

NOTICE OF SPECIAL CLOSED MEETING

**GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OCTOBER 30, 2024, at 5:00 P.M.**

A Special Closed meeting has been called by Chair Roskoski and Supervisor Skubic.

The Greenwood Township Board of Supervisors will meet for a special closed Meeting at 5:00 p.m. on October 30, 2024, or as soon thereafter as the Town Board has finished its prior attorney/client closed meeting at the Greenwood Town Hall at 3000 County Road 77, Tower, Minnesota.

This meeting will be closed to the public under the authority of Minn. Stat. 13D.05, Subd. 2(b) for the Town Board to discuss allegations against an employee of the Township.

No member of the public may attend the closed meeting.

POSTED
10-24-2024

POSTED
10-30-2024
10:29 am

UPDATE -

THE SUBJECT OF THE SPECIAL CLOSED MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 5:00 ON OCTOBER 30, 2024, HAS REQUESTED THAT THE CLOSED MEETING BE HELD AS AN OPEN MEETING. ACCORDINGLY, THE MEETING WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

All,

This email is being sent to all Town Board members and the Clerk (sent to Supervisors as blind copies to keep a Supervisor from responding to all other Supervisors in violation of the Open Meeting Law).

Attached to this email are a series of complaints against Jeff Maus in his role as Greenwood Township Fire Chief. All but one of the complaints are from Steve Freshour, a Tower Firefighter and EMT. The last complaint is from Shawn Gawboy, an EMR with the City of Tower. All of the complaints involve Mr. Maus' conduct at various emergency scenes.

The Greenwood Town Board is charged with determining whether any of these complaints warrant discipline. In order to do so, the Town Board must meet in closed session, with Mr. Maus having an opportunity to be present and with Mr. Maus having the option of having the meeting be an open meeting rather than a closed meeting. The purpose of the closed meeting is to determine 1) whether any of the allegations are true and 2) whether the allegations warrant discipline against Mr. Maus. If the meeting remains closed, it must be recorded. If the Town Board determines that no discipline is warranted, the matter is closed and no details are released publicly. If the Town Board determines that discipline is warranted, the Township then moves to open session at which time it imposes discipline.

If the Township determines that it needs more information in order to determine whether discipline is warranted, then the Township can continue the closed meeting to another date. The Township can also call in witnesses to provide additional information to the Board or to answer questions that the Board may have, as can Mr. Maus.

The information contained in this email will be sent to Mr. Maus so that he can review the complaints before the hearing and prepare as necessary. This information is confidential personnel information under Minnesota law and may not be shared with anyone else, nor may any member of the Town Board tell anyone else that Mr. Maus is the subject of the complaint. Do not forward this information to anyone, nor should you let anyone else read this information.

As you are aware, a second closed meeting is scheduled for this Wednesday, at which time these complaints will be addressed by the Town Board.

Michael C. Couri
Couri & Ruppe, P.L.L.P.
705 Central Avenue East
P.O. Box 369
St. Michael, MN 55376
763-497-1930

10/22/2024

I am coming forward with my concerns/complaints in regards to mine/others with the Greenwood Fire Department/First Responders on various calls/scenes. These experiences include but are not limited to attempting to rush assessments performed by higher levels of care, attempting to respond/transport on island/lake calls without an EMT or an ambulance service, unprofessional behavior and remarks, attempting to take ambulance equipment without authorization, and multiple instances of lacking basic skills and knowledge in regards to Fire/EMS duties. I am bringing these issues to your attention because I am not seeing an improvement or positive changes on calls made to our area by Greenwood personnel and hope by bringing this forward to see a change for better outcomes in fire and EMS calls for the betterment of our community. Complaints made of Chief Mays on these issues.

