

Minutes of the Port Edwards Police and Fire Commission

Regular Meeting – Monday, September 10, 2024 – 5 p.m. @ Buehler Center

Present: Commissioners Stewart, Blum, Thomasgard & Shaffer. Commissioner Weiland was excused. Also present were Police Chief Drew, Fire Chief Lease and citizen Bradley Krans.

Meeting was called to order by President Stewart at 5 p.m. There was no public comment. President Stewart thanked Commissioner Shaffer for his service to the PFC over the past year and a half and wished him and his family well in their future endeavors as he has resigned effective Oct 9th.

Following a brief discussion, motion by Thomasgard, second by Blum to retain all PFC members holding officer positions for another year. All in favor of retaining President Stewart, VP Blum and Secretary Thomasgard for another term.

Motion by Blum, second by Shaffer to approve the minutes of the August 20th PFC meeting. All in favor.

The VB FHR Committee approved a salary range of \$72,000-83,000 for the incoming Police Chief and provided a 4-page modified job description which will be edited by Commissioner Weiland and made more manageable for posting. After 4 months of discussion, there is still no firm start date for the new chief.

Motion by Thomasgard, second by Blum to post the job opening for the new chief for 30 days effective October 1st. It is hoped that the newly selected candidate can work with Chief Drew prior to his last day of active service 2/14/25.

Chief Lease reported that he will open applications for the vacant officer positions on the PEFD and have candidates for PFC review by the next meeting. He is also asking the VB to approve the creation of an EMS only first responder component within the PEFD as well as a Cadet program in association with the PESD. As a part of Chief Drew's report, Joe Zurfluth, Jr. has resigned as a part-time patrol officer as he was recently appointed as Grand Rapids Police Chief. His service to the PEPD was noted and he was wished the very best in his new position. His departure leaves 2 part-time officers with the PEPD. They have been used sparingly over recent months. Chief Drew was encouraged to attempt to recruit a replacement for Officer Zurfluth.

Motion by Blum, second by Shaffer to go into closed session pursuant to WI Statute 19.85(1)(c) at 5:42 p.m. All in favor. Motion by Shaffer, second by Blum to return to open session at 6:04 p.m. All in favor. Following the closed session, the PFC took the following action:

- A) Motion by Thomasgard, second by Blum to place the recently interviewed FD applicant on the eligibility to hire list pending successful completion of a medical exam. All in favor.

With no closing commissioner remarks, the next meeting of the PEPFC will be Monday, October 14th at 5 p.m. at the Buehler Center. Meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

Leo Thomasgard, PEPFC Secretary

