stand-down orders. The following day, 4 of us wind sled operators took the Husky for a scouting mission toward Ashland to familiarize ourselves with the path to Ashland and identify obstacles. We marked possible paths over ice ridges on GPS in case we to get called into the bay for emergencies.

Our department had an intense burning-building search-and-rescue simulation at the Madeline Island recycling center that was graciously set up by firefighter Martin Curry and Joe Abhold from the town. With lots of preparation involving these men and our management and training officers, we sent teams into the smoked-up obstacle course to practice rescue in dire conditions. Rescue Randy, our life-sized dummy, got pulled from the carnage over and over by teams of firefighters in full turnout gear and SCBA. This serious training unfortunately came to a quiet end as we learned of the passing of Ric Gilman. He was a friend to all of us and was always curious of our department and services. I will miss our conversations about everything under the sun and never forget the important roles he played in our community.

Be safe and good to yourself, family and friends.

Chief Reichkitzer

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APR 7 2022

Initial: dg

TB (5), CLERK, ACCOUNTING, OFFICE, PUBLIC, TA

Fire Department Report
May 2022

We have spent a bit of time getting prepared for wildfire season, as it's upon us. It's deceiving as winter gives up the battle and it looks so wet everywhere. But a couple days of sun and a breeze and we are smack dab in the middle of spring wildfire season. This year is less scary, as the snow has left the dead grass that fuels fires beat down a bit. But the danger is always there until we "green up."

We were trying to get our 5500 Dodge Ram brush truck to a recall but that has had snags. The recall involves the lug nut studs. We will get it to its recall as soon as we can, but we will always have 2 wildfire trucks available at all times.

At the same time we are thinking about wild fire season we are also thinking and planning for near shore water rescue. Our next training session will be at the state park, where we will be getting a better grasp on maps, roads, and the general layout of the park. We will train with our tools, including the inflatable Zodiac. We have lots of ideas and opinions on this aspect of search and rescue the need to come to the surface and swim. One huge tool in our box will be the drone program; hoping that we have taken possession of our search/rescue drone before this upcoming meeting.

We recently pulled out most of our equipment and sprayed water to help clean up the ferry dock. This is always great training and exercise for all our trucks, pumps, and peoples.

Stay safe,
Chief Reichkitzer

From: Rick Reichkitzer <firechief@townoflapointewi.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 9:10 PM

To: Michael Kuchta <administrator@townoflapointewi.gov>; Micaela Montagne <clerk@townoflapointewi.gov>

Subject: Fire chiefs report may 2022

May's training was oriented around wild fire season. We pulled our brush truck and chiefs truck equipped with a slide in brush fire pump down to the town dock. We always clean the town dock every spring before the masses descend upon the island. We sprayed water with the two trucks, in addition deployed our two portable pumps from tankers one and two and ran hose lines off these as well. My favorite tanker three with its on board pump was exercised with hose lines to boot. Tanker three is pretty special because of its on board pump and 1800 gallon water capacity. It can be pulled into situations our larger pumpers may not navigate as easily and can pump a lot of wet stuff onto the red stuff (fire) side note from this training is the ferry dock was pretty darn clean before we started so we just polished it up a bit.

Three new recruits and three seasoned veterans completed part one of fire fighter 1 entry level training this month. We are proud of Roman ,Kai and Kevin as the instructor said they were a pleasure to train whereas the other vets were a bunch of "know it alls" They will complete part two this fall .

I need to mention the recent call Sunday June 5th with this report as it is very fresh in our minds. Three in the morning we received a call from dispatch toned out for a vehicle accident with injuries, I was the second emergency responder on scene and assumed incident command from Alex Nelson EMT. A pickup truck had crashed into some trees at what appeared to be a high speed accident The sound of the crash was very luckily heard by campers at big bay Town park. Seeing that this was terrible accident they dialed 911. First responders concluded the only person in the vehicle was the driver trapped inside. At this point EMT's Alex and Riley assessed and calmed the driver. I communicated with the fire department responders to bring emergency vehicle "dale" and engine 2 with our battery powered genesis extrication tools (the jaws of life) as we had an individual trapped in compromised vehicle. I took the few minutes it took our department to arrive to come up with the first steps of extrication. Captain Eldred and his boy Andrew went to work immediately upon arrival. By this time the ambulance was also on scene with Sarah and Marty. Fire fighter Kyle Krutchin and officer Rossenberger joined the team to make 9 responders. This team did an amazing well executed job to free the driver from the wreckage. He was loaded into the ambulance and rushed to the ferry. Im choosing to leave out many details for many reasons but needed to report this as we saved this young man's life.

