

POWELL TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

FROM THE DESK OF FIRE CHIEF CHRISTOPHER SUTTER

PO BOX 319 BIG BAY, MI 49808

(906) 345-9400

January 2024 Fire Department Report

- **Calls for Service:** In 2023 our call volume was down 18% from the previous year. We have had 2 calls for service since the last board meeting. A Fire Alarm at Bay Cliff Health Camp and a single car rollover with injuries on Squaw Beach Rd.
- **Membership:** is at 21, of that 11 are FF's, 2 are Trainees, and 8 are Auxiliary. We are in the process of updating a couple of our policies to be in compliance with the new state minimum training requirements that went into effect for all MI firefighters in the fall of 2022. The board already knows this, but just so the public is aware every firefighter is now required by the state to have at least 36 hours of continuing education in a 3 year licensing cycle, with a minimum of 6 hours in any given year. That equates to 12 hours a year over a 3 year cycle, which is not unreasonable if a firefighter attends just 1 hour of training a month. Those that are certified as Fire Inspectors, Instructors or have their Fire Officer I or II will need an additional 12hrs for each certification in a 3 year cycle. We are nearing the half way mark and it is possible we may lose a couple more members in the process. This is something every fire department with volunteer firefighters in the State of Michigan is currently struggling with. The Officer's are currently discussing our recruitment plans for 2024.
- **FireFighter Training:** December's Fire Training was our Annual Policy Binder Review, Annual PPE Inspections and updating of their Personal Equipment Inventory.
- **Auxiliary:** The 1/9 Aux. Meeting has been rescheduled to 1/30 at the memberships request.
- **Fire Stations:** Stations are good, there has been some minor issues with the bay floor drains at station 2 draining slowly, Pete was advised since they just replaced that septic system not that long ago. I am still working on making contact with a couple of Garage Door Companies to address the issues with our bay door weatherstripping.
- **Apparatus:** Still no luck finding a used trailer. 2105 is back from service, the blown supply hose to the front bumper nozzles was replaced, the issues with the headlights were repaired pigtail connectors had rusted out, and both of the trucks spotlights were bad and swapped with used ones Marq PW had pulled from old police cars. 2112 will be going in on the 17th.
- **Grants:**
 - MI DNR Grant: Last July we had applied for a MI DNR Grant and on January 2nd we received notice that we were awarded a 50/50 Grant in the amount of \$9,030 to help us to start replacing hose that failed last years 1st ever certified hose testing. A quick recap out of 178 lengths of hose, 67 failed inspections and testing. We lost about 38% of our fire hose last year, which is a significant loss. Thankfully none of these hoses had the chance to fail or injure a ff on an active fire scene. I had suspected a high failure rate, which is why we pushed for the testing. Our portion of this Grant would be \$4,515 from donated funds, which is on tonights agenda. I want to take a moment to thank everyone that helped with making that testing possible last year, those on the board that had approved the testing and those that volunteered on testing day. Thank you for helping to protect and outfit our volunteers with the equipment they need and for making our community safer.