



Friends of Townsend Fire Membership Meeting

December 20, 2025

9:30 AM

Attendees: Wanda Laste, Duane Bann, John Zeller, Dave Seeber, Dave Kusnierek, Pam VanOss, Bruce VanOss, Linda VanderHeiden, Jonni Bande, Gary Birr

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:31 AM by W Laste.

2. Introduce New Board Member

Laste introduced Gary Birr as the new FOTF Board Member, who will serve the remainder of Deb Franzen's term, through April 2028. Laste thanked all who were interested in the Board position and presented their qualifications.

3. Approval of November 15, 2025, Membership Minutes

- The minutes of the November 15, 2025, membership meeting were reviewed.
- **Motion:** A motion was made to approve the minutes by J Bande, seconded by L Vanderheiden. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Financial Report

The Board approved funds requests for registration and associated expenses for Chief Dawn to attend 5-day training for \$1500. In addition, the Board approved a funds request for \$1500 to welding a rack for the recently purchased extraction equipment into the engine.

5. Donations Received

Laste reported that there have been no donations received since our last meeting. J Bande is working on a donation from Dan Shadian, who actioned off a Christmas tree.

6. Grant Writing Report

Laste reported that the committee was working on three grants. One was denied for a fog nozzle, one is pending for a tool rack for the trailer, and a grant for \$1500 was received from the Potawatomi Community for the purchase of a second ice rescue suit.

7. Public Relations Report

- A reminder post was made on Facebook notifying others that can collection efforts continue during the winter months.
- J Bande is working on a Facebook post wishing everyone Happy Holidays from FOTF to their families.



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- J Bande will be posting on Facebook between Christmas and New Year, a reminder that FOTF is a 501c3 organization and if anyone is looking for last minute tax deductions, a contribution to FOTF qualifies.
- TFD Plaque is being updated. The current list is on the FOTF and Town's Website for review. Please review and advise of any possible errors or omissions.
- Holiday Cards are being sent to anyone who has donated more than \$100 to FOTF this current year.
- Nicolet Express now has a FOTF ad in place. Events will be publicized in this new publication. Work in being done to add a donations QR Code to our ad.

8. Can Collection Report

The bins were emptied after Thanksgiving. \$418 was collected with a total of \$384 netted after a gas purchase for the truck. Thank you to all who assisted.

The Board discussed new front tires for the truck as they are cracked and unsafe. K Osadjan will be working on this and report back.

9. Fire Department Report

Last reported that in 2023 the fire department was paged out 40 times and in 2024 paged out 30 times. As of today, the department has been paged 50 times, a current yearly record, which included two MABS calls to Roberts Lake. The fire department received the battery-operated extrication equipment since our last meeting. This purchase was made through FOTF major fund-raising efforts this past year.

10. Old Business

- Spring Raffle Committee held its first meeting. They are working on letters and other items. It will be a cash raffle and theme related to Spring Ahead and Check you smoke detector batteries. All are encouraged to assist.
- Townsend Tree Lighting was held on November 30. FOTF has a tree again this year. Thank you to Linda VanderHeiden for decorating the tree and making ornaments.
- SuperValue Round Up application has been completed and submitted. We are waiting to hear if we were accepted. More information to follow.



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- Townsend drive through Thanksgiving Meal was sponsored by NCAC. Check out the website and Facebook page to see a picture of W Laste dropping off the FOTF donation check.
- A scholarship program was discussed by the Board again this month. The Board will take formal action in January to create a committee to lead the program. Anyone interested in serving on the committee should contact W Laste or one of the Board Members.
- On-line Store is till operational and makes a great holiday gift.

11. New Business

- The Board approved the 2026 Budget.
- The Board approved a donation to the Area Food Bank for \$500. Check out the website and Facebook page to see a picture of D Seeber dropping off the FOTF donation check.

12. Up-Coming Meeting Dates

- Membership Meeting, January 17, 2026, 9:30 AM at the fire station
- Grant Writing TBD
- Public Relations Meeting, January 4, 2026, 10:00 AM at Anita Szyszkiewicz's home
- Board of Directors Meeting, January 12, 9:30 AM at the fire station

13. Other Business

Laste reminded membership that in the Town's Emergency Shelter Resolution, FOTF is mentioned to assist with staffing the shelter. The shelter has only been operational one time. The Town has been approached by The Red Cross, to serve as the Northern Oconto County Emergency Shelter. The Town is still working with the Red Cross on this. Red Cross would provide staffing, supplies, and aid should the shelter be opened during a Red Cross emergency.

14. Motion to Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by J Bonde, seconded by L VanderHeiden. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 10:07 AM.