Respectfully submitted

Chief Reichkitzer

As always be safe

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

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Fire Department Report
July 2022

After the vehicle extrication with severe injuries to the driver, the services had a follow-up debrief of this accident. The tools we used were/are priceless, the Genesis battery-powered cutters and spreaders the fire department purchased were a huge part of freeing the injured driver from the crashed vehicle. As with all of our programs/purchases, we study the products and make educated decisions on what to purchase with regards to our location and the unique department we have. Another very apparent thing surfaced: our training proved priceless, as most of the crew -- both Fire and EMS -- had at least one multi-jurisdictional training with vehicle extrication!! We will hustle to get all the new recruits to the same plateau of experience.

We fully expect that the research put into our search-and-rescue drone program will hold the same results and that it will produce the expectations we have conveyed: more efficient and timely rescue and recovery without the burden being placed solely on our department members. That being said, we have indeed taken possession of our two new automated members to the department (aerial drones) and will be steadily bringing the program to most every call. Special thanks to assistant chief Alan Hardie for completion of his FAA licenses for compliance certification to fly these at fire/rescue calls. Martin Curry is en route to be the secondary pilot.

Very proud of our department, as we have come a long way in the past 2 decades I have been with this team.

As always, be safe and watch the skies while we are on calls -- as we will be there as well.

Chief Reichkitzer

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JUL 8 2022

Initial: dg

(5)TB, TA, AA, Clerk, Public

Fire Department Report
July 2022

Another busy month for everyone. Sunday the 3rd, the department came to the fire hall to wash the fleet and clean sweep the apparatus bays. Impressive turnout on a Sunday morning. We had 6 trucks in the parade and as usual had 2 firefighters and an engine (Engine 2) on standby at the fireworks.

The Town Board opened two bids for our #1 pumper/engine replacement. There was a considerable gap in the pricing and we are looking into why the large difference in pricing. We are looking forward to working with the Town Board to get this replacement engine ordered. Because of the inflationary pricing/prices we fully expect to make concessions and come up with a plan of strategy to make this happen. I have had initial discussion with the Town Administrator and it seems like we have some options to deal with the cost. As with everything the supply and demand and ever-rising prices are a major factor in wrapping this up.

We responded to a early morning fire call up at Bad River properties, chief was first on scene with the fire department to evaluate/investigate and coordinate response. I was greeted by a fairly large group of people with explanations of why we were there. After pronouncing the fire out and no risk of rekindle I set off to sort out the cause of this call. I had plenty of witness explanations of how they discovered and dealt with a fire inside a wall of this particular cabin. After considerable effort put into the investigation, I ruled the cause to be a lightning strike. Two days later I received a call from Robert Teisberg telling me he indeed witnessed a lightning strike near these cabins earlier in the evening. We do not have an active agreement with emergency services and the Bad River properties and they have been a source of two of our more complicated calls in the past two months.

Our next training will be working with the Life Flight helicopter and setting up landing zones on the island.

Be safe,
Chief Reichkitzer

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AUG 3 2022

Initial: dg

Fire Department Report
August 2022

8/3: Lifeflight training, with classroom and setting up landing zone at airport. This was a great refresher for the aged and important training for the newest members. We learned that Lifeflight is now based 30-40 minutes from Madeline Island, compared to the 60-70 minutes it was previously. This alone reasons that we should utilize a landing zone on the island more, especially because the Bayfield landing zone has switched to "the soccer field." I took a journey to field and, in our opinion, if we have a serious call on Madeline with serious injuries or life-threatening issues, calling the helicopter to "the soccer field" would prolong getting patients to the higher level of care. Let's pick on the vehicle extrication earlier this summer: the helicopter would have been at the airport with paramedics happily waiting. If the timing is logical to avoid loading in the ambulance, onto the ferry, then way up the hill in Bayfield to the soccer field, we need to do just that. We have the perfect landing zone at the airport and have always been fully trained for emergency landing zone set-up and safety. The pilots and paramedics share the same thoughts. Superb training event and I really thank everyone who did participate.

We were toned out to 3 false alarm fire calls by smoke alarm companies in the month of August. False alarms are always good response training.

8/7: Fire and EMS toned out for missing swimmer at Big Bay State Park. This was a long and hard call for everyone involved. With many agencies involved, we searched the last know location for a person who jumped from "the eagle's nest," a popular spot for many years for jumping into Lake Superior. On this day, the waves where very tall, making it impossible for divers and for that matter the search boats from many agencies: Coast Guard, parks department, Bayfield auxiliary. When the sun was setting, we made the decision to suspend the search to the following morning. We contacted Tom Crossman and his recovery agency to bring his underwater technology to the search. This paid off, as we recovered the deceased swimmer with minimal people in the water. Friends and family of this person had been set up at the fire hall waiting for updates. When the news came of the recovery, they were both sad and also relieved to have some closure without an extended search.

Our drone program was utilized during this call, and we can see how important technology is to calls of this nature.

