

Village of Port Edwards

Municipal Building
201 Market Ave. P.O. Box 10
Port Edwards, Wisconsin 54469
Phone: 715-887-3511

VILLAGE OF PORT EDWARDS

PUBLIC SAFETY MEETING

Thursday, 6 April 2023

5:15 P.M. AT THE MARSHALL BUEHLER CENTER, 211 MARKET AVENUE

If you a member of the public and wish to listen, please call the dial in number below and you will be acknowledged

ZOOM- <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83706877726?pwd=UVowQkgwT2J2U1ZQSDNCWkZmdnBLQT09>

Meeting ID: 837 0687 7726, Passcode: 100684, One tap mobile +13092053325

Regular PHONE LINE Meeting Dial-in number: 715-423-6698, Access Code ID: 02067

Agenda:

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Approve Agenda
4. Public comments on agenda items
5. Approve previous months minutes, 7 March 2023
6. Chairperson comments
7. **POLICE DEPARTMENT- General Update**
8. **FIRE DEPARTMENT- General Update**
9. Discuss Old Business
 - a. Discussion on the Amended Fire Department Bylaws after 30 days of PEFD leadership consideration.
Potential **MOTION** to approve the amended Bylaws.
10. Discuss New Business
11. Correspondence received
 - a. Fire Chief Memo for discussion
12. Agenda items for next meeting
13. Next meeting date, TBD method in person
14. Adjourn

Village of Port Edwards
Sue Mitchell – Committee Chairman

VILLAGE OF PORT EDWARDS

Port Edwards, Wisconsin

COMMITTEE: Public Safety Meeting

DATE: March 7, 2023

TO: JOSEPH ZURFLUH

cc: BETSY MANCL ERIK SAYLOR RAYMOND BOSSERT
SUE MITCHELL DAILY TRIBUNE JASON WORDEN
TIARA GRUNDEN WFHR/WGLX DIANE TREMMEL
SCOTT DREW NICK ABTS LONN RADTKE
CALEB MCGREGOR

Purpose of Meeting: **Regular Monthly Meeting**

Attendance: J. Zurfluh, S. Mitchell, T. Grunden, C. McGregor, Police Chief Drew, Fire Chief Worden, Administrator Bossert

Citizens: Matt Fletcher, Betsy Mancl, Mary Barr, Gary Blum (Police and Fire Commission), Scott Stewart (Police and Fire Commission)

Subjects Discussed, Action Taken & Board Action Required:

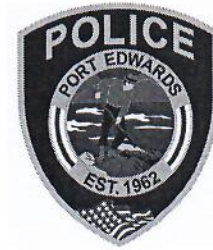
Regular Monthly Meeting

- ***Call to order:*** Meeting called to order by Chairman Mitchell at 4:00 p.m.
- ***Roll Call:*** All present from above.
- ***Approve the agenda & approve the previous month's minutes, 31 January 2023:*** **MOTION** (McGregor/Gruden) to approve agenda & previous month's minutes. **Motion carried.**
- ***Public comments on agenda items:*** None.
- ***Committee Chairperson's comments:*** None.
- ***Public Safety Updates***
 - Police Department**
 - a. A brief presentation by Jack Ninneman about proposing a Village Blood drive with a focus on police department against police department (Grand Rapids). The Intent was in the July timeframe. Consensus amongst the Committee to allow the Village be part of this effort. The Chief will conduct coordination's and establish the date and location.
 - b. Update by the Chief on Police issues per his report, Nothing significant to report. The new Squad has arrived an being outfitted, this will drive a discussion on the need to keep Squad 2 or sell at auction once it arrives complete.

Fire Department

- a. Review monthly & budget comparison reports.** The Chief updated the committee on his progress and activities, no issues. They are finalizing the cost for a new rescue truck, this will be in the amount of approx. \$80K and will need a discussion by the committee as well as FHR to plan the purchase and what funding source.
- **Old Business.**
 - a. Conduct an update on the corrective actions for the fire department from the 2021 report.** The administrator provided an update on the Fire department corrective action plan created in 2021. He stated he had no issues or concerns on the progress and the department was working towards 100% compliance (they are about 80% complete NOW). The largest part still being worked on are the Bylaws and some administrative actions with monthly minutes and agendas from their department meetings. It was noted that Assistant Chief Craig Kester submitted his retirement papers and will depart Village service on 1 April 2023 after 30 years.
 - b. Discuss Lexipol status by the department.** Administrator provided a summary of the Village progress on the Lexipol for both departments. Bottom line the police are fully engaged and working towards 100% completion of the transition and use of this tool. The Fire department cited some concerns based on their volunteer status. The Administrator informed the committee as well as the department that his office would take over the transition (typing in the policies) and provide the Chief with a retracted version of the policy book for his review. This will focus some time to get these done so the Village can have a discussion on the need for Lexipol moving forward for the fire department.
 - **New Business.**
 - a.** A robust discussion on the Fire department (DRAFT) bylaws and some concerns from the Fire Chief that having many hands trying to adjust these laws is not productive. The Administrator explained the need for the bylaws and that they will not and need not mirror the language in either the Village ordinance or PFC rules. They are very specific organizational operational rules and procedures, as long as they properly note the transitional points in hiring, firing and discipline action are addressed what they want to do it their prerogative. A “RED marked” product was provided to the Fire department for comment and the committee members will review and submit comments to the Administrator for compiling before next meeting.
 - **Correspondence received.** None.
 - **Future Agenda items for next meeting:** Police department wages, discussion on a coordinated plan to work with the school on a public safety club.
 - **Next meeting date:** 4 April 2023 at 4:00 p.m., in person at the Marshall Buehler Center.
 - **Adjourn:** Adjourned at 5:55 p.m. by Mitchell.

