

History of the West Bend Fire Department 1860 to 1918

Efforts to organize a fire department in West Bend began very early. In 1860 the Washington County Democrat reported that the residents of West Bend had met to organize a hook and ladder company. No one knows whether or not this fire company was ever organized, although one source says that a volunteer hook and ladder company formed in that year (1860). Another source says that Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 organized itself in 1863. No one knows exactly where this hook and ladder company housed its fire apparatus.

Neptune Engine Company

On May 1, 1869 Albert Semler, George Suerr, Henry Lemke, F. Duestch, and Peter W. Westenberg organized West Bend's fire department. Only Germans served in this fire company. Besides its organizers the company included Henry Voss, John Stein, George Bastian, Charles Troedel, and Wenzel Wachtel.



*Organizers of the Neptune Engine Company – abt. 1869
West Bend Fire Department Photo*

There is a certificate showing that the members of the Neptune Engine Company joined the State Firemen's Association in 1869 and asked for a state charter to organize the department. The charter was granted to the West Bend Fire Department. It was signed by J. M. Bingham, who was the speaker of the Assembly, Shad C. Pound, the President of the Assembly, and approved on March 8, 1870. The charter was approved by Lucas Fairchild, the Assistant Secretary of State on

September 5, 1870.

The records and all minutes were kept in the German language. Records of the Neptune Engine Company from 1870 to 1880 were lost or destroyed by the last Secretary of the Company. The Neptune Engine Company was organized with a membership of fifteen (15) members. On March 6, 1880 they adopted a constitution and by-laws which were printed in German. This was the language used by the Company for their meetings and in all transactions.

They had a hand operated, hand pulled pumper which had been used in Milwaukee and later in Racine. It was purchased by the Village for the Fire Department. The pumper was housed in the barns of the members of the Company.

1882

The Village of West Bend had 285 families with 1,409 people, of which, 195 families were German and the rest English, American, Irish, French, and Bohemian.

1883

February 8, 1883 – Jacob Young, foreman of the Neptune Engine Company requested the water

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race for the old mill be repaired for access to a quick water supply.

July 18, 1883 - The first existing records of any firemen's meeting in West Bend are of a meeting on July 18, 1883 in which a hook and ladder company was organized. The company was to be called "Active Hook and Ladder Company". S. F. Mayer was appointed chairman. Chas. A. Silberzahn was appointed as Secretary. In this meeting a motion was passed to establish a committee to develop a constitution and by-laws in English.

July 25, 1883 - The Active Hook & Ladder Company No. 1 adopted constitution and by-laws. They also elected their officers:

Steve Meyer as Foreman
Chas A. Silberzahn as Sect
Moved & second that
Mick Ruplinger act as 1st Assistant
P.W. Hams act as 2nd Assistant
George Boden act as Treasurer
Theodor Theilges act as Hook & Ladder Keep

A motion was made and passed to pay the Hook & Ladder Keeper six (6.00) dollars per year for such services. Members were to be assessed a 25 cent fee to defray expenses.

August 2, 1883 – the village board agrees to purchase the necessary apparatus for a Hook & Ladder Company as soon as it is "fully" organized within the fire department.

October 10, 1883 – A committee organized to purchase a Hook & Ladder wagon placed an order for a unit from the Preston & Co. of Chicago, IL. It was to be delivered within 60 days and cost \$500.

December 10, 1883 – The new Hook & Ladder apparatus arrived in the city. Theo. Thielges was designated as Hook and Ladder keeper. He was paid \$6 a year for those services.

1884

January 7, 1884 - The Active Hook & Ladder Company created a committee to meet with the Neptune Engine Company and the Village Board. Committee was to discuss the appointment of a chief of the fire department.

February 5, 1884 - Active Hook & Ladder endorsed Peter Boden's recommendation from the Neptune Fire Engine Company to be named fire chief. Negotiations with the village and the Neptune Engine Company to combine the fire department continued throughout the year.