Steven Freshour



October 13, 2024

Nisen Dr Fire

Dispatched for a boathouse on fire. Received updated information while enroute that the boathouse/sauna was fully engulfed, flames in the trees, flames by a propane tank with the valve closed, and approaching adjacent structures. Tower Fire Chief also requested additional agencies and shortly after more information that small explosions were occurring, Tower Fire, Tower Ambulance, and Greenwood EMR/FF McKenna Villebrun arrived on scene. Ensured all occupants of the home were accounted for and informed them to evacuate due to dangers of an explosion. Tower Firefighters, Tower Ambulance personnel, and Greenwood EMR/FF Villebrun ran hoselines and began cooling down the propane tank (we were informed the tank had been filled the day prior) noting steam coming from the tank. Began putting out fire by the propane tank and kept the tank cool. Flames were then extinguished by adjacent structures and trees containing fire to the boathouse. Engines and personnel from Vermillion Lake and Cook Fire arrived and began assisting. Greenwood Fire apparatus then arrived and Chief Maus allowed Chief Olson to remain IC verbally face to face. Chief Maus returned to the rear of the Tower Fire engine and was requested to set up a drop tank due to amount of water used. Chief Maus then began instructing oncoming personnel where to go causing confusion until Chief Olson noticing the confusion informed all units by radio that she was IC. Chief Maus became visibly upset and water ran out from primary engine. Chief Maus then began yelling at Tower Fire Fighter Jessie Hinkley

for water running out and the depletion of water causing the engine to not pump. He continued yelling until Fire fighter Hinkle walked away. In this instance Chief Maus should have been attempting to solve the problem. His behavior was very unprofessional in this regard causing hostility with a neighboring agency and confusion of incoming units.

John Maus

August 26, 2024

Pine Island Hip Injury

was dispatched for an 82-year-old male needing medical attention and medical history of a prior hip replacement and no further information. By radio informed Chief Maus Tower Ambulance would link up with them and drop off an EMT before ambulance was moved to staging area on Mud Creek Rd. Two Greenwood personnel withdrew to ensure an EMT, equipment, and patient could be transported safely. Chief Maus denied this stating they would go without an EMT. A Greenwood EMT by radio informed Chief Maus that an EMT should be brought to which Chief Maus denied. Radio signal became weak and limited medical advice in event of it being needed. Upon Greenwood's arrival patient was located sitting in severe hip pain. Greenwood was at this time instructed by Tower Ambulance to not move the patient and pick up Tower EMT as we requested Ely ALS. Upon arrival of Chief Maus at staging area requested additional information on the patient due to inability to check by radio. Chief Maus stated "Dean and McKenna are the medical IC so check with them." Ely ALS was later picked up by Greenwood as I stabilized the patient and kept the family calm. After Ely ALS arrived we moved the patient onto the boat at which time Chief Maus began lecturing the patient's wife about giving more information to dispatch. After Tower Ambulance with an Ely Medic transported the patient to Ely Hospital, the patient's wife thanked Tower Personnel and Ely personnel but stated that Greenwood's personnel were

"unprofessional, unprepared, disrespectful, and extremely aggressive."
When asking what she meant she stated, "The older man with
a limp was yelling at me and others before you came, had
brought nothing to help, and I went to file a complaint." I
informed her Chief Mues was not a member of Tower
ambulance and any complaint would need to be filed with the
Greenwood Board. I cannot censure this allegation due to not
being present. In this instance Chief Mues was unprofessional
and incompetent by identifying appropriate medical personnel/equipment
being brought, witnessed behavior to the patient's wife, and by his
own actions of not taking a Tower EMT being unprepared for the
call. Transporting a patient requires an EMT present and
by unnecessary time wasted the patient had to endure unneeded
pain and caused Greenwood EOC/EMRs when returning to the
dock in bad weather that may have been avoided. A medical
scene is also not the time to lecture a distraught spouse or
family members. I understand informing the public on 911
dispatch and response but arguments and lectures should be
avoided and handled with empathy.

[Handwritten signature]

July 25, 2024

Duffy Point Fall/Injury

was dispatched for a fall that began as a lift assist for Greenwood Fire/EMRs. The patient was assisted up and through unknown circumstances fell with Greenwood responders on scene and becoming unresponsive after hitting his head and intoxicated. While enroute was informed by Greenwood First Responder that Chief Maus was wanting the LBEAS Device brought to the patient. Virginia ALS and air medical were requested at this point. Replied to confirm CPR was in progress due to the request and was informed that patient had a pulse and was breathing but Chief Maus wanted it. Arrived on scene and began assessing patient. Chief Maus then began attempting to rush the assessment and to "just get him in the ambulance". I informed him a proper assessment was needed and to not attempt to rush it. Tower Fire, Greenwood Fire, and Vermillion Lake Fire responded to the LZ to secure the scene and prepare for a helicopter. Patient was then loaded after adjustment of C-Collar due to sizing and location not being proper. I was informed the C-Collar was not placed properly due to the process being rushed. We were arriving at the landing zone and individual driving the ambulance was directed to designated location. While advancing as directed, driver slammed the breaks causing EMS personnel to almost fall, get hurt, and failure of IV access attempt. Informed helicopter could not fly and began proceeding with ALS at which point we were forced to stop. After questioning members of various agencies and driver of ambulance