Port Edwards Police Department



Scott Drew, Chief of Police

March 2023

Summary of Monthly Activity

As of this writing, we are back up to full-staff. March was a difficult month for us as we still had 1 officer off from surgery and I ended up off for an illness as well. Overall, we had 15 shifts that were either only partially covered or left unfilled. I have been flexing my shifts to attempt to provide the best coverage possible to the Village. Part-Time Officers have assisted as best they can, and Officer Mertes filled in as much as possible for my illness.

We are now only 8 months out from taking over the Nepco Lake Development and I am a bit distraught, as I don't feel that the Police Department is any more prepared to take on these additional responsibilities as we were 3 ½ years ago when I became Chief. As our new board takes over next month, we need to have a serious discussion on the safety of our residents (especially our school children) with the addition of this territory. I continue to work with Administrator Bossert to try to find funds to add another Officer, but unfortunately we do not have anything concrete for funding as of yet.

We have been working closely with the school district to provide them extra attention in the wake of these tragedies, but the truth is we are spread thin.

Officer Mertes attended Crisis Intervention Training, which is very helpful dealing with subjects with mental health issues. Not only was this training free to attend, but we were re-imbursed \$1000.00 by NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) for the backfill and Overtime incurred.

The new squad is still being built and we are currently down to just having the Ram, as the Explorer's siren quit working and we cannot get it repaired/replaced until 4/7/2023. Without the operating siren it doesn't qualify as an "emergency vehicle."

Squad Conditions

Squad 1 (2018 Ford Explorer)	Squad 2 (2021 Ram PPV)
89290 Miles	21392 Miles
Siren not working	No known problems.

<u>Payroll for March 2023</u>	<u>Payroll for March 2022</u>
480 Full-time Straight hours	480 Full-time Straight hours
0 Full-time Overtime hours	0 Full-time Overtime hours
29 Part-time Straight hours	21 Part-time Straight hours
0 Part-time Overtime hours	0 Part-time Overtime hours
509 total hours paid	501 total hours paid

Enforcement:

19 Traffic Stops with 5 citations issued (1 Operating with Prohibited Alcohol Concentration, 3 No Proof of Insurance, and 1 Passing on a Curve).

8 Traffic Warnings Issued

10 Ordinance Citations Issued (1 Weight Restriction, 1 Junk Prohibited, 4 Public Nuisance Prohibited, 2 Parent allowing Truancy, and 2 Disorderly Conduct).

3 Criminal Arrests (1 Warrant and 2 Probation Holds)

2022 CFS Coun

03/01/2022 12:00:00

PEPD	
Alarms-include Varda	2
All Other	3
Ambulance Call	4
Animal Complaint	2
Assist Citizen	1
Assist Motorist	4
Assist Other Agency	25
Civil Matter	1
COMPUTER CRIMES	1
Criminal Damage	1
Disturbances	6
Escort-funeral	1
EXTRA PATROL	1
Follow Up	5
Liquor/Tobacco Viol	2
ORDINANCE ALL TYPE	1
Property Protection	12
Prowler-susp Sbj/veh	3
REPO DOCUMENTAT	1
SCHOOL ZONES	19
Special Detail	1
Telephone Abuse	1
Theft	1
Traffic Cmplnt/parkg	6
Traffic Stop	31
Utility Problems	1
Welfare Check	4
PEPD	140
	140

2023 CFS Cou

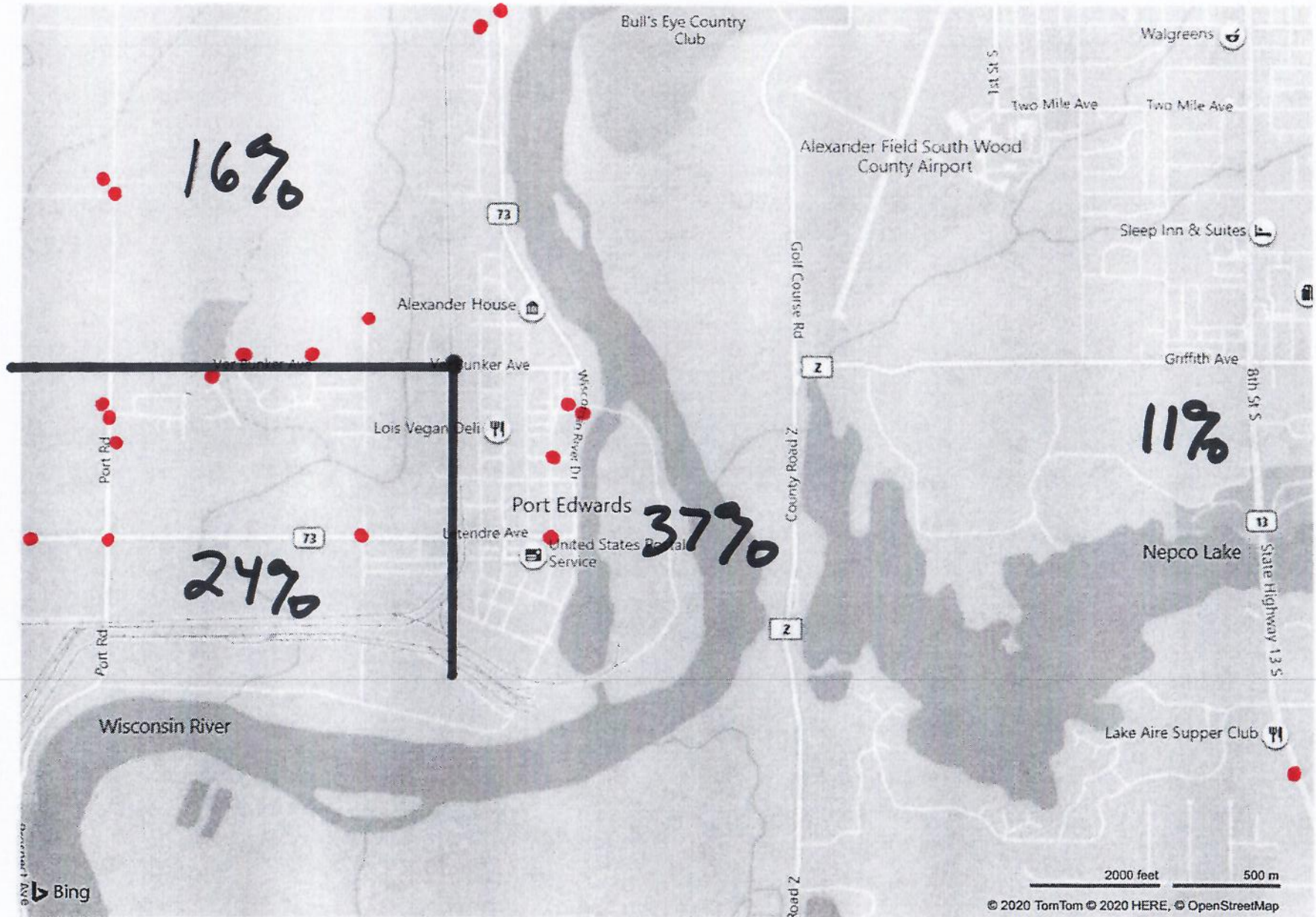
03/01/2023 12:00:

PEPD	
All Other	5
Animal Complaint	2
Assist Citizen	3
Assist Motorist	2
Assist Other Agency	15
COMPUTER CRIMES	2
Disturbances	5
Drugs-sale/mnfc/poss	1
Escort	2
EXTRA PATROL	1
Fire Call	3
Liquor/Tobacco Viol	1
Lost & Found	1
ORDINANCE ALL TYPE	4
Property Protection	25
Prowler-susp Sbj/veh	2
SCHOOL ZONES	25
Sexual Offense	1
Special Detail	3
Theft	1
Traffic Acc	2
Traffic Cmplnt/parkg	9
Traffic Direction	1
Traffic Stop	19
Warrant Pick-up	1
Welfare Check	11
PEPD	148
	148

PEPD MARCH 2023

10/5/2020

village of port edwards wi overview map - Bing Maps



EXTERNAL = 11%
• Traffic Stop

Budget Comparison - Detail
POLICE DEPARTMENT

Account Number		2023 March	2023 Actual 03/31/2023	2023 Budget	Budget Status	% of Budget
100-00-52100-110-000	POLICE DEPT. WAGES	16,128.66	47,296.06	205,000.00	157,703.94	23.07
100-00-52100-111-000	POLICE VEHICLE EXPENSE	0.00	0.00	650.00	650.00	0.00
100-00-52100-135-000	POLICE UNEMPLOYMENT	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100-00-52100-310-000	POLICE FRINGE BENEFITS	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
100-00-52100-311-000	POLICE OFFICE SUPPLIES	0.00	425.12	3,000.00	2,574.88	14.17
100-00-52100-312-000	POLICE TELEPHONE	262.98	793.00	3,500.00	2,707.00	22.66
100-00-52100-330-000	POLICE VEHICLE EXPENSES	506.30	1,897.32	11,000.00	9,102.68	17.25
100-00-52100-340-000	POLICE RADIO/RADAR	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00
100-00-52100-341-000	POLICE RANGE/WEAPONS	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
100-00-52100-342-000	POLICE COMPUTER SYSTEM	100.46	519.63	4,000.00	3,480.37	12.99
100-00-52100-380-000	POLICE CLOTHING EXP.	0.00	98.10	1,000.00	901.90	9.81
100-00-52100-381-000	POLICE DUTY GEAR	556.00	590.99	3,000.00	2,409.01	19.70
100-00-52100-390-000	POLICE MISC. EXPENSES	33.00	208.00	1,000.00	792.00	20.80
100-00-52100-391-000	POLICE CONFERENCES	0.00	296.58	1,000.00	703.42	29.66
100-00-52100-392-000	POLICE SAFETY/COMMUNITY	0.00	54.63	1,000.00	945.37	5.46
100-00-52100-790-000	POLICE HUMANE SOCIETY	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100-00-52100-810-000	POLICE C.O.	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00
Police Department		17,587.40	52,179.43	238,150.00	185,970.57	21.91
Total Expenses		17,587.40	52,179.43	238,150.00	185,970.57	21.91
Net Totals		-17,587.40	-52,179.43	-238,150.00	-185,970.57	21.91

Port Edwards Fire Department

Jason Worden, Fire Chief

March 2023



Summary of monthly activity:

Busy month. Three calls over last years (record year) call volume.

1st Assistant Chief Craig Kester is officially retired as of 4/1/2023 after 30 years of service. We thank him for his dedication and service and we wish him well.

We successfully passed a required State ISO audit, with a passing score. Some minor adjustments can be made to our budget as far as reporting Fire Inspector wages and required 2% dues equipment purchases.

We posted an ad on Facebook, and gained a potential member. Information will be submitted to the PFC. There is also an ad on the nice new digital sign in front of the fire station.

