

Holmen Area Fire District

Meeting Minutes – October 15th, 2024

Jeff Herlitzke called the Holmen Area Fire District meeting to order at 6:30 pm on October 15th, 2024 at the Town of Holland Town Hall.

Members Present: Doug Jorstad (Holmen), Travis Elam (Holmen), Rick Hauser (Holland), Jeff Herlitzke (Holland)

Alternates Present: Micah Wyss

Members Excused:

Also Present: Ryan Ostreng (Fire Chief)

Guests: None

Pledge of Allegiance Recited

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

The board reviewed the minutes for the August 29th meeting and the September 29th meeting and suggested minor corrections. Hauser motioned to approve the August meeting minutes contingent on the discussed corrections. Second by Jorstad, motion carried unanimously. Jorstad motioned to approve the September 29th meeting minutes contingent on the discussed corrections. Second by Hauser, motion carried unanimously.

Resident or Employee Concerns/Comments:

None.

Financial Review:

Treasurer Jorstad gave an overview of the department's finances and explained to the rest of the board where the department was at for its budget. Jorstad stated the department had used 74.1% of the budget for the year. Jorstad voiced concerns for a few areas that were slightly over budget. Chief Ostreng explained his plan to cover these areas of the budget and stated the budget would be tight this year with very little to no extra left over.

The board reviewed check detail.

Fire Administration Report:

Chief Ostreng provided the board with the calls for the month as well as a breakdown of the calls by municipality.

Chief Ostreng stated that engine 1 was still having issues, and that he had not heard back from the service manager at the manufacture. The board voiced their displeasure and frustration with the continuation of issues on engine 1. Board members voiced their concerns about potentially only having 1 running engine. The board questioned if legal action needed to be taken against the manufacturer for selling the department a truck that

was so often out of service. Chief Ostreng stated that from day 1, the engine was problematic and has had various issues. Chief Ostreng stated that he would continue to call the manufacturer and was also frustrated with their lack of communication. Chief Ostreng gave a brief update on the status of the department's cooperation with the City of Onalaska to establish a joint fire investigation group.

Fire Commission Report:

None.

Future Fire Station Study:

Chief Ostreng stated that he had sent a letter to Wendel Five Bugles Design notifying them that they had been awarded the contract for the future fire station study, and that everything was moving along.

2025 Budget Draft:

The board reviewed the budget. Hauser motioned to approve the 2025 Draft Budget. Second by Jorstad, motion carried unanimously.

Command Vehicle Replacement Status:

The board reviewed the quote for the replacement command vehicle. Jorstad motioned to approve the purchase of the replacement command vehicle and additions for a total of \$100,000 using 2% dues. Second by Hauser, motion carried unanimously.

Coffee with the Fire Chief Discussion:

Chief Ostreng requested approval from the board to have time scheduled for the public to sit down with him and talk about the fire services the department offers. The board voiced their support for the idea and encouraged Chief Ostreng to engage with the public.

Announcement and Future Agent Items:

None.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn Hauser/Jorstad. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes by Travis E. Elam, Secretary