The village had erected a frame building to house the apparatus of the fire department. This was situated on a leased lot which is now 513 Hickory St (1942). The lot was sold in 1891 and the apparatus was moved to the old 'North School' building. This was located on the northeast corner of Elm Street and 8th Avenue. This served as storage until the City Hall and Fire Station were built in 1900 on Hickory Street.

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1885

January 5, 1885 - Active Hook & Ladder committee reported they confirmed Neptune Engine Company's agreement in forming a village department.

March 19, 1885 - West Bend became an incorporated city. John Potter was the first mayor 1885-1886.

April 14, 1885 - The City Council passed Ordinance #1 dividing the fire department into the Neptune Engine Company and the Active Hook and Ladder Company. Each was to consist of fifteen (15) members.

1886

April 5, 1886 - A fire department slogan was adopted: "Our lives we risk, our friends to save".

1887

Active Hook & Ladder officers elected were:

S.F. Mayer - foreman
Geo Boden - 1st Assistant
John Romes - 2nd Assistant
John Keelhaul - Secretary
Joseph Smith - Treasurer

1888

January 2, 1887 - George Boden reports on fire in the past year and "that the company done valuable service". P.W. Harris named Active Hook & Ladder foreman. (*date in journal states 1887 but meeting falls in sequence for 1888-JS*)

The two companies (Neptune and Active Hook and Ladder) united and elected the first fire chief of West Bend. He was to take charge of both companies at fires. Peter Boden was elected and he served until 1890.

In the late 1880s it was apparent that the fire department was the hub of the social activities. Looking through various early fire department minutes, constant reference is made to dances, masquerade balls and/or some type of summer picnic or dinner.

It is also apparent that the outstanding citizens were members, or supporters of the fire department. Firemen attending the social functions were required to wear their uniforms. If a fireman came to a function not wearing his uniform, he was fined 50 cents (a days wages).

1889

January 7, 1889 - Henry Krieger named foreman of Active Hook & Ladder Company.

1890

George Kuehlthau was accepted into the fire department at the age of 20. He was born the year

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the department was officially organized. He became assistant Fire Chief in 1896 and Fire Chief in 1916.



*West Bend Fire Department – circa 1890s.
West Bend Fire Department Photo*

1893

February 6, 1893 - the City of West Bend appointed two men to ascertain whether the City could buy a site for an engine house and City Hall. At a meeting held two weeks later, the committee reported that it had secured an option on two lots located at the corner of Sixth Avenue and Hickory Street. The City board subsequently adopted a resolution appropriating \$600.00 in city funds for the purchase of the land. After this resolution was adopted, nothing happened for the next six years.

February 13, 1893 - The chief reported 2 fires during the previous year. The first was at the C&NW Ry. Co. pump house and the second was at the Wagner Brothers Store which was extinguished before the engine arrived on scene.

Water Power Fire Company

Amidst concerns that West Bend's two fire companies could not provide adequate fire protection, several local businessmen organized a private fire company. It was formed on November 18 1893 to be called the Water Power Fire Company. This private fire company was to serve northern West Bend (between Beech Street and Elm Street) with hose carts and hose, driven by water power from the Milwaukee River. The first meeting was held in the Henry Krieger Mfg. Co. shop. Henry Krieger was chosen to preside over the meeting and William Norman to act as secretary.

The Company was organized as a private concern to protect the property of a number of citizens

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of the northern part of the city who, by private subscription, had raised sufficient money to purchase a Silsby rotary pump. The pump was mounted in the rear of the Silver Lake Ice Company's flouring mill. The Silver Lake Ice Co. agreed to furnish the necessary power (water power) to run the pump at times when necessary, free of charge. The Common Council of the City was asked to allow the company the use of some hose and the petition of the company was granted.



