

VILLAGE OF PORT EDWARDS
Port Edwards, Wisconsin

COMMITTEE: Public Safety

DATE: September 26, 2023

TO: BETSY MANCL

cc: JOSEPH ZURFLUH
DAILY TRIBUNE
WFHR/WGLX
JASON WORDEN

ERIK SAYLOR
CALEB MCGREGOR
LONN RADTKE
SCOTT DREW

JEN MOORE
TIARA GRUNDEN
NICK ABTS

Purpose of Meeting: **Regular Monthly Meeting**

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

Citizens: Cary Smith, Eric Hummel, Todd Eckes and Jason Joling

Subjects Discussed, Action Taken, and Board Action Required:

1. ***Call to order:*** Meeting called to order at 5:01 p.m.
2. ***Roll Call:*** Present as noted above.
3. ***Approve the Agenda:*** **MOTION** (Grunden/Moore) to approve the agenda. Motion carried. All ayes.
4. ***Approve the previous month's minutes:*** **MOTION** (Moore/Grunden) to approve the previous month's minutes. Motion carried. All ayes.
5. ***Public comments on agenda items:*** None
6. ***Committee Chairman's comments:***
7. ***Fire Department – General Update:*** Chief Worden gave an update on vehicles. The rescue truck isn't available as it is in the shop due to a grinding noise. They use Engine #3 instead. Chief Worden met with a company that sells turnout gear and he is awaiting some quotes. Call volume has dipped but is on track with previous year totals.
 - a) **Todd Eckes, Interim Fire Chief of Wisconsin Rapids Fire Department – changes to our 2024-2027 ambulance service contract:** Discussion on large billing increases to EMS services. Some of the increase is due to COVID, etc. Other new townships who are contracting with Rapids are at the same rate. The Rapids Fire Department is not trying to make money; they are simply trying to give good care. Language in the contract will stay the same. They will train our First Responders for free as they have in the past. If we vote to pass this, it will go to their Finance Committee and the Council. When that happens, we should have a contract for the next four years.

MOTION (Grunden/Moore) to recommend to FHR a 4-year contract renewal with Wisconsin Rapids Ambulance Service at the rate of \$25 per capita for 2024 & 2025 and \$26 per capita for 2026 & 2027. Motion carried. All ayes.

- b) **MOTION** (Grunden/Moore) to recommend to the Village Board to refer the reviews of the PEFD bylaws to a recommended 5-person ad hoc committee. Motion carried. All ayes.
- c) **MOTION** (Moore/McGregor) to recommend to FHR the creation of a roll-over 400 account for PEFD capital expenses. Motion carried. All ayes.
- d) **MOTION** (Moore/Grunden) to recommend to FHR the proposed 2024 operating budget for the PEFD. Discussion on various line items regarding the budget. McGregor will contact Diane regarding the increase in the telephone expense to see if that amount could be lessened. Grunden requested a breakdown of salary by EMS, fire, etc. Grunden Started a discussion about combining services to see if that can help with budget in the future. Between Diane & Chief, they will do a breakdown of wages. Motion carried. All ayes.
- e) Discussion: rescue vehicle proposed. Chief gave update on current rescue vehicle. It is aging. Truck committee was formed by the members of first responders. Looking at a new Tahoe. Base is around \$56K, red in color. Additions, lights, radio, etc. will cost around 10K. Graphics are around \$1,400.00 They are requesting 70K for the vehicle. The Athletic Association will donate 7K. The last three vehicles purchased were used. This would be the first new rescue vehicle. The first responder vehicle is most heavily used. It can also be used as a command vehicle for search and rescue missions. This vehicle will also go out first to the scene of accidents. McGregor asked about the differences between what we offer now. Chief Worden responded it is more reliable, has the capacity to carry more people, and all items stay heated versus in the truck bed. McGregor asked for a time frame for approval. There was discussion about asking FHR to approve the process to look at grants for funding.
- f) Lexipol update: Chief Worden gave Lexipol copies to captains and lieutenants. They are working on the end of the year completion date. Chief Worden is planning to give deadlines to make sure it gets completed.

8. ***Police Department – General Update:*** Chief Drew gave a general update. There were seven open shifts, the squad radio was installed, the squad should be in the Homecoming parade. Squad 1 was damaged; a taillight needs to be replaced. The estimate to repair may be more than the value of the squad. Hoping to fix the taillight and keep. Mertes/Abbott both completed handgun rifle range certification. Chief helped to interview for the academy at Mid-State. Hazmat training went well. The school has had several situations involving the police this year which reinforces the idea of looking for funding for an SRO. Homecoming is this week. On part-timer is helping with full-time staff to cover all events. The police are working with public works to block off streets.

- a) Discussion on department's fourth full-time officer/school resource officer proposal for 2024. The SRO spot is already created/approved. However, the funding is not secured. Chief Drew is working with the school to review funding options. Grants are also being looked at through Legacy, etc.
- b) Discussion on police coverage at NEPCO Lake now and in 2024. Chief doesn't see Nepco Lake bringing in a huge influx of police calls. It is a safe area. There will be some property checks. The main issue is the time to get there and the extra miles. McGregor

asked about county dispatch. We have a combined dispatch. Currently deputies respond to Nepco. On January 1, Port PD will have jurisdiction.

- c) Discussion on proposed 2024 operating budget for the PEPD. Chief Drew is asking us to table his budget until next month when he has more info on the SRO budgeting avenues.
- d) Lexipol update: No Lexipol updates this month.

9. Old business: None.

10. New business: Potential consolidation of services for fire and police.

11. Correspondence received: None.

12. Future Agenda Items: SRO discussions.

13. Next meeting date: Thursday, November 2, 2023 at 5 pm.

14. Adjourn:

Minutes taken by – Jen Moore
Caleb McGregor – Chairman