

Hopkins Area

200 E. Main

Hopkins, MI 49328



Fire Department

Phone: 269-793-1000

hopkinsareafd@gmail.com

1 June 2016

For the month of May, we responded to 5 fire incidents; 2 assist's to other departments, 1 officer call, 1 smoke investigation, and 1 general assist. There were 2 calls in Hopkins Township, 1 call in Monterey Township, and no calls in Hopkins Village or Watson Township. Hopkins first responders responded to 34 medical calls; 7 in Hopkins Village, 10 in Hopkins Township, 8 in Watson Township, and 9 in Monterey Township.

We had two regular training meetings this last month. The training subjects were pump operations and basic skills. Training sessions were 3 hours long and attended by 24 firefighters.

Josh Cole and Eric Alberda completed their EMT class. They are due to take their National Registry test very soon. Mark Podbregar and Brandon Wardell have retaken their National Registry tests and are awaiting the results.

Wayland EMS started an EMR class May 16. Ben Bregg and Levi Steffen are attending. We will get our other new guys into classes as they become available.

We have tentatively hired Herbert Merrell as a probationary firefighter. Herbert now resides in the village at Bob Kerber's apartments.

I am in the process of writing a grant to the Home Depot Foundation for new lighting throughout the station. More to come.

Regarding the AFG grant, we have not received any news from FEMA. I am taking it as a good sign that we didn't get a rejection notice thus far and that our application is moving onto the next phase of review. Grant awards have just started. We may not hear anything for several more months.

Central dispatch is moving along in the replacement of dispatching equipment. The current system is at the end of its life, with no guarantee of support after 1 January 2017. The Fire Chief's association has recommended dispatch move to the State's 800 mhz system. The matter has been sent on to the county commissioners. The commissioners will look at funding to make an initial purchase of equipment for all agencies. Equipment utilizing the 800 mhz band is much more costly than the VHF equipment we currently utilize. It is however, going to be truly P25 compliant and may open the county to federal grants and subsidies that they are unable to receive with the current system.

Respectfully submitted,
Tim McKinnon
Fire Chief

"Our Family Serving Your Family"