

VILLAGE OF PORT EDWARDS
Port Edwards, Wisconsin

COMMITTEE: Public Safety

DATE: June, 7, 2023

TO: BETSY MANCL

cc: JOSEPH ZURFLUH
DAILY TRIBUNE
WFHR/WGLX
JASON WORDEN

ERIK SAYLOR
CALEB MCGREGOR
SCOTT DREW
LONN RADTKE

JEN MOORE
TIARA GRUNDEN
NICK ABTS

Purpose of Meeting: **Regular Monthly Meeting**

Attendance: T. Grunden, C. McGregor, J. Moore, S. Drew, J. Worden, B. Mancl

Citizens: Cary Smith, Matt Fletcher, Paul Kennedy (Intern)

Subjects Discussed, Action Taken, and Board Action Required:

1. ***Call to order:*** Meeting called to order by C. McGregor at 4:00 p.m.
2. ***Roll Call:*** All Present.
3. ***Approve the previous months minutes and Agenda:*** **MOTION** (Grunden/2nd Moore) to approve minutes of the May 3, 2023 meeting and the agenda. Motion carried.
4. ***Public comments on agenda items:*** None
5. ***Committee Chairman's comments:*** None
6. ***Discuss/action Fire Department Actions and Budget:***
 - a. The Chief recognized Matt Fletcher to the meeting to participate in the EMS conversation. The Chief updated the committee on his progress and activities.
 - b. There was discussion regarding the EMS budget. The Chief has some concern regarding the data provided at the last meeting by the administrator regarding how often the Wisconsin Rapids ambulance arrives before Port Edwards first responders. He would like to see those numbers. Numbers will be presented to Chief next week.
 - c. Chief inquired about a reimbursement that is received from WRFD for each call that Port Edwards first responders assist them on scene. The Clerk will calculate the amounts for 2022 and 2023.

- d. FYI-- There will be a 40% increase in what we pay WRFD for ambulance service starting Jan 2024. Discussion followed regarding how efficiencies can be found within the First Responders program to keep them within budget.
- e. Fire chief asked for clarification of the roles and responsibilities between himself and the chief. He asked for clarification regarding how much he must answer to the administrator. Is the administrator just budgetary oversight? The consensus of the committee was that the org chart creates an operational supervisory role with the administrator over all department heads. It appears that there are some challenges with communication styles differences and between Chief Worden and the administrator.
- f. Fire Chief presented concerns with recent issues and expectation that the administrator has communicated to him. He would like to know why the concern with listed issues now.
- g. ***Regarding facial hair*** -There was conversation regarding the state statute that requires clean shaven face to provide a safe seal with the SCBA. The consensus of the committee was the difficult position we are in because the law does not allow a way around it. Also, there is the potential compromise of the safety for the fire fighters and the liability it could create.
- h. ***Regarding alcohol*** - Chief is questioning the timing of why now with the alcohol conversation. Chief would like the village to consider allowing the fire department to consume alcohol within the fire station. It was also mentioned that the fireman perceive the alcohol as a perk. It helps in creating the feeling of brotherhood and helps to keep people around.
- i. ***Regarding the request to confirm training certifications-*** Chief expressed frustration with the request to get people current on their training in the time frame that the administrator was asking. He reviewed what he understands to be the training expectation.
- j. Correspondence received from Chief Worden. It was included in the packet.

7. Discuss/action Police Department Actions and Budget:

- Chief reviewed his monthly report, No issues
- No new information on the school guardian act grant.
- Eric Hummel approached Chief regarding starting a neighborhood watch. Chief will provide a member of the PD as a liaison when they are ready to get started.
- Lexipol update- 83 out of 166 policies have been issued
- Still waiting on parts for new squad

8. Correspondence received: Yes- Correspondence received from Chief Worden

9. *Future Agenda Items:* Review Proposed Police and Fire Staff Budgets. Continue EMS discussion, there will be multiple items that will be clarification will be provided from attorney.

10. *Next meeting date:* 5 July, 2023 at 4:00pm

11. *Adjourn:* Adjourned at 6:46pm.

Caleb McGregor – Chairman