Water Power Hose (Fire) Co. No. 2. May 20th, 1896

Left to Right

Geo. Deustch, Geo Kippenhan, Frank Erschens, Herman Gilbert, Frank Fischer, John Doernberger, Oscar Lang, Val. Miller, Henry Brandenburg, Henry Koepke, Gustav Dunst, Wm. Deicher, Captain Andrew Meyer

West Bend Fire Department Photo

The efficiency of the company soon became apparent to all citizens and upon the request of a great majority of the citizens of West Bend the Company decided to join the regular city fire department. Mr. Gibson, a noted fireman of St. Paul, Minnesota aided materially in causing the joining of forces. On January 17, 1894 an ordinance relating to the re-organization of the West Bend Fire Department was passed by the Common Council, and by this act of the Council, the Water Power Fire Company was taken in as one of the four companies of the regular City Fire Department. All Water Power Fire Company members joined the West Bend Fire Department. Water Power Fire Company was in existence for 15 years from 1893 to 1908 when the name was changed to Hose Company #2.

The rotary pump remained at the Silver Lake Ice Company Mill under the ownership of the principal shareholders of the Water Power Fire Company. The fire department formed a committee at the 1897 annual meeting to explore having the pump donated to the city; provided the city installs a pipe to Main Street. The shareholders refused the offer and retained possession of the pump.

1894

Waterous Steam Engine

On January 4, 1894 at a special meeting of the City Council and the Fire Department officers, the first steamer was accepted. It was a Waterous Engine (horse drawn) built in St. Paul Minnesota by the Waterous Company. It was given a very rigorous test for several hours by Engineer Charles Silberzahn. Because this Waterous Engine was horse drawn it was arranged that the first man to arrive at the engine house and hitch his horses to the engine to haul it to the fire would be paid \$5.00. This steamer was used by the fire department until 1902 when it was replaced after

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the boiler failed.

In June 1894 the Badger Firemen's Association held their tournament in West Bend along with the 25th Anniversary of the West Bend Fire Department. There were several bands, 300 visiting firemen and much merriment. The fire department set up a demonstration to show what the new steamer could do, as it was the first in use by any of the members. It failed to draw water that day and after several attempts, it was taken back to headquarters and on opening the cylinder head, it was found that the valves in the pump head were stuck.

Hose Company #1

On February 16, 1894 eleven members from the Neptune Company and Active Hook & Ladder Company organized Hose Company No. 1 under a motion that was passed on February 12, 1894. In 1896 they erected a building on Mill Street to house their company. On a motion made and carried, Mr. H. Wahle took the chair, Jos. F. Huber acting as Secretary. It was decided that the elective officers be a Hose Captain, an Assistant, A Secretary and a Treasurer. J. P. Flaherty was declared Captain. H. Voss was elected Assistant Captain. F. Huber was elected Secretary and August Schewe elected Treasurer. It was decided to name the new company Hose Company No. 1.

1895

February 11, 1895 - Wm. Norman was elected chief and J.B. Dixon engineer.

March 28, 1895 - Wm. Norman resigned as chief and J.B. Dixon resigned as Engineer. J. P. Flaherty was elected as chief and Fred Schmidt as engineer. No reason was given for their resignations.

1896 Neptune Engine Company Members

<i>Chief Peter Boden</i>	<i>August Nicolaus</i>
<i>Captain Peter Meindl</i>	<i>Fred Manthie</i>
<i>Math Regner</i>	<i>Henry Warnkey</i>
<i>Anton Roechel</i>	<i>Wm. Macholz</i>
<i>Ben Berger</i>	<i>Herman Warnkey</i>
<i>Wm. Schmidt</i>	<i>George Groeschal</i>
<i>Eng. Chas. Silberzahn</i>	<i>Steve Lang</i>
<i>Jac. Martin</i>	<i>Christ Troedel</i>
<i>Henry Weinert</i>	<i>Wm. Kahl</i>
<i>John Karsten</i>	<i>John Weil</i>
<i>Ernst Hiller</i>	<i>Herman Kuester (Driver)</i>
<i>Henry Voss</i>	<i>John Romas</i>

1896

February 10, 1896 - "Fire Brigade" formed with the adoption of a new constitution. "The Chief,

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Assistant Chief, Secretary, Treasurer of said department, the Captain and 1st Assistant Captain of each company shall constitute what shall be know as the Fire Brigade, whose duties shall be to meeting at least once every three (3) months for the purpose of devising ways and means to make the department efficient, to disburse in such a manner as shall aid the department and make it efficient, all the money held by the department, best seen fit to them, to recommend such apparatus and supplies and to also meet with the City Council if needed“.

