

POWELL TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT
FROM THE DESK OF FIRE CHIEF CHRISTOPHER SUTTER
PO BOX 319 BIG BAY, MI 49808
(906) 345-9400

To the Powell Township Board

05/16/2023

May Fire Department Report
Page 1 of 2

- **Calls for Service:** We have had 1 call for service since the last township meeting, A rollover accident on CR550 with entrapment.
- **Membership:** is at 25, of that 13 are FF's, 4 are FF Trainees, and 8 are Auxiliary. We have 1 new ap up for approval tonight for Kondrat who is already a certified MI FF.
- **April Training:** Policy #222 & #225, Dispatch's Updated Mutual Aid Radio Procedures
- **May Training:** Tentatively CPR and AED Training, awaiting dates from EMS Vargo
- **FF Academy Report:** Final Exams are just a couple of weeks away now
- **Auxiliary Class:** Awaiting dates from EMS Vargo for CPR & AED Training
- **Fire Stations:** St1's water main failed in the boiler room on 05/09, then again on 05/11. The second time it flooded the entire building including the office area. Luckily someone was at the hall each time it failed, so it was witnessed and not while unoccupied or else the water damage could have been a lot worse. We are still without water and the heating system is run by boilers so the heat is also off right now. Dresslers has come up with a solution advising the slip fitting on that main was never secured with threaded rod, like the other fittings, as it should have been when the hall was built. That repair is on the agenda for tonight to discuss.
- **Apparatus:** Still waiting on numbers from the City of Marquette for annual fleet service. As mentioned in last months report the Brush ATV's initial service and maintenance was completed by the City of Marq and they are recommending replacing the radiator and water pump to resolve the overheating issues thats been plaguing EMS for years. They said there years worth of scale build up inside that is not able to be flushed out, there was no way to know that until they completed the first system flush. It is important to get this vehicle repaired as its to be used as part of our wildland fire operations and its tied in with the DNR Grant we were awarded in December for an ATV skid unit. This will allow it to carry and pump water to fires off trail and where the trucks can't get to in the woods. To note we are also under Extreme Fire Conditions right now, there is currently a Burning Ban in place for Powell Township and surrounding communities, and DNR manpower is down 40% this year, so they are running with limited staffing.
- **Equipment:** We need to replace our boat battery thats from the old pontoon boat, its dated 2007 and no longer holds a charge. We are also looking at adding a couple of ceiling mounted cord reels to connect vehicles to their shorelines for charging. We have had to remove the portable radios and hand lights from 2 vehicles at st1 as they were draining the trucks batteries while not being plugged into shorelines. Rotating 1 shoreline between 3 vehicles is not an viable option and running extension cords across the bay floors is a safety hazard and also not a good idea.

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- **Miscellaneous:** FireCatt Hose and Ladder Testing tentative date has been set for June 13th if approved by the board tonight. This was previously approved in May of 2021 but due to COVID related issues they were not able to come up and last year we could not secure a date during the week for testing. Our hose and ladders have never been tested before and we expect a higher than average failure rate this first time around. This is crucial for firefighter safety and will assist us with grant writing for new hose.
- **Grants:** Information on this years \$5,000 DNR 50/50 Grant just came out last night, we would like to use our hose testing results to help write a DNR Grant to start replacing any failed hose. Also the State of MI just came out with a \$10,000 Grant with no matching, which we would like to apply for to assist us with replacing some of our SCBA Bottles that are due to expire their DOT certifications in 2025.

Sincerely,



Christopher Sutter
Powell Township Fire Chief