We enjoyed our annual March fish fry, which is traditionally cooked by the retirees. It's my favorite meal of the year, and everyone had a terrific time.

2023 Current 12 - Fire Calls / 15 – First Responder Calls / 57 – Total YTD

2022 Last Year 3 - Fire Calls / 8 – First Responder Calls / 54 – Total YTD

Activities for the month:

3/01 Officer Meeting

3/06 ISO Audit

3/08 Dinner Meeting – Fish Fry – cooked by retirees

3/15 Training Drill – Wildland refresher, review FST instructional videos – 7 people, 2.5 hours

3/17 Interview of potential firefighter (Facebook post)

3/21 First Responder Training at Wisconsin Rapids fire station - 4 people, 2 hours

3/22 Training Drill – Water movement/pump operations

Main Vehicle Conditions:

Engine 1 (Main Rural Attack Engine)

2019 Darley Pumper/Tender

4,309.6 miles, 285.4 engine hrs, 58.04 pump hrs

No known issues

Engine 3 (Car accident/Second Engine)

1997 Darley Pumper Tender

6693.9 + 509.1 miles

957.4 engine hrs, 125.0 pump hrs

No known issues

Brush Truck

2000 Dodge Ram 2500

7,706 miles

Mild damage to rear bumper

Engine 2 (Main City Attack Engine)

2007 Darley Pumper

12,071.1 miles

No known issues

Rescue Squad (First Responder Vehicle)

2004 Dodge Ram 1500

34,064 miles

Rear Box – Rust bubbling through paint

Check Engine light is on

Fuel leaking upon fill-up

Items for discussion:

- 1.) None.

Fire and EMS calls for March 2023

Fire

1.	2-Mar	17:56	841 Baker St	Fire in back yard	WR - 7 Members
2.	4-Mar	11:18	520 Verbunker Ave #13	Fire alarm	VPE - 4 Members
3.	5-Mar	20:17	801 2nd St	Gas Odor	VPE - 9 Members
4.	6-Mar	13:35	520 Verbunker Ave #13	Fire alarm	VPE - 7 Members
5.	7-Mar	12:36	1451 east Shore Trl	Dog and man in water	VPE - 4 Members
6.	13-Mar	2:18	221 W Riverview Expwy	False Alarm	WR - 4 Members
7.	16-Mar	0:48	1331 Apricot St	Smoke in house	WR - 4 Members
8.	21-Mar	17:37	211 WR Dr	Natural Gas Smell	VPE - 5 Members
9.	22-Mar	8:52	600 4th Ave N	Smoldering Fire	WR - 3 Members
10.	25-Mar	19:25	90 Cherry St	Smoke in the house	WR - 2 Members
11.	26-Mar	13:29	2400 Tower Rd	Wildland Fire	STGA - 5 Members
12.	28-Mar	11:32	310 15th Ave N	Garage Fire	WR - 3 Members

EMS

1.	3-Mar	16:25	1050 6th Street #312	VPE - 2 Members
2.	5-Mar	14:44	511 3rd St	VPE - 2 Members
3.	7-Mar	0:07	921 WR Dr	VPE - 3 Members
4.	7-Mar	13:22	1050 6th Street #302	VPE - 1 Member
5.	8-Mar	9:10	711 WR Dr	VPE - 0 Members
6.	11-Mar	15:06	341 Market Ave	VPE - 1 Member
7.	11-Mar	17:18	3403A Ghiloni Rd	SEN - 2 Members
8.	11-Mar	22:56	861 3rd St	VPE - 3 Members
9.	13-Mar	21:05	3729 George Rd	SEN - 4 Members
10.	17-Mar	2:14	1091 2nd St	VPE - 4 Members
11.	20-Mar	15:30	211 Alexander Ave	VPE - 1 Member
12.	21-Mar	3:12	861 3rd St	VPE - 3 Members
13.	25-Mar	8:08	1421 4th St	VPE - 4 Members
14.	26-Mar	8:51	650 1st St	VPE - 3 Members
15.	30-Mar	22:57	611 WR Dr	VPE - 2 Members

Fund: 100 - GENERAL FUND

Account Number	2023 March	2023 Actual 03/31/2023	2023 Budget	Budget Status	% of Budget
100-00-52100-311-000	0.00	425.12	3,000.00	2,574.88	14.17
100-00-52100-312-000	262.98	793.00	3,500.00	2,707.00	22.66
100-00-52100-330-000	506.30	1,897.32	11,000.00	8,102.68	17.25
100-00-52100-340-000	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00
100-00-52100-341-000	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
100-00-52100-342-000	100.46	519.63	4,000.00	3,480.37	12.99
100-00-52100-380-000	0.00	98.10	1,000.00	901.90	9.81
100-00-52100-381-000	556.00	590.99	3,000.00	2,409.01	19.70
100-00-52100-390-000	33.00	208.00	1,000.00	792.00	20.80
100-00-52100-391-000	0.00	296.58	1,000.00	703.42	29.66
100-00-52100-392-000	0.00	54.63	1,000.00	945.37	5.46
100-00-52100-790-000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100-00-52100-810-000	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00
100-00-52100-811-000	0.00	0.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00
100-00-52110-000-000	1,068.87	3,071.31	11,330.00	8,258.69	27.81
100-00-52120-000-000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100-00-52200-110-000	11,302.78	11,302.78	64,750.00	53,447.22	17.46
100-00-52200-111-000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100-00-52200-112-000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100-00-52200-113-000	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00
100-00-52200-131-000	0.00	5,934.56	6,500.00	565.44	91.30
100-00-52200-311-000	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
100-00-52200-312-000	98.96	296.88	1,300.00	1,003.12	22.84
100-00-52200-320-000	0.00	458.00	3,700.00	3,242.00	12.38
100-00-52200-330-000	93.98	93.98	6,000.00	5,906.02	1.57
100-00-52200-350-000	0.00	192.81	6,000.00	5,807.19	3.21
100-00-52200-380-000	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00
100-00-52200-388-000	0.00	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00
100-00-52200-389-000	0.00	233.21	1,000.00	766.79	23.32
100-00-52200-390-000	0.00	158.27	2,400.00	2,241.73	6.59
100-00-52200-391-000	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00
100-00-52200-392-000	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
100-00-52200-393-000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100-00-52200-394-000	181.25	255.91	1,250.00	994.09	20.47
100-00-52200-395-000	0.00	0.00	800.00	800.00	0.00
100-00-52200-396-000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100-00-52200-590-000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100-00-52200-810-000	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00
100-00-52200-820-000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100-00-52300-000-000	0.00	9,208.50	18,750.00	9,541.50	49.11
100-00-52500-000-000	67.85	207.36	1,000.00	792.64	20.74

