

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

Regular Meeting – Monday, September 11, 2023 – 5 p.m. @ Buehler Center

Present: Commissioners Stewart, Schaffer, Blum, Weiland, and Thomasgard. Also present were Police Chief Drew, Fire Chief Worden and Cary Smith.

Meeting was called to order at 5:17 p.m. by President Stewart. He opened the meeting by asking for a moment of silence out of respect for the victims of the 9/11 attacks taking place 22 years ago. President Stewart also presented Chief Worden with a formal Eligibility to Hire list containing the names of two recently approved PEPD applicants. He also encouraged members of the Commission to be considering the PEPFC Budget for 2024 that will soon start being formulated by the Village Board. In that same vein, President Stewart noted that Chief Drew has indicated his intention to retire sometime in the coming year and the costs of a search for Police Chief need to be included. While not under the domain of the PEPFC, President Stewart noted that the salaries paid to Police Chiefs exceed what Chief Drew is making and that future attractive candidates may not apply or withdraw from consideration if the compensation provided by the Village is not increased. Motion by Blum, second by Thomasgard to approve the minutes of the August 7<sup>th</sup> PFC meeting. All in favor.

After a brief discussion, it was decided to cast a unanimous ballot to maintain current officer's positions on the PEPFC with Scott Stewart remaining as president, Gary Blum as Vice President and Leo Thomasgard as Secretary. Motion by Schaffer, second by Weiland. All in favor.

Fire Chief Worden differed his remarks to the closed session. Chief Drew noted continued attempts to locate grant funding for an additional officer/SRO position. He further noted that several shifts were uncovered in the past month and in response to a question by Commissioner Thomasgard, he noted that a significant reason for that was the low rate of pay offered to part time - officers by the PEPD.

Motion by Blum, second by Weiland to go into closed session pursuant to WI Statute Sec. 19.85(1)(c) @ 5:39 p.m. to review a PEPD applicant background investigation and to update regarding the investigation into the PEPD Promotional process. All in favor. The Commission voted to return to open session at 6:03 p.m. Motion by Blum, second by Schaffer. All in favor.

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

- A) Voted to not accept the application of the candidate under consideration. Motion by Blum, second by Weiland. All in favor.

Before adjourning, a brief discussion was held regarding the creation of an on-line PEPD application. Commissioner Thomasgard has created a draft copy including the waivers allowing all necessary investigations and checks to be done prior to a candidate interview. It was suggested that some tech support help might be needed to facilitate getting such a revised document to the Village Administrator, PFC President and the Fire Chief simultaneously.

The next meeting of the PEPFC will be held on Monday, October 2 at 5 p.m. @ the Buehler Center Motion by Thomasgard, second by Weiland to adjourn at 6:12 p.m. All in favor.

Leo Thomasgard, PEPFC Secretary