

Holmen Area Fire District

Meeting Minutes – November 18th, 2024

Jeff Herlitzke called the Holmen Area Fire District meeting to order at 6:30 pm on November 18th, 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: None

Also Present: Ryan Ostreng (Fire Chief)

Guests: None

Pledge of Allegiance Recited

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Hauser to accept the minutes of December 8th and the 15th. Second by Jorstad. Motion carried unanimously.

Resident or Employee Concerns/Comments:

None.

Financial Review:

Treasure Jorstad provided a brief overview of the current financial status of the fire department. The board reviewed the current budget sheets in detail. Jorstad highlighted a few areas the department was over budget for the year. Specifically, he highlighted conventions and conferences and building repairs. Chief Ostreng explained that the recent financial sheets provided had changed to separate operational expenditures versus capital expenditures. Chief Ostreng stated that the department was a little over 82% of the total budget for the year. Chief Ostreng explained that the primary reason for the budget being off was that the department wasn't fully staffed all year. Jorstad asked if the Chief anticipated any large expenses in the coming weeks. Chief Ostreng explained he was confident in the overall budget.

The board reviewed check detail. Elam noted a check to Overhead Door, and asked if one of the garage doors broke down. The board discussed accounting for a manual way to open the door in the future should an emergency necessitate it.

Wisconsin DNR FFP Grant:

Chief Ostreng reminded the board of what the grant was for and noted the board had previously discussed the grant. Chief Ostreng also explained the requirements of the grant, and the requirement to provide quotes if purchases were made to other vendors other than

the Wisconsin DNR. Jorstad motioned for the approval of the invoice to Fire Safety USA for a total amount of \$7,679.95. Second by Elam. Motion carried unanimously.

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 had its faulty twister knob replaced by Reliant Fire Apparatus, but there might still be an issue with the motherboard the knob is communicating with. Chief Ostreng stated Engine 1 is currently in service but the department has a lack of trust in the vehicle given all its issues. The board continued to voice their continued frustration for the issues with Engine 1 and its ongoing issues. Herlitzke stated that the Chief should consider getting compensated by the vendor for the total amount of time the truck has been out of commission. The board discussed the possibility of looking at other vendors in the future should the issues not be resolved. Department staff gave their opinions of the current fire trucks available and explained that Pierce was the best vendor despite the current issues with Engine 1. Department staff highlighted that La Crosse was having the same issue with the same model of truck from Reliant Fire Apparatus. Chief Ostreng stated that he would look into the issue further.

Chief Ostreng stated that the leak in the administration office reappeared and it required the removal of some carpet due to water damage. Chief Ostreng stated he purchased some plastic extensions to try to get the water away from that area of the roof faster.

Chief Ostreng updated the board on recent training and highlighted the switch to use more digital paperwork in coordination with tri-state.

Fire Commission Report:

Chief Ostreng stated there was nothing to report and that the commission would meet again in January.

Future Fire Station Study:

Chief Ostreng stated that nothing had occurred yet but a meeting was coming up on Wednesday the 20th.

Command Vehicle Replacement Status:

Chief Ostreng stated that department should see the vehicle towards the end of February 2025.

ISO Public Protection Classification Summary Report:

Chief Ostreng gave a brief overview of what the report was, who provided it, and why it was important. Chief Ostreng stated that our classification was close to the next tier and he didn't believe it would be a lot of work to achieve that. Chief Ostreng highlighted that if the

department was able to improve its classification that insurance rates would likely decrease. Chief Ostreng highlighted that the future fire station study should also help improve our classification for the next time this report is ran. Chief Ostreng stated that the department would do it's best to maintain training, but that the department was currently underfunded to hit a lot of the goals outlined in the report. Hauser asked when the department would need another evaluation. Chief Ostreng explained the requirements and stated that it would most likely be in 4 years.

Closed Session: Motion by Jorstad to go into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stats. 19.85(1)(c). Second by Hauser. Roll call was taken, all members were present.

Reconvene In Open Session: Motion by Hauser. Second by Jorstad to reconvene into open session. Motion carried unanimously.

Reservation of right for action and/or recommendation on Closed Session item(s):
No motion occurred. No actions were taken.

Announcement and Future Agent Items:

None.

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn Hauser/Jorstad. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes by Travis E. Elam, Secretary