

Hopkins Area

200 E. Main
P.O. Box 124
Hopkins, MI 49328

Fire Department

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1 February 2016

For the month of January, we responded to 14 fire incidents; 3 assist's to other departments, 5 PI accidents, 1 CO alarm, 1 fire alarm, and 3 officer calls. There were 4 calls in Hopkins Township, 3 calls in Monterey Township, 2 calls in Hopkins Village, and 2 calls in Watson Township. Hopkins first responders responded to 23 medical calls; 2 in Hopkins Village, 8 in Hopkins Township, 7 in Watson Township, and 5 in Monterey Township.

We had two regular training meetings this last month. The training subjects were safety and accountability and snow rescue operations. Training sessions lasted 3 hours and were attended by 24 firefighters.

We have extended tentative offers to 1 returning and 4 new firefighters. Justin Johnson is the returning member and with Ryan Nowakowski and Dave Arman will respond from the Watson station. Clayton Frank and Levi Steffens live in Monterey Township and will be responding from the Hopkins station. They will attend classes as they become available.

Brandon passed his medical first responder class and has not yet passed the national registry test. Josh Cole and Eric Alberda are attending the EMT class in Wayland, which will be concluding soon. Mark Podbregar has finished his EMR class with Thornapple Emergency Services and has scheduled his National Registry test. Bob Kerber is continuing an online EMT matriculation class, with clinicals coming soon.

Bob Kerber and Vince Castenda are signed up to attend the Instructor 1 class at Delta Township. Having them certified may allow us to hold training events at our home station rather than sending people to different locations.

Josh Cole and Don Bailey are signed up for Ice Rescue train the trainer class in Holland. Once certified they will be able to teach ice rescue and do our semiannual in house training.

The department officers have worked on the 2016-17 department budget and presented to the board at the January Fire Board meeting. The board after much discussion approved our recommendations and also added to the firefighters AD & D insurance while on duty and also purchased a small life insurance policy for the firefighters while off duty.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) application period closed January 15. I wrote the grant for new turn-out gear department wide. The plan is to purchase new gear to

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replace the old gear much of which is past its expected life, many sets by over 5 (+) years. The final grant number is \$82,460 of which we have a 5% match.

During the evening of January 16, the members of the department got together for our annual post-Christmas party, along with their spouses or girlfriends. During the party we announced the firefighter of the year, with this year's honor going to Doug Collier.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim McKinnon
Fire Chief