

Morrison Fire Department

History & Locations

The Morrison Fire Department began its existence as a friendly association in 1905. It originally functioned as a bucket brigade.

William H. Behl was the first fire chief. In 1910 the department was incorporated. The minutes of the organizational meeting read as follows:

"At the first meeting of the Morrison Volunteer Fire Department held at Dan Falck's Hall on Nov. 14, 1910, sixteen members were present and elected Wm. H. Behl, chairman and Frank P. Falck, secretary of the meeting. Officers were elected as follows: President, Wm. H. Behl; Vice President, E.J. Groth; Secretary, Frank P. Falck; Treasurer, John Falck; Directors, 1 year, Ernst Uecker; 2 years, P.J. Niles, Dan Falck; 3 years, Wm. C. Kriehn, Wm. Snyder."

In 1911 they decided to build a one-story brick fire station, 24 feet wide and 40 feet long. The land was bought from Daniel and Josephine Falck on March 2, 1911 for \$1.00. The fire station was wired for electric lights in 1918.

In 1946 a 20 ft x 40 ft addition was built to the fire station. The residents of this community had built, centrally located, a 35,000 gallon underground water reservoir some years before. When it was learned that an addition was to be built to the fire house, they donated sufficient money to include a 20 x 30 underground tank within the building.

Prior to 1949 the fire station had been heated by stoves. That year a modern oil-burning furnace was installed.

In the summer of 1975 a flag pole and planter were constructed to commemorate the deceased members.

The Morrison Fire Department provides service to more than 1000 property owners. They serve parts of 4 different townships - Glenmore, Rockland, Morrison and Holland. Membership in 1955 was 80 members, in 1980 there were 77 members and today there are 40, active members and 8 honorary.

Equipment

One of the first acts was to buy a fire bell and mount it on a forty foot tower in the center of the village. Next a 60 gallon hand drawn chemical fire engine was purchased. In November of 1911, a double 40 gallon chemical fire engine with two horse draft, was purchased.

On August 12, 1925 the department decided to motorize its equipment and bought a Reo fire truck with a 300 gpm rotary pump from the Waterous Fire Engine Co. The horse drawn chemical truck was retained, but in 1929 the chemical tanks and ladders were mounted on a 1-1/2 ton Chevrolet fire truck.

In 1935 a 5 HP fire siren was purchased and the fire bell and siren were mounted on the roof of the fire station.

In 1946 a 2-ton Dodge truck was purchased from the Morrison Garage and the Howe Fire Equipment Co. was given a contract to build a fire truck with a 500 gpm rotary pump and other necessary equipment on the chassis.

In 1951 a 300 gpm pump was purchased from the Wisconsin Fire Equipment Co. In January 1970, a 3-phase 10 hp Federal Siren was purchased.

In December 1972 a 5 hp electric pump was installed in the water holding tank at the fire house. This helped improve the refill time on the fire trucks as a 1200 gallon tank can be filled in 3-5 minutes.

In August 1978, two-way radios were added to all the fire trucks for better service & communication.

The current fire-fighting equipment is:

1973 Ford 1000 gpm Seagrave Pumper

1978 Dodge 250 gpm Pierce Mini-Pumper

1985 Ford 3000 gpm Vacuum Tanker

2001 Freightliner 1500 gpm Pumper

2004 Freightliner 4000 gallon Vacuum Tanker

2003 Polaris 6 Wheeler, All-Terrain Vehicle
w/utility Trailer

Fireman's Picnics & Fireman's Hall

1941 was the first year that the Fireman's Picnic was held on the Evergreen Ballroom grounds, rented from Len Detrie and E.A. Quinnette. Before this the afternoon picnic was held in Kitzerow's woods and the dance was at the Evergreen.

On July 22, 1958 the Morrison Volunteer Fire Department bought the Evergreen Ballroom and grounds from E.A. Quinnette and Len Detrie.