

Minutes of the Port Edwards Police and Fire Commission

Regular Meeting – Thursday, December 19, 2024 – 5 p.m. @ Buehler Center

Present Commissioners Blum, Thomasgard, Stewart, Diggles (via ZOOM). Commissioner Weiland was excused. Also present were Police Chief Drew, Fire Chief Lease (via ZOOM), PEPD Officer Abbott and one citizen via ZOOM.

Meeting was called to order by President Stewart at 5:04 p.m. There was no public comment or comments from the Chair. Motion by Blum, second by Stewart to approve the minutes of the November 12th meeting. All in favor.

Fire Chief Lease reported that he is waiting to hear the results of several grants the PEFD has applied for, and he is researching others. The first Responder class to be offered at the PEFD in January is attracting interest. The Town of PE has signed a contract for First Responder services. The recently concluded raffle and dinner were successful. The PEFD in coop with WRFD and Saratoga First Responder will be packing and delivering Christmas food baskets to approx. 100 families this coming weekend. Police Chief Drew noted nothing other than routine business.

Motion by Stewart, second by Thomasgard to go into closed session pursuant to WI Statute 19.85(1)(c) @ 5:08 p.m. All in favor. Motion by Thomasgard, second by Blum to return to open session at 6:05 p.m. All in favor. Following the closed session, the PEPFC took the following action:

- A) Motion by Thomasgard, second by Blum to place the two PEFD First Responder applicants, who recently successfully completed medical review, on an eligibility to hire list to be forwarded to Chief Lease. All in favor.
- B) Motion by Thomasgard, second by Diggles to forward the two recently received PEFD applications to Chief Drew for background checks. All in favor.
- C) Motion by Thomasgard, second by Blum to send the recently interviewed PEFD applicant to medical review and, pending successful completion of his FFI and Wildland DNR training, place him on an eligibility to hire list to be forwarded to FC Lease. All in favor.
- D) Motion by Thomasgard, second by Stewart, to appoint Officer Brandon Abbott as PEPD Chief pending successful completion of negotiations with the PEVB FHR Chair and Admin Martinson on salary and benefits to be effective at a date in February 2025 TBD by Admin Martinson. All in favor.

President Stewart and Commissioner Thomasgard both encouraged Chief-Designee Abbott to begin the search for a lateral transfer candidate to fill his vacated patrol officer position ASAP.

The next meeting of the PEPFC will be on Monday, February 10, 2025 at 5 p.m. @ the Buehler Center. Motion by Blum, second by Thomasgard to adjourn at 6:14 p.m. All in favor.

Leo Thomasgard

PEPFC Secretary