discovered that the brakes being slammed were due to Chief Maus rushing in front of the ambulance screaming "Stop". The reason we were forced to stop while proceeding to the hospital was due to a fire fighter removing the road block to clear our exit and Chief Maus replacing the cones demanding the exit to remain closed despite radio communications stating we were departing for the hospital after the helicopter was unable to fly. On this incident Chief Maus was unprofessional in attempting to rush an assessment, not ensuring patient safety, behavior towards other fighters, unsafe in rushing in front of an ambulance and failure to communicate or work with other departments by interfering with an established L2 set by the other departments was also later informed that Chief Maus did not have accountability due to losing his First Responder Bag due to Tower Personnel being asked if they had taken it.



Star

June 30, 2024

Farm Rd Tree Vs Excavator

Was dispatched for a male with his legs pinned by an excavator. Due to nature of incident air medical and Virginia ALS/Rescue were requested. Tower Fire was requested to bring a chainsaw to assist in extrication when proper resources arrived. Arrived on scene and saw the tree embedded in the cab of the excavator pinning the operator at his lower legs. Noted no Greenwood Fire apparatus were brought to the scene. Tower Fire arrived on scene as I began patient care in the excavator. At this time I heard Chief Maus yelling at Fire Fighter Shawn Gambo for having the chainsaw and to put it away despite it specifically being requested. While assessing Tower Fire members were getting needed supplies along with Greenwood EMRs until Chief Maus began yelling at Tower Fire members for not being at their engine (apparatus was chocked) and to go set up an LZ. When providing care to the patient I requested a stethoscope and noted no first responder bags were brought to the scene. The patient at this time stated that EMR/FF Dejoade prior to my arrival began cutting branches from the tree. He stated EMR/FF Dejoade was not wearing proper PPE, was not trained, and had no safeguards causing the patient to fall from the tree kicking up and killing him. In this instance Chief Maus was very unprofessional in his behavior and took runners for medical supplies needed at a time other agencies were securing the LZ. This incident also showed an overall lack of judgement in resources needed and need of training

June 16, 2024

Everett Bay Rd CPR

was dispatched for a 68 year old unresponsive and difficulty breathing. was informed by dispatch CPR was in progress and additional resources requested from air medical and Virginia ALS. Arrived on scene and was given report on situation by Greenwood First Responders and primary care was transferred. Prior to our arrival an improper (too small for the patient) was placed by Greenwood EMR DeJode after Chief Mars did not measure to ensure proper sizing. Greenwood First Responders were sent for critical medical supplies as Chief Mars was instructed to write down events and times called out to him verbally during ongoing care. During this time an Igel (advanced airway) was about to be inserted when the improper airway device was brought to our attention and had to be removed by Greenwood First Responder Tammie Dowden and myself. Outside Chief Mars could be heard yelling to call a phone number (number was for the patient spouse who was present), yelling that time given to him was not in military time, and also yelling and obstructing Greenwood First Responders bringing supplies requested by Tower Ambulance EMTs and instead demanding they bring other items causing confusion and slowing incoming supplies needed. At some point in the call Chief Mars began radioing all events over the radio on FE2 (Channel used by all agencies in the area). The patient sadly did not survive. Chief Mars in this instance was unprofessional in his behavior towards his department, demonstrated lack of skill in EMR skills, hindered care by his actions, and broadcast information for the call to anyone listening (I was later approached by many

others from differing agencies stating that was unneeded for everyone to know the "play-by-play" despite being given instructions of his assigned tasks.

