

Minutes of the Port Edwards Police and Fire Commission

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

Present: Commissioners Blum, Stewart, Thomasgard, Weiland, and Schaffer. Also present were Fire Chief Worden and the following citizens, all current or retired members of the PEFD: Del Stewart, Jim Anderson, Tom Bartlett, Dennis Saeger, Matt Fletcher, Lee Fletcher and Cary Smith. Police Chief Drew was not in attendance.

There was no immediate comment on addenda items. President Stewart asked to add a discussion item to the agenda prior to going into closed session. There was no objection. Motion by Weiland, second by Blum to approve the minutes of the November 13th PFC meeting. All in favor.

President Stewart read into the record a copy of the resignation letter from Erik Saylor, who is retiring from the PEFD effective Jan 1, 2024. Copy is attached.

There was no specific FD report from Chief Worden. In Chief Drew's absence, President Stewart noted that the memorandum of understanding between the PEVB, PESD, and the Legacy Foundation is under legal review and, once the position of a 4th full time police officer is approved, contact will be made with the two previously interviewed candidates as to their continued interest.

Considerable discussion followed concerning the differing descriptions of training requirements found in FEMA, SPS330, PEPFC Manual, PEVB and PEFD documents. Role played by former Village Administrator and timing of his departure came under discussion. Former Fire Chief Bartlett noted that the higher level national training standards were beyond local usefulness and in a major incident, a Joint Command Center Team would take charge anyway. Discussion followed regards the pros/cons of modifying the training requirements to reflect local reality. President Stewart proposed that Chief Worden, himself, and a second PFC member meet to create a concise paragraph or two describing needed training to qualify for promotion to Lt., Capt., Ast. Chief and Chief and then forward such descriptions to the Village Administrator for approval. Commissioner Blum volunteered to serve in such capacity.

Motion by Schaffer, second by Weiland to go into closed session pursuant to WI Statute Sec. 19.85(1)(c) @5:43 p.m. All in favor. Motion to return to open session @ 6:28 p.m. Motion by Thomasgard, second by Blum. All in favor. Following closed session, the PFC took the following action:

- A) In the absence of Chief Drew, after a successful interview, a motion to proceed to phase 2 investigation of PEFD Applicant JS. Motion by Schaffer, second by Blum. All in favor.
- B) As a result of closed session discussions, no further need to conduct interviews with candidates for promotion.

Next PFC meeting TBD based on progress with training summary paragraphs.

At close of meeting, retired Chiefs Anderson and Bartlett addressed the PFC regarding their concerns over support for the PEFD from the Village board and Administrator. Motion by Schaffer, second by Thomasgard to adjourn at 6:50 p.m. All in favor.

Leo Thomasgard, PEPFC Secretary