Firefighters Zach Montagne, Lucas Montagne, Kyle Kruchten, and Pete Wiggins, led by Zach Montagne, will be the Madeline Island dive crew; they are already in training. For many years, we have been talking about our own emergency response dive team and, thanks to these members, it's becoming a reality. We have lots of work ahead to finalize our near shore rescue program, but we have come leaps and bounds this year.

Be safe,
Chief Reichkitzer

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SEP 8 2022

Initial. dg

Fire Department Report

September was another busy month. Not so much for calls but with training and equipment maintenance.

The monthly training was pumping/spraying water, involving water shuttle with all the tankers. We filled the community garden pond while running a pumper-to-pumper scenario on a driveway located at Miller Farm Road. Engine 7 staged directly on Miller Farm Road and supplied water to Engine 2 that was 150 yards into a small driveway. Engine 2 basically acted as a manifold to direct water to hose lines. Supply ponds for Engine 7 were filled by tenders (tankers). We do this at least once a year, as this is a fully rounded training that involves many aspects:

1. getting water down typical island driveways that our larger equipment shouldn't attempt travel.
2. water shuttle into portable ponds to supply thousands of gallons of water from truck to truck to a working fire.
3. portable trailer pump operation from our many water sources:
 - a. marina dry hydrant (this training)
 - b. dry hydrant at pond On Umbrage Road.
 - c. directly from Lake Superior into tankers.
 - d. in a pinch, hydrants on Mondamin Trail and Bob Hartzell's newly acquired water system.
4. radio communication with numerous apparatus and personnel.
5. incident command
6. safety and accountability system.

This training went well.

We now have a certified dive/rescue team on the La Pointe fire department. Congratulations to them and we will continue with diligence to get them properly geared up and dive into their surface support (pun intended). Many options have surfaced with having a vessel available to get them on scene. This is definitely part of the bigger picture, as it pertains to our near-shore rescue program. We will keep the Board and administration up to speed as this unfolds. Zach Montagne is to be voted in as a team leader/officer for his accepting these challenges and overseeing this entire program. Very proud of the hard work and commitment put forth to make this happen in very little time.

All apparatus received a clean bill of health from Steve Adamski and Big Water Apparatus. Both engines/pumpers have passed their yearly pump/waterflow testing. Engine 2 needed and recieved a new radiator and rear axle parts and is back in good health.

Till next month, be safe and careful when firing up your home heating systems. Yearly professional servicing highly recommended.

Chief Reichkitzer

RECEIVED

OCT 6 2022

Initial: dg

**Fire Chief's Report
October-November 2022**

Training was zeroed around deer hunter safety. Every year at this time, our monthly training involves many scenarios:

- Lost hunter
- Tree stand accident
- Wounded hunter
- Transportation of wounded hunter

We set up a lost hunter/wounded hunter training with a victim staged well into the woods. We deployed our drone team, two teams of search parties on foot, the UTV rescue unit, and set out to find the needle in the haystack. We reached out to EMS to participate in what most certainly would be a team call if the real thing, but the multi-jurisdictional training didn't pan out. The two services (fire and EMS) have agreed to have our training personnel from here on out set up and plan "mandatory" joint training. I cannot stress how important this has to be in the future.

This training was the first night-time drone activity and was great training for our pilot and his assistant. A lot of new tools in the drone program toolbox, which makes any and all training very important to the success of any team.

I will write up a summary of 2022 in the coming weeks before the onset of 2023. So far, it's been a very safe year and our equipment is in fine shape.

Happy holidays and be safe,
Chief Reichkitzer

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DEC 8 2022

Initial. dg

Fire Department Report
December 2022

Well, another year in books. Here's a recap of 2022 La Pointe fire/rescue department.

Ashland County emergency dispatch toned us out 25 times.

- 2 working fires
- 3 automobile crash scenes
- 5 downed powerline calls (13 actual different powerlines)
- 10 smoke/CO alarms (2 at the school)
- 2 lift assists with EMS
- 1 propane leak
- 1 capsized canoe
- 1 ice rescue

12 very productive training meetings and 12 equally important planning meetings, 10 apparatus meetings, and numerous impromptu meetings to figure out many things, such as the newly formed dive/rescue team. Everyone remained fairly healthy throughout this year, with a couple members needing surgery recovery time for themselves that result in excused absences from calls and physical training.

We have spent another year exploring and implementing tools to improve our communications, as it's always an ongoing issue.

Between Big Water Apparatus and Brian Nelson (our lead engineer), our fleet is in good working order.

We still need 3 new members to fill our roster, and recruiting and retention is always happening throughout the year.

We have a full 2023 training calendar already and lots of irons in the fire.

Happy holidays and looking forward to a safe 2023.

Chief Reichkitzer

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JAN 5 2023

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