Contract Proposition of Racine Fire Engine Company with the City of West Bend

The Racine Fire Engine Company of Racine, Wisconsin makes you the following proposition for fire department apparatus.

We will build and deliver F.O.B. West Bend, Wis. One of our 310 Racine hand engines, constructed as follows:

- Two 36" Sarven wheels
- 30 gal. Steel Tank, galvanized corrosion proof
- One, 3 x 8 double acting supply pump, detached
- One pressure gauge on top of tank
- One wire hose basket, to hold 75 ft of ¾" hose
- 75 feet special four ply chemical hose
- One brass shut off nozzle
- One Steel Crowbar

The engine to be painted with English vermilion scrolls in gold. To be finished in first class style of every particular for which we are to receive \$150.00 cash upon delivery of engine, without being tested on fire at our expense. We agree to deliver engine. We guarantee the material in every portion of the engine to be first class in every particular and should any portion of the material or workmanship prove defective in four (4) years, we are to take out such defective parts and put in new, free of cost to your board.

We agree to furnish your City with the formula for mixing the extinguishing fluid so that you can make it as needed at a cost of three or four cents a gallon. We guarantee that the chemicals used in our engine is absolutely non freezing, which when exposed to the lowest temp. in eastern Wisconsin. We further guarantee the engine against explosion during any stages of its operation, and we further guarantee that the inner liner of the reservoir is positively non-corrosive.

If the above proposition is satisfactory, please accept as indicated below, and it shall stand as a contract between us and you. We will build and deliver the engine as early as possible, or in 60 days.

Signed: Mayor P. O'Meara

George Boden was elected chief at the annual meeting in 1896.

The Fire Brigade recommended to the mayor and council the purchase of a 30 gallon chemical engine. The engine was purchased on March 7, 1896.

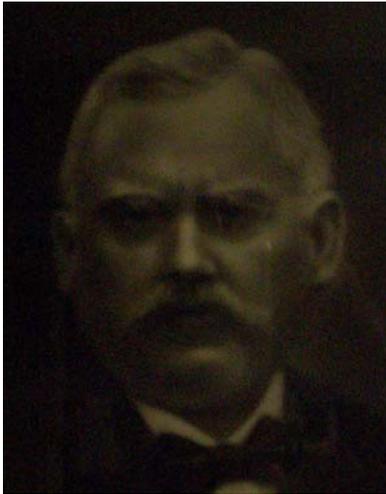
In early years, one of the duties of the firemen was to raise money for equipment, so they sold beer, soda, tobacco, etc at picnics. Also there were many sponsored dances put on by the fire companies. They also had a fine system -man unexcused absence at a parade cost 60 cents, often a whole day's wages. For drinking on duty, there was a fine of 25 cents. Parades were obviously very important and when the City celebrated holidays, in May and July, the firemen were the parade.

1897

February 8, 1897 – At the Fire Department annual meeting at Moser's Hall:

- Membership – Neptune Engine Co – 19 members
- Hook and Ladder Co – 28 members

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Chief George Boden
West Bend Fire Department Photo

Hose Company #1 -- 18 members

Water Power Co – 18 members

Officers elected:

Chief George Boden

Assistant Chief George Kuehlthau

Secretary H. B. Kaempfer

Treasurer Peter Klumb

February 18, 1897 - Six members assigned to the chemical engine: Ed Emmett, Seb. Hirschboeck, Jon Duernberger, H.B. Kaempfer, Math. Fohn, Chas. Kruetzer.

1898

February 14, 1898 – At the annual meeting at Moser’s Hall: The department responded to 2 fire alarms in the previous year but their services were not needed.

