

# VILLAGE OF PORT EDWARDS

Port Edwards, Wisconsin

COMMITTEE: Public Safety Meeting

DATE: April 6, 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 (ZOOM), Fire Chief Worden, Administrator Bossert

**Citizens:** B. Luebke, Scott Stewart (Police and Fire Commission), Paul Grode, Cary Smith, Dennis Saeger, Tim Schmidt, Del Stewart, Tom Bartlett, S. Grunden (Zoom), K. Heinzen (Zoom)

**Subjects Discussed, Action Taken & Board Action Required:**

## **Regular Monthly Meeting**

- ***Call to order:*** Meeting called to order by Chairman Mitchell at 5:20 p.m.
- ***Roll Call:*** All present from above.
- ***Approve the agenda & approve the previous month's minutes, 7 March 2023:*** **MOTION** (McGregor/Gruden) to approve agenda & previous month's minutes. **Motion carried.**
- ***Public comments on agenda items:*** Comments will be addressed at the time of discussion.
- ***Committee Chairperson's comments:*** Chairman Mitchell thanked everyone's efforts during here term.
- ***Public Safety Updates***
  - Police Department**
    - a.** Update by the Chief on Police issues per his report, Two areas of concern. The ability to prepare for the NEPCO lake transition has been delayed and needs attention. The ability to provide adequate SRO coverage with all the other duties required need attention and funding. The new Squad has arrived an being outfitted

## **Fire Department**

- a. Review monthly & budget comparison reports.** The Chief recognized Brian Luebke on his service and part of his program to involve other officers into the public safety discussions for situational awareness. The Chief updated the committee on his progress and activities, no issues. Chief Worden submitted some correspondence that will be discussed later.

- **Old Business.**

- a.** A discussion on the Fire department (DRAFT) bylaws and potential MOTION to approve. At this time all comments (PS, PLPIT, Administrator, PFC and Legal) have been incorporated into the document presented to the Fire Chief and department for review. A decision that all the Fire department responses will come back to the Village NLT 10 May 2023 for possible action by the Board to approve. This will give the department time to involve an officers meeting and other input for review. No action or MOTION required.

- **New Business.** None

- **Correspondence received.** Two items part of the packet were received, a letter from the Fire Chief and a response by trustee Grunden on social media posts. These were briefly discussed and the Chairman asked that they be reviewed by the members for possible action by the new Board or committee. (extensive details were discussed and can be viewed on the Village Utube page to hear the specifics- 6 April 2023 Public safety Meeting, Village of Port Edwards) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MZlOaBR-yH8>

- a.** The Fire Chief explained his memo briefly and laid out a timeline of actions to explain his reasoning for the memo.
- b.** Tom Bartlett, a past Fire Chief of Port Edwards discussed some historical context on the Village dealings with the athletic association.
- c.** President Zurfluh requests that at a future meeting the Village Auditor and Lawyer be in the same room to discuss this issue with the Fire department athletic association.
- d.** Carey Smith presented some data and items on the value of the department and he as the treasurer of the Port Edwards athletic association after a vote to open the books of that organization request that they adhere to ordinance language and have the Village auditor review the books. He also stated some concerns with the rules applying to the Village employees, as the fire department members are part of, and the difference that elected officials are not subject to that.
- e.** Administrator Bossert, clarified that at this time there is no disciplinary action on the fire chief, he also discussed the option to audit and the two options. Based on the fire chief and Treasurer Smith comments, the Village auditor will conduct an audit.
- f.** Trustee McGregor commented that all 501 c 3 organizations must disclose all financial documents, no issues. He compared that even as a church organization was asked to disclose they would have to, so why is the department hesitant to disclose.
- g.** Trustee Grunden stated that No body "smeared" Trustee Saylor in the past election. The Fire Chief countered that based on Grunden's Facebook post he was called out for ethic violations, and trustee Grunden agreed.

- *Future Agenda items for next meeting:* TBD
- *Next meeting date:* TBD
- *Adjourn:* Adjourned at 6:15 p.m. by Mitchell.

Sue Mitchell – Chairman