

## **Minutes of the Port Edwards Police and Fire Commission**

Regular Meeting – Monday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – 5 p.m. @ Buehler Center

Present: Commissioners Blum, Thomasgard, Stewart, Schaffer, & Weiland. Also present was Police Chief Drew. Cary Smith was also present.

Meeting was called to order by President Stewart at 5:25 p.m. following the late arrival of members of the commission. President Stewart reviewed the status of a PEFD applicant who has not yet completed the necessary steps for full approval. Contact with this candidate was been difficult following the interview conducted by the commission. Motion by Weiland, second by Blum to approve the minutes of the June 20<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting. All in favor.

Police Chief Drew made brief comments about his support for the School Guardian Act which would redirect congressional funding to support the hiring of SRO's and his selection to serve as the Law Enforcement member of the MSTC panel to interview candidates for the new head of the Law Enforcement Academy. Port Edwards native Kurt Heuer was selected for the position.

In Fire Chief Worden's absence, there was no formal report but there was considerable discussion of how to streamline the FD application process. President Stewart suggested that the application process be changed to more closely resemble that used for PEPD applicants with a waiver for medical and deep background investigations of candidates. There was general agreement and President Stewart asked that Commissioner Thomasgard draft samples of changes in the PEFD application form including such waivers.

Motion by Schaffer, second by Weiland to go into closed session pursuant to WI Statute Sec. 19.85(1)(c) at 5:53 p.m. to review and evaluate 3 PEFD applicants and phase 1 background investigations as well as to review Fire Chief Worden's recommendations for promotion within the PEFD and to review a complaint received about that process. All in favor. The Commission voted to return to open session at 7:24 p.m. Motion b Blum, second by Schaffer. All in favor.

Following the return to open session, the Commission took the following action:

- A) Voted to move forward with Commissioners Thomasgard and Schaffer arranging interviews with 2 of the 3 PEFD applicants who had satisfactory phase 1 background checks. Motion by Blum, second by Thomasgard. All in favor. Chief Worden will be invited to participate as well.
- B) Voted to table the proposed PEFD promotions pending resolution of the alleged items in the complaint received. Motion by Blum, second by Weiland. All in favor.
- C) The Commission made the following Official Recommendation : We find this issue ( complaint received regarding the PEFD internal promotion process) is within the purview of the PFC and we will oversee the process of an independent investigation into the complaint, to be conducted at the expense of the Village, prior to proceeding with the promotional process.

The next meeting of the PEPFC will occur as needed pending the outcome of the above items. Motion by Weiland, second by Schaffer to adjourn at 7:36 p.m. All in favor.

Leo Thomasgard, PEPFC Secretary