===== PUBLIC SAFETY 30,401.09 83,593.00 398,930.00 315,337.00 20.95 =====

100-00-53100-110-000	4,817.60	15,187.68	66,444.48	51,256.80	22.96
100-00-53100-135-000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100-00-53100-136-000	1,567.41	9,798.93	55,000.00	45,201.07	17.82
100-00-53100-310-000	739.04	3,642.09	8,500.00	4,857.91	42.85
100-00-53230-000-000	737.68	1,383.96	6,000.00	4,616.04	23.07
100-00-53270-110-000	1,343.94	3,657.77	4,000.00	342.23	91.44
100-00-53270-310-000	1,520.66	5,489.77	16,000.00	10,510.23	34.31
100-00-53271-110-000	0.00	305.16	500.00	194.84	61.03
100-00-53271-310-000	32.54	133.86	500.00	366.14	26.77

PEFD Payroll Snapshot for the month of March 2023

12 – First Responder Calls – 35 members @ \$34 per call per member = **\$1190**

4090

12 – Fire Calls – 57 paid (59 present) members @ \$34 per call per member = **\$1938**

3590

1 – Overtime Incidents for 6 hours @ \$10 per hour = **\$60**

190

1 – Meeting – 14 paid (15 present) members @ \$20 per member = **\$280**

1090

2 – FD Drill – 14 paid (14 present) members @ \$30 per member = **\$420**

990

1 – EMS Drill- 4 members @ \$30 per member = **\$120**

590

0 – Other– 0 paid (0 present) members @ \$30 = **\$0**

090

MARCH
Month of February Estimated payroll spend = **\$4008**

Feb

1344

JAN

2040

7392

PEFD Payroll Snapshot for the month of February 2023

12 – First Responder Calls – 28 members @ \$34 per call per member = **\$952**

1 – Fire Calls – 3 paid (3 present) members @ \$34 per call per member = **\$102**

0 – Overtime Incidents for 42 hours @ \$10 per hour = **\$0**

1 – Meeting – 10 paid (11 present) members @ \$20 per member = **\$200**

0 – FD Drill – 0 paid (0 present) members @ \$30 per member = **\$0**

Canceled due to weather

1 – EMS Drill- 3 members @ \$30 per member = **\$90**

0 – Other– 0 paid (0 present) members @ \$30 = **\$0**

Month of February Estimated payroll spend = **\$1344**

PEFD Payroll Snapshot for the month of January 2023

11 – First Responder Calls – 24 members @ \$34 per call per member = **\$816**

4 – Fire Calls – 16 paid (17 present) members @ \$34 per call per member = **\$544**

0 – Overtime Incidents for 42 hours @ \$10 per hour = **\$0**

1 – Meeting – 13 paid (14 present) members @ \$20 per member = **\$260**

1– FD Drill –10 paid (11 present) members@ \$30 per member = **\$300**

1 – EMS Drill- 4 members @\$30 per member = **\$120**

0 – Other– 0 paid (0 present) members @ \$30 = **\$0**

Month of January Estimated payroll spend = **\$2040**



PORT EDWARDS VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Jason Worden

Good morning everyone,

So I'm sitting here alone at El Café, eating a country fried steak scramble (highly recommend) My heart is beating harder than usual, my ears are ringing, and I'm trying to collect my thoughts after yet another sleepless night.

As all or most of you know, a disciplinary action against me is being submitted to the PFC. for "refusing the order" to provide financial information about the Port Edwards Firefighters Athletic Association. I was given the order, a March 30th deadline, and I was conflicted because I wasn't sure if I should or even could disclose the information. During a March 29th meeting I asked twice if I could get an extension on the deadline so we could run it through the proper channels of a scheduled Athletic Association meeting on April 5th, and seek additional information. The Village auditor previously told me that we could request an extension and it happens all the time. My request was not answered, and on Friday, March 31st I was informed of the disciplinary action that would be submitted shortly with wording stating that I completely ignored the order.

Most of Friday night was spent on the phone, seeking information and simultaneously being involved in attempting to prevent the fire department's image and its member's images from being tarnished in a social media discussion originating from one of our own Village Trustees.