Membership - Neptune Engine Co – 19 members

Hook and Ladder Co – 25 members

Hose Company #1 – 16 members

Water Power Co – 15 members

By-laws were also amended so the Fire Chief received an annual salary of \$10.00. No change in officers from 1897.

June 8, 1898 - The Water Power Co’s, Andrew Mayer reported that pipes were being laid from the pump to the hose house and to the corner of the power house.

1899

February 2, 1899 - the Chemical engine was moved to the south end of the city and stationed at Reisse’s paint shop.

February 13, 1899 - Annual meeting reports showed the department responded to 2 alarms in 1888: August 14 to the town of West Bend for Mr. Weinert’s barn (destroyed) and to the Weinand Hotel on February 4.

1900

Fifteen years had elapsed since West Bend incorporated (1885). One hundred one angry citizens circulated a petition in which they stated that they wanted a vote on the issue of building a city hall and fire station. On October 9, 1899 the City passed an ordinance calling for the construction of a city hall upon the lots purchased back in 1893. After the city issued bonds in the amount of \$10,000.00, it accepted the design plans of the architectural firm of Van Ryn & DeGelleke of Milwaukee.

Work on the city hall and fire station began in spring of 1900. The smell of horses was common place since the fire station was also in the same building.

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By 1900 the fire department had split into four rival companies so busy, according to observers, fighting each other over who would put out the fire that buildings would burn to the ground in the meantime.

1901

February 11, 1901 - The first annual meeting of the West Bend Fire Department was held in the new fire station/city hall.

Membership - Neptune Engine Co – 16 members
Hook and Ladder Co – 26 members
Hose Co. #1 - 19 members
Water Power Fire Co – 16 members

Officers:

Chief George Boden
Assistant Chief George Kuehlthau
Secretary J. Huber
Treasurer Peter Klumb

The fire department responded to three (3) alarms in 1900: July 10 for Herman Wagner's barn; September 12 for John's Stern's residence; and January 17, 1901 for Adam Goebel's carpenter shop.

1902

March 3, 1902 - The department responded to 5 alarms in 1901. April 5 to the Schafer Building where a \$60 loss occurred; April 12 to Silberzahn's Foundry, \$10 loss; July 1 to the catholic School House, \$5.00 loss; December 13 to the George Boden residence, no loss. A false alarm was given on September 2.

Firemen approached the City Council for a more suitable device to alert the firemen – apparently the bell was no longer adequate

In the 1902, the City, with Joseph Ott as Mayor, bought the second steamer (horse drawn). It was known as the "Metropolitan Engine". This engine served the city until 1923.

Chas A. Silberzahn, Active Hook & Ladder's first Secretary, passes away

1903

February 9, 1903 - The annual meeting was held in fire department headquarters. Two fire



*1902 Metropolitan Steamer
Fireman-Charles Silberzahn, Driver-Jac Bastian,
Engineer-Chas. Koelle
West Bend Fire Department Photo*

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alarms were reported for 1902. The department responded to a chimney fire at Regner's block and the residence of Henry Immel on Seventh Avenue.

1904

February 8, 1904 – Annual meeting held at city hall.

Five (5) fire alarms reported last year. April 3 at John W. Goetz's, loss \$25; July 6 at Lemke's block, loss was \$300; November 10 at Anton Roeckel's, loss \$5; and January 5, 1904 at Enger-Kress P.B. Co., loss \$25.

Divided the city into fire districts. All companies are to have same style of dress for parades, etc.

Death of a fireman, no matter which Company, the entire fire department attends the funeral.

The following Code of Whistle Signals was adopted:

- 1 long blast – start
- 2 long blasts – shut down
- 3 short blasts – slack up
- 4 short blasts – full force
- 5 short blasts - shut off nozzle

The Secretary was instructed to furnish each company with a copy of the signals. These signals were for use on the fire scene.

1905

February 13, 1905 - There were four alarms in 1904. No details given.

