



For Immediate Release

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Glenwood Fire Department Dedicates New Fire Engine
Engine 436 added to department's apparatus fleet

During an exceptionally warm fall evening last Tuesday, village officials, firefighters and residents gathered outside the Glenwood Village Hall. The purpose of this assembly was to partake in the dedication and blessing of the Glenwood Fire Department's newest fire engine, Engine 436. Along with Mayor Ron Gardiner, Fire Chief Kevin Welsh, village trustees and family members of Mr. Layle Irwin were there for the celebration.

Mr. Irwin joined the Glenwood Fire Department in 1963, and 6 years later, became the village's first fire chief. Mr. Irwin served the people of Glenwood and surrounding communities as chief for another 4 years before retiring. After his retirement, Mr. Irwin founded, and became president of the Glenwood Historical Society. One of his first acts as head of the society was to acquire Glenwood's first fire engine, a 1936 Ford. Later, upon his death, in 2013, the Irwin family donated that engine to the Glenwood Fire Department, along with other memorabilia from his years of service with the village. Currently, the 1936 fire engine is completing restoration.

Those in attendance at Tuesday night's ceremony heard Chief Welsh speak of the important role Mr. Irwin gave to the village and the department. Fire department chaplain Herb Searfoss, of the Glenwood Bible Church, also was on hand to give the blessing for the new engine. Also, as part of the night's ceremony, members of the Irwin family witnessed the champagne christening of the new apparatus.

As the event wrapped up, Chief Welsh invited Layle Irwin's wife to unveil a special plaque, affixed to the pump panel of the new engine, dedicated to Chief Irwin for his years of service to the department. "The plaque seems appropriate on Engine 436", Chief Welsh said, "Because Chief Irwin donated the 1936 engine to the department, and it seemed fitting that the number 36 is represented with this dedication". Engine 436 is expected to go into service in the village shortly. The Glenwood Fire Department's 1936 Ford fire engine will be presented in fully functioning form in the spring of 2016.

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