Saturday morning I requested an emergency meeting of the Athletic Association over my concerns of being pressured and threatened to disclose the financial information. At the meeting we shared all of the information we had gathered. Personally, I consulted with 3 retired Port Edwards Fire Chiefs, 2 neighboring Fire Chiefs that I have a close working relationship with, retired fire dept. officers, our accountant, and the Village Auditor. Every one of them said it's an account separate from the Village and I cannot disclose that information. I am just a member of the Association. We have an elected President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary who are in control of the Athletic Association. Point blank, if I had disclosed these records, action could have been taken against me for violating the rules of Athletic Association. We voted and agreed that we should follow the existing language of the Village Ordinance, and submit our records to be reviewed by the Village Auditor. We can't be asked to follow instructions under the guise that the wording of the ordinances will be changed in the future to fit what we're be told to do right now.

Now... cue the colossal **SHITSTORM** that you were all warned about...

As of now, the majority of the membership wants to cancel the Brat Fry, cancel the Street Dance, cancel the Gun Raffle, dissolve the Athletic Association, and never spend another minute doing any fundraising. At least 2 people want to outright quit because of this and the social media post. Some people (not me) want legal action to be taken, against the Village because I am being threatened and punished for not complying with unethical or illegal orders, and the fire dept. looks guilty as hell for not immediately disclosing financial information.

Now we have to do some damage control, and do it fast. Lines have been crossed, people are upset, and I even got an email from WAOW asking if certain people are members of the fire dept.

Here are some suggestions, and it's up to everyone else if you want to go through some official complaints / corrective action process, because I don't want to waste any more of my time with this nonsense.

- 1.) I want the Village Organizational Structure to be reviewed again. I want smaller grey areas of where "operations" end. From my observations, two Village Trustees are really pushing for financial transparency, Boz is ordering me to do things, and nobody knows if he can order me to do these things, but I am being punished for not doing them. I need some level of comfort that when someone tells me to do something, they have the authority to do so, and I am offered some level of protection if I don't agree with things. We were told that Boz is in charge so we can move things along faster, but now things are moving along so quickly that we're getting into trouble. We can't expedite processes before we even know what the process is. There is a lot of shoulder shrugging and "I think" and "I feel" and "I don't know" being stated during these meetings but we're still trying to plow ahead.
- 2.) I want the threats to stop. This also ties into #1. This current ridiculousness is being generated by members of the Village Board, and I don't want to be threatened with punishment or to "stop all the drama" or else. I will carry on and continue to do the best work that I possibly can, regardless of who is Village President, or who is a Trustee, or who the Administrator is. I will hold no grudges regardless of the outcome of all this.
- 3.) I want the Village to review our social media policy. Tiara Grunden's facebook post was out of line. Maybe me even replying to it was a violation. But from my point of view, it was nothing more than some dirty mud slinging against Erik Saylor, which eventually led her write false statements which could negatively impact the image of the fire dept., and some apologies need to be made. This cannot happen again from our Village leaders.
- 4.) I want members of the Village Board to apply to be members of the fire dept. If I lose members of the fire dept. because of the actions of certain members of the Village board, then I need to immediately fill those positions, and they need to help me do it. Everyone will know exactly what goes on here and how our money is being spent. We barely have enough people to staff the street dance as is, and they can even stay until 3am counting the money, so they know how much we have. Cleanup starts at 7am.

For the moment, things are fine between the firefighters. Some are angry, some just don't care. One member is openly disagreeing and distancing himself from everything because he is worried his future career goals and his spouse's political aspirations will be damaged. We talked, voiced our concerns, asked each other honest questions, I called him Brother, and we hugged. Nice and simple and professional. That's what I like to think about. This all could have been handled differently. I think there was unnecessary pressure due to elections and little secret agendas. The Athletic Association has been a non-issue for twenty damn years, and now it's the focus of all this pandemonium.

Boz, if you made it this far, this last part is for you. I like working with you. I think you are very smart and have a work ethic that is unparalleled. You are an absolute workhorse when it comes to accomplishing tasks. You will put your head down and plow through everything to completion. But in this case, I think that was the problem. Your head was down, you were laser focused on your target, but I think you were aimed at that target by some people who are playing some real political ticky tack games. I heard you. You wanted to briefly touch on this, change some wording, get a simple report, check it off your list, close the book, and call it a day. So did I. Now it's all blown out of proportion for the sole reason of smearing a political opponent to get others elected. That brings me back to the Organizational Chart. It's up to you to do the dirty work, complete the tasks, while the people who should be doing some of the work can kick back and shrug their shoulders with no accountability. I consider you a friend and imagine there will be some temporary tension between us, but I do not want things to escalate any further. My goal is to just be left alone to manage the fire dept. the best way that I possibly can.

Thank you all for reading this. It's into the afternoon now so my good morning story no longer applies, haha. It took me half the damn day to do this because while I was writing it, I was interrupted 4 times to deal with pissed off members. None of this excitement was brought on by me. I've been very clear with people that I want to resolve these problems and get back to business. I'm going to try to salvage what's left of a garbage weekend, by shutting off my phone and get some things done.

Best Regards,

Jason Worden

Chief

Port Edwards Fire Dept.

Tiara Grunden

961 Brentwood Dr.
Port Edwards, Wi 54469
tiara.grunden@portedwardswi.gov

April 5th, 2023

Village Administrator
Village Board
Fire Chief

To all concerned,

I am writing in response to Chief Worden's correspondence. I will try to keep this simple and to the point.

1. The request for the financial disclosure was made by Boz Wednesday, March 22.
2. It is evident in the Chief's letter that he was not given an extension. Friday, March 31 the chief was notified of a pending disciplinary action.
3. According to the Chief's letter, he called an emergency meeting of the Athletic Association Saturday morning. Within a couple of hours, they were gathered and voted on how to proceed.

Concerns:

Why didn't that happen when the request for the financial disclosure was made?

Why was it only an emergency after the Chief was notified of pending disciplinary action?