1906

February 12, 1906 – Annual meeting held at the fire department headquarters. There were 3 alarms in 1905 and the current membership was at 65.

Membership Neptune Engine Co – 12 members
Active Hook and Ladder Co – 22 members
Hose Company #1 – 17 members
Water Power Co – 14 members

Hose Company No. 2 Personnel:

Ed Newmann, Ed Krieger, J. O'Meara, J. Knippel, H. Gilbert, John Peters, Gust Dunst, A. Gilbert, Val Muenk, John Brown, G. Martin, G. Hetzel, H. Bauer, Mat. Lochen, John Duernberger, Art Taylor, Allen Held, Aug. Striddle, C. Haebig, Art Muenk, Wm. Goeden and E. Hoemer.

1907

February 11, 1907 - Annual meeting was held. The meeting was moved to February 18 due to

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the low attendance.

February 18, 1907 - The department reported \$26,000 in loss from nine alarms for 1906. The large amount was due to the \$25,000 Berres-Gehl Foundry & Machine Shop fire on April 11.

1908

February 12, 1908 - At the annual meeting of the fire department, a resolution was passed to bar the Neptune Engine Company from all future meetings of the fire department and also deprive it of all future benefits. It was recommended that the Common Council pass a new ordinance reorganizing the Fire Department. The feeling against the old Neptune Engine Company was engendered by the fact that no meetings had been held for a year, that it failed to elect officers, and that it failed to report to the fire department secretary.

March 4, 1908 - The old Neptune Engine Company held a meeting in the fire station headquarters in the city hall on Saturday evening and by a unanimous vote, decided to disband.

March 4, 1908 – Ordinance No. 1 regulating the Fire Department was rescinded at the Council meeting and an entirely new ordinance was passed. The department will have only three companies hereafter, namely: Hook and Ladder Company No. 1, Hose Company No. 1 and Hose Company No. 2. The latter takes the place of the Water Power Fire Company, which will go out of existence when the waterworks are ready for operation.

Hose Company No. 2

The last company in the West Bend Fire Department was Hose Company No. 2 from the personnel of the Water Power Fire Company. The minutes of the Water Power Fire Company shows the new name at this time but no reason is given as why the name changed. Records show that Hose Co. No. 2 was in existence for 5 years from 1908 to March 25, 1913 when a special meeting united Hose Company No. 1 and Hose Company No. 2.

1909

February 8, 1909 - The annual meeting was held at fire department headquarters. There weren't any fire alarms in 1908. The meeting was adjourned upon completion of the business and all members moved to the Washington House for a banquet. Chief Boden gave a talk on the history of the fire department from the bucket brigade to the present time.

1911

May 1911 - Seth Meyer was elected Chief Engineer to take charge of all the apparatus.

1912

A request of pay was made, at least \$0.50. No further mention of what happened until the year 1917, when the \$0.50 was paid to all members of the department.

1913

May 1913 - Active Hook and Ladder is still going strong. The fire department now consists of Hook and Ladder Company, Hose Company No. 1 (the old Hose Company No. 1 and No. 2

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united). Each company has its own foreman and assistant who work under the direction of the Fire Chief, George W. Boden.

1915-1916

April 1915 - Swing harnesses were installed in the fire department and the horses were trained to come from their stalls in the rear of the new fire department to their places and have the harnesses dropped on them, which gave the fire department greater efficiency. The harnesses were purchased from August Richter, a local harness maker.

December 29, 1915 - Fire Chief George W. Boden dies at age 50 years. He was born January 9, 1865. He was elected chief in 1884. He also served as president of the Badger Firemen's Association.

December 30, 1915 - A special fire department meeting was called. Plans were made for the funeral of Chief Boden. George Kuehthau presided at the meeting.

January 4, 1916 - At a special meeting of the fire department, Assistant Chief, George Kuehthau is elected fire chief. He had been the assistant chief since 1896.



The department was to consist of no less than fifty members and no more than 60. All members served without pay until 1917 when it was decided to pay them 50 cents an hour for fires and meetings.

