

VILLAGE OF PORT EDWARDS  
Port Edwards, Wisconsin

COMMITTEE: Public Safety

DATE: January 2, 2024

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: Sandy Robinson, Juris Repsa, Tom Bartlett, Delno Stewart, Cary Smith, Tim Schmidt, Matt Fletcher, Jim Anderson, and Lee Fletcher

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

1. ***Call to order:*** Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m.
2. ***Roll Call:*** Present as noted above.
3. ***Approve the Agenda:*** **MOTION** (Grunden/Moore) to approve the consent agenda with the following amendment for item number 7: Fire contract update from the Town of Port Edwards, Town of Seneca, and Town of Cranmoor. All ayes. Motion carried.
4. ***Approve the previous month's minutes:*** **MOTION** (Grunden/Moore) to approve the previous month's minutes, November 28, 2023. All ayes. Motion carried.
5. ***Committee Chairman's comments:*** None
6. ***Public comments on agenda items:*** Tom Bartlett, previous PE Fire Chief is upset with the treatment of Chief Warden. Being Chief is a full-time job plus the Chief has a full-time job. Tom requests the Board to help the Fire Department versus discipline.
  - ***Fire Department – General Update:*** There were eleven fire calls, 6 EMS calls this month. The Fire Department closed out its second busiest year under budget with no injuries. Chief Worden noted this past year, there was an average of one call every 1.5 days. Chief thanks the guys for all they do. Last Saturday, the Athletic Association hosted the Christmas party. The Department celebrated its 100-year anniversary. They gave out anniversary pins for Dassow, Abley, Kitowski and Holden and retirement plaques for both Tim Leverance and Erik Saylor. Chief read Erik Saylor's retirement letter in full. Engine 1 had a dead battery. It has been fixed. Only 68% of the budget was used this year. The number is lower as a portion was set aside for the rescue truck. Job descriptions will be coming up for approval. The Chief encourages all to take a look at those. Still trying to fill those positions which were previously vacated.

- ***Status of proposed rescue vehicle:*** Can't purchase this year. Funds are not there. Since \$7,000.00 was previously given to the Village from the Firefighters Athletic Association for the purchase of this vehicle, the Committee made it clear that this money will return to the Association. Diane will be called upon to make sure this happens.
  - ***Fire contract update from the Towns of Port Edwards, Seneca and Cranmoor:*** Fire contracts were discussed. These are yearly contracts. A stipulation was added into the fire contract in the case of disbandment or not enough manpower to fulfill the contract. The Fire Contracts pull on about 70K yearly for the Village. Tim Schmidt, supervisor for the Town of Port Edwards, spoke. He put in the stipulation with all contracts, not just with the Port Edwards Fire Department. This came from prior experiences, such as the Nekoosa EMS Service folding. The fire contracts should go to the Village Board for review.
  - **MOTION** (Grunden/Moore) to recommend to the Village Board the proposed Fire Department Bylaws. Moore suggested waiting one month to give the Fire Department time to review. Discussion ensued regarding a previous timeline. Grunden, McGregor – aye, Moore no. Motion passed.
  - ***Police Department – General Update:*** Abbott and Mertes did the annual safety drill for the school. Police responded to three separate burglaries for the school. Chief Drew thanks the surrounding forces that responded to help. Four individuals have been identified. All four are getting charged. No damage was done. The investigation revealed some weaknesses to school security that are being worked on to resolve. The officers worked on a state sponsored traffic grant. Chief Drew said thank you to school employees for continuing to help write the grant for Legacy. The MOU is being finalized. Nothing new on the squads. The department is over budget this year by 7K. This was better than expected due to the lack of funding for the squad car.
7. ***Old business:*** None.
8. ***New business:*** None.
9. ***Correspondence received:*** None.
10. ***Future Agenda Items:*** Update on the grant, MOU for the CRO
11. ***Next meeting date:*** Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 5 pm.
12. ***Public Commentary:*** James Anderson, retired Port Firefighter/Chief, agrees with Chief Bartlett, and feels the Fire Department should do the bylaws. He wonders why the Village has gotten involved with the bylaws. He questioned what in the bylaws needed to be changed. President Mancl explained. McGregor explained that historically the department worked on this. These bylaws are truly a Village document. The department can have its own SOGs, but the bylaws are part of the Village Documents such as an employee handbook.
13. ***Adjourn:*** 5:44 pm.

Minutes taken by – Jen Moore  
Caleb McGregor – Chairman