Why was there no meeting called between the March 22 request and the March 30 due date?

4. The request for financial disclosure was clear on what was to be done. The organizational chart outlines that the administrator is the head of and has authority over the

village. This includes all departments. The fact that the administrator made a request and outlined the process and the Chief ignored that request is blatant. The fact that no action was taken to follow the directive until after the due date and after notification of disciplinary action is complete insubordination. The Administrator is the Village Manager. If he gives a directive that must be promptly fulfilled.

I hesitate to respond to the rest of the letter as it amounts to a disrespectful rant. If anyone one of us would communicate with the supervisory authority in our jobs in the fashion that the Chief has communicated with the village we likely would be invited to make our way to the door. This type of communication and behavior is not becoming of the position of the Fire Chief.

My Facebook post:

I made that Facebook post after the reality hit me of how very serious the action from the PLIT meeting was. I literally felt panicked that we could potentially be at risk of action being taken against the village from the same authorities that did just that in 2016. At that time I felt it was critical that the village residents have knowledge of the blatant disregard of the conflict of interest and the damage it could do. I felt compelled to practice the transparency that is talked about. I literally hoped that the residents would respond in the capacity to protect the village from going down that costly and damaging road. I was well aware that it had the potential to cause me to lose my own trustee seat. I had full understanding that people could twist my intentions and present me as someone that I am not. My commitment to the village rises beyond my personal desire to hold a seat at the table.

As we move forward I am open to discussing these circumstances. The mistake that I made was responding to comments that I should not have. When Chief and Don started making statements about the fire department I should not have participated. When I realized how bad that post was starting to look I took it down. I

took it down to protect the image of the fire department. I wish I had not engaged in the comments but I said nothing that is a twist or inaccurate representation.

My post was strictly about the conflict of interest that occurred in the meeting and was ignored. My post had nothing to do with the fire department and everything to do with the responsibility that the board has for the village residents.

I look forward to being a part of keeping the village moving forward. We likely have a challenging couple of months while we address current challenges. We will come out on the other side of these circumstances having learned and become better than we were.

Sincerely,

Tiara Grunden

Village Trustee



Tiara Grunden for Port Edwards
Village Board Trustee



page 1

8h · 🌐

After the meeting last night, I am disappointed. On display during this meeting was a huge conflict of interest by one of our Village President candidates. After it was repeatedly called out... he refused to stop conducting business on an issue that he has such a clear conflict of interest.

Please get out and vote Tuesday. If you want open and transparent leadership you must vote for it. There is a lot on the line. After last night's meeting, I publicly state that I support Betsy Mancl for Village President.

I hope that when you vote I may have your continued support and vote. [Tiara Grunden for Port Edwards Village Board Trustee.](#)


To see the misconduct for yourself, the link is in the comments below. Start watching around the 50-minute mark. This is unethical and just plain shameful!

Tiara Grunden for Port Edwards Village Board Trustee's Post

Jason Worden

Just imagine all of the wonderful things we could accomplish if we channeled this energy into actually HELPING the fire department. It sure would be beneficial if you spent this wasted time writing a grant to help us acquire desperately needed equipment instead of lashing out on social media against upstanding and dedicated members of the fire dept.


Like Reply 38m

 Author

Tiara Grunden for Port Edwards Village Board Trustee


Jason Worden Listen to the meetings... I believe all needed equipment should be budgeted. You have not come to the board and expressed that there was any "equipment needed" that is not being provided for. If there are needs that must be presented at budget planning time so we can determine our options. If there is something unexpected we need to be informed. We have not been informed of any needs that have not been addressed. I am happy to help with grant writing if that would lighten your load. If you have concerns bring them forward appropriately.

Like Reply 20m

 **Jason Worden**

Tiara Grunden for Port Edwards Village Board Trustee there's always equipment that's needed, I do bring it up in meetings, and there is a five year plan to purchase it. We recently met with a professional grant writer to help us work towards purchasing soon to be expired turnout gear and air packs, and we were going to pay for the grant writing expenses out of our private fundraising account. I'm not going to continue this conversation with you on your social media post. I think it's tarnishing the image of a fine Fire Department in it's 100th year of operation, and I hope there's no negative fallout because of it.

Like Reply 9m

 **Don Kitowski**

Jason Worden better yet we need members, all these people who want to be such a part of it should take the 100's of hours of schooling and put in all the hours of training. Nothing like turning the members of the FD into bad people all over the miniscule amount of money being discussed. Again timing is everything and I don't believe in coincidence. The actions of the last month were strategically planned.

Like Reply 28m

 Write a comment...





Bruce Diggles and 2 others >



Tiara Grunden

This post is about a conflict of interest raised from our board meeting. Issues that are unfolding on this post are best handled through the appropriate channels. In all of the time that I have been on the village board I have been protective and thoughtful of the fire department. I am from a family of public servants and hold these roles in high regard. I will continue to do my job with that level of respect.

1h Like Reply

The comment Tiara is replying to has been deleted.



Tiara Grunden

Jason Worden I think you misunderstood my comment. My reference was to the things that you and Don were bringing up and nothing else. I will clarify that.

59m Like Reply

Write a comment...

The deleted comment that shows in other screen shot is shown below from before it was deleted.

Tiara Grunden for Port Edwards Village Board Trustee's Post

Like

Comment

Share

All comments

Tiara Grunden

This post is about a conflict of interest raised from our board meeting. Issues that are unfolding on this post are best handled through the appropriate channels. In all of the time that I have been on the village board I have been protective and thoughtful of the fire department. I am from a family of public servants and hold these roles in high regard. I will continue to do my job with that level of respect.

