

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

Regular Meeting – Monday, March 4, 2024 – 5 p.m. @ Buehler Center

Present: Commissioners Blum, Weiland, Thomasgard, Shaffer, and Stewart (via ZOOM). Also present were Police Chief Drew, Fire Chief Worden, and the following citizens: Cary Smith, Brian Luebke, Jeff Ably, and Del Stewart.

Meeting called to order by VP Blum at 5 p.m. Cary Smith addressed the PFC speaking in support of Chief Worden, the brotherhood of the PEPD and the damage being done to it by the processes currently used. VP Blum responded noting that improved communication and application process resulting from the recent changes to the training requirements and PFC Manual should help improve these situations. There was no further public comment. Motion by Shaffer, second by Weiland to approve the minutes of the Jan 15th meeting. All in favor.

Police Chief Drew reported that the application for the grant to help fund the added position within the PEPD is still in process. Unsure of future timeline. President Stewart noted that the PFC needs to start the process of replacing the Police Chief with a fall 2024-winter 2025 window in mind. A posting for the position will have to be drafted, applicants will have to be screened, finalists interviewed. It was suggested that the posting range beyond WI into the Midwest at least and that the posting include a defined range of salary and benefits to avoid having applicants express interest, go through the process and then withdraw when they discover that the compensation is not at least what the market will bear. Commissioner Thomasgard suggested that the PFC obtain a written compensation figure from the Village Board to avoid future conflicts and debate over what salary and benefits will be offered. President Stewart suggested that Commissioners Blum, Weiland, and himself serve as the steering group to draft the posting for the position.

Chief Worden deferred his comments to the closed session.

Motion by Weiland, second by Thomasgard to go into closed session pursuant to WI Statute Sec. 19.85(1) (c) @ 5:19 p.m. All in favor. Motion to return to open session @ 5:31 p.m. Motion by Shaffer, second by Thomasgard. All in favor. Following the closed session, the PFC took the following action:

- A) Motion by Stewart, second by Thomasgard to approve the promotion of Brian Luebke to Ast. Fire Chief. All in favor.

Fire Chief Worden will coordinate the timing and location of swearing in of those PEPD members recently promoted (Smith, Ably and Luebke) with the Village Clerk.

The next meeting of the PEPFC will be on Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, at 5 p.m. @ the Buehler Center. Motion by Shaffer, second by Weiland to adjourn at 5:49 p.m. All in favor.

Leo Thomasgard, PEPFC Secretary