

Questions from public December 11, 2025.

I was asked to provide responses to eight questions as related to the Fire December 5, 2025 at 13307 N Whitefish Point Road that destroyed the garage vehicle and Camper.

1. What is the protocol for EMS in relation to active fire dispatch? **Response:**
Resources for additional fire apparatus and EMS are by evaluating the dispatch and evaluation of the scene determining what is needed. At 5:22 Dispatch announced everyone is out of the house no dispatch for EMS was issued
2. Did/does/do the fire truck have a fire extinguisher on all rigs? **Response.**
Unit 1 has Water and ABC chemical extinguisher.
Unit 2 Tanker truck no extinguisher or jumper cables as it is winterized for outdoor storage. Tanker 2 does carry an ABC chemical extinguisher while in service.
Unit 3 has ABC chemical extinguisher. Unit 3 is the responding fire truck at the December 5th dispatch.
Unit 4 equipped with one ABC chemical extinguisher, Tahoe used for wildfire personal out of service for winter.
Unit 6 is equipped with jumper cables, ABC chemical extinguisher.
We should remember that fire trucks are 24-volt system, a standard vehicle cannot be used to provide a jump. Two 12 batteries in sequence are required for a 24-volt system.
3. Are the fire trucks stored with water on them. What is the Protocol.
Response: Yes all trucks are filled with water while in the station. Protocol is to refill each water tank on vehicles after each call. The Whitefish and Hulbert tankers were both full of water when arriving on scene. Unit 3 pump seized and would not engage to pump water.
4. Where are the taxpayer dollars being directed for EMS? **Response:** All voted millage funds are placed in the Ambulance accounting lines in BS&A program. Additional information on these accounts are viewable on the Michigan Treasury web page from past township budget audits.
5. Where are the grant dollars being directed for EMS? **Response:** currently there are no grant dollars provided to Whitefish EMS or the Township. EMS does have a grant with an organization to provide strategic planning training to improve and advance the EMS department. This is a task driven grant that provides supportive help through guidance resources and review to improve EMS operations.

6. Where are the taxpayer dollars being directed for the fire trucks. **Response:** All voted millage funds are placed in the Fire accounting lines in the BS&A program. Additional information on these accounts are viewable on the Michigan Treasury web page from past township budget audits.
7. How can we help to get equipment that is need for EMS and Fire? **Response:** the most important equipment the Whitefish Township Fire needs is Volunteers to be willing to participate as first responders when these tragedies happen in our community. EMS is working on fund raising to purchase a monitor unit. Positive support to those personnel working to provide emergency service to the community is the best tool for them to complete the job.
8. How can we prevent these tragedies from happening again. **Response:** Any tragedy of the fire December 5th was prevented by Larry Warburton stop his vehicle and bang on the doors and honking his horn repeatedly to wake and allow Jason Bell to exit his camper and secure two of his beloved dogs. When Larry arrived on the fire and put the alarm out the fire had already destroyed the garage and truck and was working on the camper. My understanding of tragedy from the fire at 13307 N Whitefish Point Road is the loss of Jason Bell personal home and his beloved dogs, one from the fire and two from the loss of his home and the ability to care for them.

Edson Forrester


Whitefish Township Supervisor

Whitefish EMS Director's Report

December 2025 – January 2026 Meeting

- 1) All shifts were covered by Whitefish staff. There were 6 requests for service.
 - 1 Chest Pain.
 - 1 Snowmobile PI with WF Fire – cancelled en route.
 - 1 One sided Weakness..
 - 1 General Weakness with Back Pain.
 - 1 Law Enforcement request for a wellness check/possible smoke inhalation. No Transport.
 - 1 General Sickness with abdominal pain/problems.
- 2) 800 portable radio project is complete and we have the radios in stock. We will be utilizing them soon. We now have 6 EMS 800 pagers that are being programmed locally by NEMSA Director Bryan Huntley to match our Whitefish Fire Dept. template. We will go live with both of these very soon.
- 3) ID Card Services will be offered by Whitefish EMS. We will be developing updated ID cards for the Whitefish EMS staff, NEMSA, and hopefully other departments.
- 4) Fire/EMS workshop meeting was held on Sunday December 28th. A dispatch/response policy was discussed and developed. Discussion on the future of emergency services within our township and the need for leadership/recruitment/retention. Next meeting is Sunday January 18th.
- 5) Luce County Intercept Agreement.
- 6) I would like to request an EMS budget report provided to me at every township meeting.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Renee Gray, Paramedic IC, CADS, FF – Whitefish EMS Director

TO: Whitefish Township Board

Joint discussion meeting with Fire Ambulance and Township Board members took place in December. From that meeting the topic of changing the pay structure for Fire from a stipend to Point system was discussed. The expectation was that if you provide more pay incentives more participation may take place.

Fire Department is asking for three Board actions.

1. Motion to approve fire to operate on a Point Merit pay system for responders with a monthly base of \$1,500.00. *Forrester Abstained*
2. Motion to approve Chief Pay to \$600.00 monthly and Deputy Chief to \$300.00 monthly. *3 YES 1 NO*
3. Motion to approve budget amendment of \$5,310 to GL line 206-336-702 ✓

A) Fire is asking the Township Board to approve this Point merit system and remove the stipend system that has been used in the past. The point system change was viewed as having the ability to motivate more participants to become involved in the Fire Department. Annual payroll change would be \$27,000 vs \$15,000 fire has normally operated with. The Point Merit system is used in Hudson and Kinross Townships, staff in those townships have expressed the point merit system increases staff involvement in fire activities. The system would take a base pay of \$1,500 per month divided by total points accumulated to determine the Point Value. Staff's points earned times the point value determines each staff pay. Attached is a mockup of January's payroll based on the current January activities also a example of the desired improvement to participate in activities and workload.

Point system: Fire Run 2, Meeting 2, Training 2, Special Event/other 1, Vehicle inspection 1.

B) Fire also ask to keep Ambulance and Fire on separate paging tones. Fire does not wish to be woken up from sleeping each time the Ambulance tone is paged. EMS staff not on duty turn off their pagers however fire always has pagers on for nighttime emergencies. The new policy drafted at the joint meeting provides for EMS to be paged separately by dispatch or fire personnel. The continue EMS pages over a fire tone we believe is uncalled for and extremely inconvenient to fire personnel.

C) If a board member has concerns about what fire activity or request to be informed of something specific, please contact Chief of Deputy Chief for answers. All staff contact information is on file and available to board members.

Chief, Loren Degeler

Deputy Chief, Brandon Hetrick

Captain, Edson Forrester