

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

Regular Meeting – Tuesday, August 20, 2024 – 5 p.m. @ Buehler Center

Present: Commissioners Thomasgard, Stewart, Blum, Shaffer and Weiland. Also Present were Fire Chief Lease, Officer Abbott, Josh Mancel, Nick Dassow, and Janel Tepp. Police Chief Drew was not present.

Meeting was called to order by President Stewart at 5:01 p.m. There was no public comment.

President Stewart noted that the PFC has received formal notice from Chief Drew that he intends to retire effective 2/14/25.

President Stewart noted that Eric Hummel had been appointed to replace Jen Moore on the VB and that the VB had approved a Pilot program to transition to operating without an Administrator. The Police and Fire Chiefs would report to the Public Safety Committee. There are no funds available to hire a 4<sup>th</sup> officer and the adopted plan reconfigures the duties of the Police Chief and the proposed SRO position. President Stewart has made frequent requests of the VB to provide the PFC with start date and salary range information regarding the new Police Chief, so far without firm results.

Chief Lease provided the PFC with a draft of a proposal to create a Medical First Responder program within the PEFD modeled on such plans used by neighboring communities allowing members to serve in a medical capacity without being firefighters. Josh Mancel introduced a proposal to start a Cadet program at JEHS in conjunction with the school district to encourage students to develop interest in fire, EMS and law enforcement careers. In Chief Drew's absence, there was no formal Police report.

Motion by Weiland, second by Blum to go into closed session pursuant to WI Statute 19.85(1)(c) at 5:30 p.m. All in favor. Motion by Blum, second by Thomasgard to return to open session at 5:51 p.m. All in favor. Following the closed session, the PFC took the following action:

- A) Motion by Thomasgard, second by Weiland to move forward with the process for a recent FD applicant. All in favor.

Next meeting of the PFC TBD based on need. Meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Leo Thomasgard, PEPFC Secretary