John W

June 14, 2024 Ely Island Fire Call

was dispatched for a possible structure fire on Ely Island. Tower Ambulance was responding from a previous call and was coming in to our area of coverage. Greenwood Firefighter Tranchet was responding in a separate boat to give an update to all incoming units while Chief Maus responded with EMR McKean Vellebrun. Due to response distance Tower Ambulance went to staging location at McKinley Park Campground. The Incident Commander Matt Tuckel stated by radio for Chief Maus to pick up ambulance personnel/equipment while enroute. Chief Maus at this time told the incident commander "No" and continued without EMS personnel as instructed. Chief Maus in this instance was unprofessional and did not follow orders by the incident command and by refusing to pick up ambulance personnel refused to work with medical staff needed if an injury were to happen such as on an island call involving a fire (June 8, 2024) in which a firefighter goes down. In this instance due to Chief Maus's refusal to follow orders given and no EMT present, liability would fall on Greenwood Fire. EMRs are a great resource to have but do not substitute for an EMT or higher that has more resources and knowledge. Chief Maus's refusal also demonstrated a lack of good judgement required by a fire officer.



June 8, 2024 Pine Island Shed Fire

Was dispatched for a shed on fire on Pine Island with fire 20 feet by 20 feet. Chief Maus directed ambulance personnel to stage at Moccasin Point Marina and that medical was not needed. Chief Maus also stated that if medical was needed then he had Greenwood EMRs. During this call one fire fighter went down due to overheating. This left the fire fighter in the liability of Greenwood due to a Tower EMT not being present. This fire fighter was then cleared by Greenwood EMRs to return to fire fighter duties. Chief Maus in this instance showed lack of judgement and was thereafter unprepared when medical was needed. EMRs are a great resource but with the availability of an EMT should not be responsible for rehab. In the use of Fire Rehab areas that should be present on a fire the higher level of care should be present with proper equipment.



May 19, 2024

Lagoon Rd STEMI/Lung Collapse

was dispatched for a 65 year old male for possible heart issues with chest pain and right arm pain. We arrived on scene and performed an assessment and 12 lead EKG with a STEMI finding. Due to this we requested air medical. We had moved the patient to the ambulance at which time Virginia ALS had arrived. While continuing to provide care with Virginia ALS on board, McKenna had called back that Chief Maus was wanting us to move the ambulance. We told McKenna to inform him we would not be moving at this time. After being told no Chief Maus came to the back of the ambulance while care was being provided and demanded/yelled that the ambulance be moved so they could go secure a landing zone. Chief Maus was once more told no by Tower and Virginia ambulance members at which time Chief Maus began trying to yell at ambulance personnel until ambulance personnel yelled at him to close the door. Chief Maus at this time went to yell at McKenna until walking away from the ambulance. Chief Maus during this call was unprofessional and by his actions distracted higher levels of care from giving the full attention required in dealing with a critical patient. In this instance while Chief Maus was attempting to rush and yell at ambulance and ALS personnel, the patient was being stabilized due to the STEMI, worsening condition, and a collapsed lung. ALS was also drawing up and administering

needed medications which requires full attention to
administer the correct dose and medication

John W

November 12, 2023

Hoel Rd Medical

was dispatched for a 95 year old male that was very weak, unknown if he had lost consciousness, and was on the ground for a few hours. When Tower Ambulance arrived on scene the patient was sitting with family members near him. I assessed the patient and noticed the patient was very confused and would not be able to provide information of the fall or medical history. While speaking to the patient's family to obtain information needed (examples: Normal mental status and if the patient is on blood thinners) Chief Maus stated "Okay Steven lets wrap this up" in front of the patient's family. In this instance Chief Maus was unprofessional in his behavior and showed a lack of basic medical knowledge. Assessments are a vital skill to move or treat a patient. Chief Maus's attempt to rush an assessment of a confused trauma patient shows disregard to the patient's well being and lack of empathy to the family present. In these situations the family is a vital resource of information and should not be disregarded. These assessments should not be rushed due to how important they are and possible consequences to the patient's well being if missed.



April 28, 2023

Junction Rd Fire

was dispatched for a structure fire with multiple departments. During the fire Chief Maus was instructed by IC Tuchel to go with Tower Firefighter Shawn Gantroy to obtain water from the water tower. After 20 plus minutes of no contact and awaiting water to continue fighting the fire the IC appointed an interim IC as he went to check on them. IC Tuchel corrected mistakes made in order to continue operations and returned to the scene. Chief Maus returned with the engine and approached IC Tuchel and began yelling demanding IC Tuchel to pull fire fighters out of the structure and he was withdrawing a Greenwood fire fighter from interior teams because he deemed the situation unsafe and that IC Tuchel "should know better." IC Tuchel radioed for the Greenwood fire fighter to come to their location. This interior team did not enter due to safety reasons and were located within 15 feet of the IC. Chief Maus then walked away from the IC area. In this instance Chief Maus was unprofessional in his behavior with members of other agencies, inability to communicate, lack of skills in fire fighter skills, and aggressive/spiteful behavior.