Like Reply 41m Edited

Jason Worden

Tiara Grunden I said I was done, but I refuse to sit here and let the reputation of my dept be damaged by you. There are no "issues unfolding within the fire department operations" the only issue is a Village Trustee writing things that undermine the public's trust and confidence in our organization and it's members. I suggest you look up the definition of LIBEL before you type one more word.

Like Reply 19m

Tiara Grunden

Jason Worden I think you misunderstood my comment. My reference was to the things that you and Don were bringing up and nothing else. I will clarify that.

Like Reply 11m

Reply to Tiara Grunden...



Don's comments

3 >



(A)

All comments v



Author

Tiara Grunden for Port Edwards Village Board Trustee

<https://youtu.be/C7xA7dsD1EE>



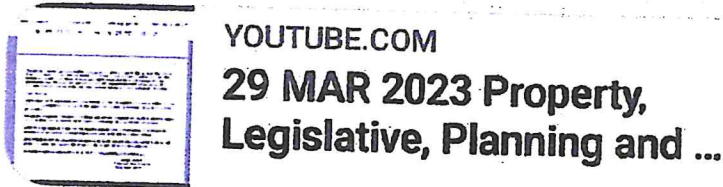
8h Like Reply



Author

Tiara Grunden for Port Edwards Village Board Trustee

<https://youtu.be/C7xA7dsD1EE>



6m Like Reply



Don Kitowski

You do realize that the person you are discussing is the president, and the other person you are discussing's husband is the vice president right?

3h Like Reply



ce Diggles and 2 others >



Tiara Grunden for Port Edwards Village Board Trustee

Don Kitowski Yes... In the video, I asked and Erik stated that he is the president. He proceeded to attempt to conduct business on behalf of the Athletic Association and fire department without disclosing that he was the president of the athletic association. That is a conflict of interest. I repeatedly pointed it out and advised Erik of the ethical violation if he continued. Sadly... he continued with no regard.

45m Like Reply



Don Kitowski

Tiara Grunden for Port Edwards Village Board Trustee wonder who pointed out that he was the president to you. Wonder if this was all brought up knowing he would have to bring the

e a comment...



(B)

Don Kitowski

You do realize that the person you are discussing is the president, and the other person you are discussing's husband is the vice president right?

Like Reply 1h

Don Kitowski

If you are gonna publicly bash someone have your facts straight. First of all Erik didn't want to be President of the association he was nominated and has only been in charge since October. I think you all are getting a little cut throat about something you don't truly understand. Remember when that non profit sends flowers out for a fire department retiree funeral it makes the village look good. When money from that same charity is donated for meals or presents at the holidays for families on need it makes the village look good. When firefighters buy equipment for themselves because they are out of budget funds that's not right either, do cops buy bullets? Should we ever have to buy a hose or any other piece of equipment? Just raising points that you all so unfairly don't bring up, and wanna bash one man for, just to have a good ole boys group (pardon the phrase) go on in the village.

Like Reply 40m

Don Kitowski

The department has nothing to hide just more questioning why all of a sudden weeks before this election the books are wanted. I don't believe in coincidence, just so happen you all knew Erik was the President, what you failed to calculate is the Josh is the VP. You bring all this up now right before an election to make someone look bad, knowing there is no way it can be straightened out prior to the election. The association operates just like any other meeting, meaning that a vote has to be made by membership for anything to happen including turning the books over when they haven't been asked for in forever.

Like Reply 25m

Write a comment...



3 >



(c)



Don Kitowski

If you are gonna publicly bash someone have your facts straight. First of all Erik didn't want to be President of the association he was nominated and has only been in charge since October. I think you all are getting a little cut throat about something you don't truly understand. Remember when that non profit sends flowers out for a fire department retiree funeral it makes the village look goo... [See more](#)

2h Like Reply



Author

Tiara Grunden for Port Edwards Village Board Trustee

Don Kitowski I am happy to have a conversation regarding any of this. This is all public record. The fact that Erik is the president is not the problem. The fact that he was pushing an agenda for the Athletic Association is where the legal issue comes in. Erik is aware of this as we all have training every year and actually had a refresher talk from the village attorney

Write a comment...



(D)

10:37 AM

Facebook Post

3 > Don Kitowski -



the president he was told by us the members of the association to look at that language? Did you ever ask him that question, or did you just go in with the plan to bash the man and try to make him look bad and discredit him. Erik is one of the most ethical people I know he abstains from nearly every vote you guys have that effects the fire department....does your other candidate, that has financial gains from that department?

2h Like Reply



Write a reply...



Author

Tiara Grunden for Port Edwards Village Board Trustee

I have not heard of the athletic fund buying equipment that is needed in fighting fires. If indeed things such as hoses or anything like that have been purchased I would suggest bringing that to the board's attention. What has

Write a comment...

(E)

16:37 星期三

97.9% 97.9%

3 >



Don Kitowski

The department has nothing to hide just more questioning why all of a sudden weeks before this election the books are wanted. I don't believe in coincidence, just so happen you all knew Erik was the President, what you failed to calculate is the Josh is the VP. You bring all this up now right before an election to make someone look bad, knowing there is no way it can be straightened out prior to the election. The association operates just like any other meeting, meaning that a vote has to be made by membership for anything to happen including turning the books over when they haven't been asked for in forever.

2h Like Reply



Author

Tiara Grunden for Port Edwards Village Board Trustee

Don Kitowski I suggest you continue with this conversation further with our administrator. Josh being the VP has nothing to do with anything. Josh is not on the board trying to conduct

Write a comment...