

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

Regular Meeting – Monday, October 14, 2024 – 5 p.m. @ [Buehler Center](#)

Present: Commissioners Blum, Thomasgard, Stewart, Diggles, and Weiland. Also present were Fire Chief Lease, Police Chief Drew and Officer Abbott.

Meeting was called to order by President Stewart at 5 p.m. There was no public comment. President Stewart welcomed Commissioner Diggles and explained the liaison functions of the PFC in screening candidates for police and fire applicants. Motion by Blum, second by Weiland to approve the minutes of the September 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. All in favor.

President Stewart reported on the continuing process of advertising for a new Police Chief. Search will continue through 10/31. The Village Board has indicated a desire to conclude the process by December 15<sup>th</sup> with the new chief starting effective Feb 3, 2025, allowing 2 weeks overlap with Chief Drew prior to his last day of active service on Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>.

Chief Lease reported that ERCO has donated a new gas detection meter to the PEFD and that he has applied for a grant from Firehouse Subs for new turnout gear. Chief Lease created a promotion board to interview candidates for vacant officer positions and will be submitting those candidates for PFC review during closed session. Truck maintenance is up to date as well. PEFD will host a First Responder/EMR class starting in January. Class will be open to the public and successful completion will result in state certification.

Chief Drew reported that an Emergency Service Club has been organized at JEHS to encourage students to explore careers in Law Enforcement/Fire Service/EMS. He also noted that recruitment of part-time officers to work with the PEPD is difficult as vacancies exist in all area law enforcement agencies and with other municipalities paying far more for part-time officers than PE does (Nekoosa \$35/hr vs. PE\$21/hr) no one is interested in picking up extra shifts.

Motion by Blum, second by Weiland to go into closed session pursuant to WI Statute 19.85(1)(c) at 5:13 p.m. All in favor. Motion by Diggles, second by Weiland to return to open session at 6:19 p.m. All in favor. Following the closed session, the PFC took the following action:

- A) Motion by Weiland, second by Blum to move the current FD applicant to the eligibility to hire list pending successful completion of medical review. All in favor.
- B) Motion by Blum, second by Diggles to move the two First Responder applicants to the interview stage. All in favor.
- C) Motion by Blum, second by Thomasgard to approve the PEFD promotions brought forward by Chief Lease as follows:

Lt. Josh Mancl & Lt. Jeff Abley to vacant Captain positions.

Firefighters Michael Koehler and Tim Schultz to newly vacant Lieutenant positions.

Also to promote Capt. Mancl to the position of EMS Director

All in favor.

With no closing commissioner remarks, the next meeting of the PEPFC will be Monday, November 4, 2024, at 5 p.m. Buehler Center. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Leo Thomasgard

PEPFC Secretary