Tower/Greenwood fire call on 1543 Farm Rd

On June 30, 2024 at 14:12 hours Tower Fire, Greenwood Fire, Tower Ambulance, and Virginia medics got paged out to a call for a male whose leg was pinned by an excavator. As Tower Fire arrived on scene Greenwood First Responders, law enforcement and Tower Ambulance were already on scene. When we arrived Greenwood Chief Maus yelled at EMS /fire fighter Jessie to move the truck closer to the four-way road so Ems/fire fighter Jessie turned the apparatus around and Greenwood Chief Maus parked us where we were already parked before turning around. Then he also yelled at Ems/fire fighter Jessie for having a chain saw when she was asked by Greenwood Fire for the chain saw because no Greenwood Fire apparatus were brought to scene. EMS / Tower Fire Shawn and EMS/Tower Fire Jessie went and asked EMT Freshour if he needed any help. We then assisted EMT Freshour with medical as Greenwood Chief Maus then got on the radio and asked tower fire to move their apparatus to the landing zone to block road. No Tower Fire were with the apparatus due to apparatus being properly chocked and fire fighters/EMRs assisting with pt care while awaiting additional units for extrication. He started yelling at EMS/fire fighter Shawn that someone needs to stay with the apparatus and can't move away from it. At this time EMS/fire fighter Gawboy who was holding needed medical supplies at EMT Freshour's request then moved the apparatus to the landing zone to block off road. Greenwood Chief Maus was very unprofessional with the way he came to yell at EMR/fire firefighter Shawn. Greenwood Chief Maus told Shawn "She needed to stay with the damn truck and not to move and stop all traffic". This is not the first time EMS/fire fighter Shawn got yelled at by Greenwood Chief... the Chief of Greenwood needs to be more professional on a scene.



Shawn Gawboy

Greenwood Town Board:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the fire that happened at 3333 Nisen Drive in Greenwood on October 13th 2024 at 09:55am. Tower Fire was first to arrive on scene, when we arrived on scene, we parked our truck and I told my driver we need water now. So I grabbed one attack line, Steven Freshour, a Tower Ambulance member and Tower Firefighter in training grabbed the other hose and ran it down there for me and put it by the propane tank. While doing this Kenna from Greenwood fire showed up and asked where I would like her, as I was the first chief on scene, therefore I had command and it was my scene to run, and I told her I wanted her cooling down the propane tank. She started that as soon as Jessie from tower fire got water going on the truck. I was on the other hose line, and Shawn Gawboy, Tower Ambulance member and Eagles nest firefighter, was standing behind me helping me hold the hose as I was talking on the radio to all incoming units and telling them what we needed and where to park when they got here. We were on scene for a good 30 minutes before any other Greenwood personnel showed up. Jeff Maus did not show up for at least an hour after I was on scene and he stated "He didn't know about the fire until one of his firefighters called him and asked him about one of the trucks" He replied with "why" and she stated "Well there is a fire and we got paged out and I am responding."

When He got on scene, he came down to me where I was running command at on the fire scene with his coat unzipped not in fire PPE, and told me I had command because he didn't want it, I replied with I had command for an hour and I got it and that I am fine with having it. So I sent him back up the hill to go help Brenda with the truck as we needed more water.

My sister Jessie, called me over the radio and stated that I needed to come up there because she needed to talk to me. I walked up there to see what she needed and she had told me Maus had been trying to tell people what to do and where to go, and then he also proceeded to yell at Jessie for not getting water fast enough and had her in tears which is completely unacceptable as she knows our truck better than anyone else. I then went on the radio onto the working channel, and stated that TOWER 84 had command and that no one listens to anyone but TOWER 84. Steven Freshour said when I said that on the radio, Jeff Maus grabbed his radio and held it to his mouth like he was going to say something with an angry look on his face and then just put his radio down and walked away.

Thank you
Paige Olson
Tower Fire Chief