1917

The first piece of motor equipment was purchased. It was a Ford Form A Hose Truck with a chemical tank and a hose compartment to carry 1500 feet of 2 ½ inch hose. It also had a thirty foot extension ladder and a roof ladder. This truck did efficient service until 1931. Before 1917 all fire equipment was horse drawn and before that, human drawn.

December 17, 1917 - Chief George Kuehlthau had a new ordinance passed (#139) which did away with the different companies such as the Hook and Ladder and the Hose Companies. The ordinance established a fire department consisting of a single company of between 50 and 60 members. They were under the command of the Chief, Assistant Chief, Captain and Lieutenant. All members of the fire department had to learn how to handle all the tools, ladders, hose and extinguishers.

1918

January 14, 1918 - the last meeting of the old fire department organization was held.

February 11, 1918 - the first meeting under the new organization (Ordinance No. 139) was held.

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Ordinance No. 139 An Ordinance to Regulate the Fire Department.

The Common Council of the City of West Bend do ordinance as follows:

Section 1. The Fire Department of the City of West Bend shall consist of one company of not less than 50 or more than 60 members.

Section 2. Said fire department shall at its annual meeting to be held on the second Monday in June in each year, nominate and elect by ballot a Chief, Assistant Chief, Secretary, Treasurer, Captain and Assistant Captain of the Hook and Ladder Division, Captain and Assistant Captain of the Chemical and Hose Division. Such election to be reported to the Common Council of the City of West Bend for confirmation, and said officers to hold their respective offices for a term of one year and until successors are elected and to take their office July 1st of each year. The Common Council shall at its regular meeting in April of each year appoint an engineer to take charge of the fire engine, and said engineer to appoint his assistants and stoker.

Section 3. The duties of the officers of said department shall be as follows:

The Chief shall be chairman of all meetings of the department and shall have command of the department at all fires and fire drills, to call the department together once a year for inspection, at which the company shall appear in uniform with all apparatus under their control and shall be under his command.

It shall be the duty of the Chief to examine the apparatus and building of the fire department as often as necessary to convince himself that they are having the proper care and are in serviceable condition, and report the same to the Common Council. It shall also be his duty at the regular meeting of the Common Council in July of each year to report to said body the condition of the fire department, with any recommendations that the company may make.

The Assistant Chief shall assist the Chief in the discharge of his duties, and in his absence or disability to act, shall have all the powers of the Chief.

The Secretary shall keep a correct record of the proceedings of the department and record the same in a book kept for such a purpose.

The Secretary shall also keep a list of all the members of the department. He shall also keep a record of all fires and fire alarms and make an estimate of the fire losses as near as can be ascertained yearly. He shall certify to the Common Council on or before the first day of July in each year a list of the officers of the department elected for the ensuing year for its confirmation, the same to be filed with the City Clerk.

The Treasurer shall receive and faithfully keep all moneys of the department and disburse the same only upon an order signed by the Chief and the Secretary of the department and render an itemized account of the same at the annual meeting of the department and to give a bond in such sum as may be stipulated at the annual meeting.

The Captain and Assistant Captain of the Hook and Ladder Division shall have charge of the hook and ladder truck.

The Captain and Assistant Captain of the Chemical and Hose Division shall have charge of the hose and chemical truck.

Section 4. The department may adopt a Constitution and by-laws as may be necessary for the orderly conduct of its meetings and providing for the conduct of said department in general.

Section 5. Ordinance No. 98 and all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

This Ordinance shall be in force and effect from and after its passage and publication.

Passed December 17, 1917

Approved December 17, 1997

Joseph Huber, Mayor

C. P. Heipp, City Clerk

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Sources:

Information was obtained from the following sources:

West Bend Democrat Newspaper
West Bend Times Newspaper
Washington County Pilot Newspaper
Active Hook & Ladder Journals
Water Power Fire Company Journals
Hose Company No. 1 Journals
West Bend Fire Department Archives
City of West Bend Council Minutes

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