Hopkins Area

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Fire Department

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1 December 2015

For the month of November, we responded to 14 fire incidents; 4 assist's to other departments, 4 PI accidents, 1 car fire, 1 smoke investigation, 3 wires down, and 1 officer call. There were 3 calls in Hopkins Township, 7 calls in Monterey Township, 0 calls in Hopkins Village, and 0 calls in Watson Township. Hopkins first responders responded to 33 medical calls; 2 in Hopkins Village, 19 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 agility training and basic skills. Training sessions lasted 2 ½-3 hours and were attended by 18 firefighters.

Mentoring for Ben and Brandon is proceeding well. Both young men are making positive strides and blending into the department. We will get them into a fire academy next fall.

Brandon passed his medical first responder class and takes the national registry test this week. Josh Cole and Eric Alberda are attending the EMT class in Wayland. Mark Podbregar continues his EMR class with Thornapple Emergency Services. Bob Kerber is continuing an online EMT matriculation class.

Bob Kerber presented information on the replacement truck to the Monterey Township Board at their November meeting. After some discussion the board consented to the purchase. The truck was ordered with delivery later this winter.

The department officers will be working on the 2016-17 department budget over the next month with the intent to present it at the January board meeting.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) application period will be opening December 7. We intend to write for new turn-out gear department wide. While a large portion of the present gear is newer, we have several sets of gear that are past their useful life and we can't seem to catch them up.

Our fall recruiting campaign has gotten us several candidates. We will be interviewing them soon. We have 3 possible firefighters for Watson and 2 for Hopkins/Monterey.

Respectfully submitted, Tim McKinnon Fire Chief

"Our Family Serving Your Family"