

Department Board Meeting 01.08.2026

Members:

Chief Roger Bissen

Assistant Chief Bruce Blum

Captain Ryne Nelsen

1st Lieutenant Russ Lacy

2nd Lieutenant Justin Schechinger

3rd Lieutenant Richard Petersen

President Chris Bylund

Secretary Mary Yates

Treasurer Traci Irlmeier

Board Member Jacob Hazen

Board Member Zach Jensen

Board Meeting was called to order by President Chris Bylund. Minutes were read from the Board Meeting from October (10.13.2025). Motion to approve the minutes was given by 3rd Lieutenant Richard Petersen and 2nd by Captain Ryne Nelsen. All were in favor of motion, motion was carried. Minutes were read from the Board Meeting from December (12.08.2025). Corrections were made on minutes. Motion to approve the minutes was given by Board Member Jacob Hazen and 2nd by Board Member Zach Jensen. All were in favor of motion, motion was carried.

Discussion on minutes – should we send them out to everyone to make corrections instead of reading. They need to be read at the meetings. Secretary Mary Yates will shorten the minutes.

Chief Roger Bissen:

Discussion on the December vote. Captain Ryne Nelsen had people talk to him. Other officers were questioned by HFD members regarding this vote. Some people voted and should not have voted. Others felt they should have voted and were not allowed to vote. Kyle was still on probation so he should not have voted. Keaton was able to vote. Captain Ryne Nelsen stated we need to update our SOPs and By-laws. 2nd Lieutenant Justin Schechinger stated we have not referred back to the SOPs and By-laws enough for all the disciplinary actions we have had recently.

We need to reword the SOPs and By-laws. We need to drop the 90 days or include the wording that states “or up to the discrimination of the Board”. We need to include Mayday, camera, etc. We need a definite time line.

A meeting to discuss the Constitution and By-laws was set for Feb 3rd at 6 pm. Everyone will make notes on the Constitution and By-laws and bring them back to this meeting.

We went through the SOPs. Changes were noted as follows:

- Change on 32 – all fires “in our response territories”
- Take #4 under 31 and move #4 to 28
- RIT packs – they are on 28, not on 34
- Add Mayday under RIT – Roger will correct wording
- Add electric vehicles
- Add pulling trailers – we do have a written policy on that. Maybe we should add to the SOPs and include lights should be on when pulling the trailer.
- Under Critical Incident Stress Debriefing – debriefing was discussed and noted that we should use a neutral location, not the fire station. We have done it at the fire station a lot. Deleted this wording the last time. Need to remove.
- Add camera clause or cell phones

President Chris Bylund asked if we had all the rope we needed or wanted – depends on what we need to replace.

Captain Ryne Nelsen asked what the limit was on the Credit Card - use common sense.

Social media policy – need to include camera/cell phone.

Lights and Sirens policy discussed. Will work on the wording.

Are we adding channels on to Tango/Tango? There is a large cost for each channel. Need to have the two primary channels.

1st Assistant Bruce Blum:

Make sure when you leave the scene you do a 360* around your vehicle to make sure everything has been picked up and all doors are closed.

Open House at Myrtue for the new clinic is tomorrow from 1200-1330. We should all try to go.

Since there is so much hose to test and such a large job, can we look into Fire Cat to do the testing?

They charge something like \$2000-2500.

Captain Ryne Nelsen:

34s LDH needs to be washed and some of it needs to be inspected. It got ran over.

Can we get another rack for hose? We have a lot of hose. The rack we have is full of 3 inch now.

Did the hydrant get checked? Not a HFD problem. HMU worked on it.

Gas leak – both gas monitors did not work. They were checked 5 times and worked. Multi Ray has an O2 sensor for it.

Conversion kit on fan. It takes 3 batteries. Can we get a box so we can take all the batteries with?

Tool kit – do we want 3/4" impact. What do we want and where do we want them? Have it mirror 33?

We have one DeWalt battery saws all kit – should we get another?

We need to go through 33 and the Haz Mat trailer and reorganize.

Haz Mat classes in FF1 – don't want to go to Taber. Is there another option?

Are we looking at grants? The jaws and gator maybe getting a new one. They both still have lots of life.

Helmet and gear are getting close to expiration date. 2nd Lieutenant Justin Schechinger noted that like 95% of the boots will be expiring.

1st Lieutenant Russ Lacy:

Nothing to Report

2nd Lieutenant Justin Schechinger:

Captain Ryne Nelsen already talked about equipment.

LDH – need to clean. Didn't get done on training night. No one wants to do it.

Ultra hi pressure has been winterized.

Board Member Zach Jensen stated he has found trucks not plugged in, and doors and compartments open. 32 and 34.

The large inlet passenger side valve was open. Handle comes out when putting it in gear – that is normal for it.

Doors on 28, where the saws are, were fixed. The doors were not latching.

Radio & pagers for Chad K and Andy M – need location not sure where they are.

Figure our gear – lots are expiring. Let us know before the next meeting.

Safety glasses – ran out.

What is our policy on other people bringing their own equipment to a scene? Yes, they can bring their own. It cannot be PPE related though.

Captain Ryne Nelsen asked if we could order a couple of wild land helmets. Check upstairs first.

3rd Lieutenant Richard Petersen:

Richard was appointed as the Fire Department Liaison Officer. Does HFD want someone else to be in that position?

Board Member Jacob Hazen:

Nothing to Report

Board Member Zach Jensen:

Nothing to Report

Chris Bylund brought up the races. It will be Wed, Thur, Fri, and Sat (Jul 15-18th). Do we want to set a price? Shouldn't be an issue if we ask for money. The only issue is we will need additional people to help. Camping will be increased. We may have to shuttle people. We need to get committed people. We will reach out to volunteers to help. County Fair ends the Monday before the races. After the last race, Ragbrai comes to Harlan. Discussion was had about selling ice and what the commitment level will be from everyone. Will we have the energy to do the races and Ragbrai?

Unfinished Business:

Fire Department Pins that go on our collars – do we want the big or the little pins? We need to match. This needs to be brought up to the department.

Fire & Helmet Cams – not ordered yet.

Honor Guard uniforms – Can we get new? There is about \$5002 in the account. We shared uniforms and did not get winter coats for everyone. Can we get more training? We also received a casket flag. We can use it for training.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chad was here to discuss probationary status. Probation is a punishment. By-laws does not state this. Need to determine what probation means. There should be a difference between a new member probation and disciplinary measures probation. No first truck, no schools, & no voting.

Chad brought up that driving to calls is not appropriate. Running lights and sirens is not appropriate if it is not an emergency. If you run lights, you need to run sirens. Precedence is being set if you are on probation. Get rid of probation if there are no consequences. Discussed call with excessive speed. Looked at the tracker.

Good for the Board:

Nothing to Report

4th Quarter Attendance was reviewed by the Board. No problems.

- We will readdress Ethan when he comes back.

- A motion was made to take Troy Renter off probation. Motion was made by 2nd Lieutenant Justin Schechinger and second by 1st Lieutenant Russ Lacy. All were in favor of motion, motion was carried.
- A motion was made to take Kyle Nelson off probation. Motion was made by Captain Ryne Nelsen and second by 3rd Lieutenant Richard Petersen. All were in favor of motion, motion was carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted By,
Mary Yates – Secretary

These minutes are as recorded by the Secretary and are subject to Department approval at the next regular meeting.