

Minutes of the Port Edwards Police and Fire Commission

Regular Meeting – Monday, April 7th, 2025 – 5 p.m. @ Buehler Center

Present: Commissioner Blum, Diggles Weiland, Thomasgard and Stewart. Also present were Police Chief Abbott and Ast. Fire Chief Brian Luebke . There were no other citizens present.

Meeting was called to order by President Stewart at 5 p.m. There was no public comment. Motion by Weiland, second by Diggles to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 4th. All in favor.

President Stewart noted that Commissioner Blum will be retiring from serving on the PFC and commended him for long and faithful service, noting his extensive experience in law enforcement with 23 years as Chief of different departments. Commissioner Blum responded that he has found the PEPFC to be one of the best and most correctly run and operated such bodies he has had contact with. His experience and insight will be missed.

President Stewart next announced that the recently interviewed lateral transfer police officer applicant has cleared all phases of the hiring process and has been placed on an eligibility to hire list for Chief Abbott and that that process is underway. In addition, the 2 recently interviewed PEFD applicants have cleared all phases of their process and have been placed on an eligibility to hire list for Chief Lease.

The PEPFC next discussed updating the PEPFC Manual to reflect actual practice related to the application process for FD candidates. Commissioners had received copies of the proposed revisions via email earlier. Proposed language was reviewed by Ast. Chief Luebke. Motion by Stewart, second by Blum to adopt the proposed revisions. All in favor.

Ast. Chief Luebke reported that the PEFD has had 66 calls so far in 2025 and that a wildland fire-controlled burn will take place when weather conditions permit.

Police Chief Abbott noted that he has made a conditional offer of employment to the newly hired police officer candidate Mason Czech and he is expected to start effective April 28th. He will undergo training with both Nekoosa and Grand Rapids PD as well as Port Edwards as a part of his initial phase of employment. Two Project Lifesaver receivers have been purchased for use by the PEPD and PEFD through a grant. These devices allow a child or an adult with a tracking bracelet to be located should they become lost or wander away. This system is already in use by other Wood Co agencies.

Motion by Thomasgard, second by Weiland to go into closed session pursuant to WI Statute 19.85(1)(c) @ 5:24 p.m. All in favor. Motion by Diggles, second by Blum to come out of

closed session at 5:37 p.m. All in favor. Following the closed session, the PEPFC took the following action:

- A) Motion by Weiland, second by Thomasgard to move the part-time police officer applicant previously interviewed to the next phase of the hiring process. All in favor.
- B) Motion by Blum, second by Thomasgard to move the FD First Responder applicant previously interviewed to the next phase of the hiring process. All in favor.

The next meeting of the PEPFC will be on Monday, May 5th at 5 p.m. @ the Buehler Center. Motion by Thomasgard, second by Blum to adjourn at 5:45 p.m.

Leo Thomasgard

PEPFC Secretary