

CITY OF STEVENS POINT
POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSION
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2017 - 4:00 P.M.
Stevens Point Fire Department, Station 1
1701 Franklin Street

1. **Roll Call:** Commissioners Carlson, Kirschling, Moore, Ostrowski and Wescott

Also Present: Police Chief Skibba, Fire Chief Finn, City Attorney Beveridge, Mayor Wiza, Alderperson Kneebone, Dan Kontos, David Ray, Paul Riegel, Susan Wenzter, Logan Wenge - WSAU, Brandi - Stevens Point City Times, Sari Lesk - Stevens Point Journal, Amanda Simons

2. **People to be heard an announcements**

None.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Carlson moved, seconded by Commissioner Wescott, to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2017 meeting as presented.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

4. **Confirmation of Bills**

Commissioner Ostrowski moved, seconded by Commissioner Moore, to approve the confirmation of the September 2017 bills.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

5. **Confer with City Attorney regarding the Portage County ordinances and policies related to the filing of a formal complaint against the Emergency Management Director**

After listening to the tape of the PFC meeting of September 5th it is unclear as to what action the city would take, if any, against Portage County Emergency Management Director Joe Brandt. President Wescott asked the City Attorney to review Portage County's policies and ordinances to clarify the process of filing a complaint in case the city chooses to do so.

Attorney Beveridge was able to locate a procedure in the Portage County Code of Ordinances under Chapter 3, Administration of County Government, Ordinance 3.6; Code of Ethics for Portage County Public Officials and Employees: "Anyone desiring to report an alleged violation of this Code shall submit a verified complaint to the office of Corporation Counsel. A verified complaint shall consist of sworn charges alleging a personal knowledge of a violation of the Code of Ethics. The Corporation Counsel, or in his absence, either the Deputy or Assistant Corporation Counsel shall forward the complaint to the Ethics Committee for investigation. A form will be made available for this purpose. The complaint must be filed within two years of the date of the occurrences alleged to constitute a violation of the code of ethics...."

The City Attorney provided the following timeline of events that have led to the current concerns of this commission:

At an EMS Oversight Committee meeting in either December 2016 or January 2017 the current Medical Director, Sarah Brandt, said to the committee that a one on one system (1 EMT to 1 Paramedic) would be workable in Plover and that she really didn't anticipate there being any issues with that type of system. There was some discussion of rapid sequence intubation as being one situation that you need to have two paramedics for but that situation doesn't happen very often. We have a two paramedic system in Stevens Point so management perceived it as being contrary to the structure of the current system. This was being said publically coming from our own Medical Director.

April 13, 2017 the Chiefs met with the directors at Ascension, Dr. Andrews and Dr. Watson, and expressed concerns about the statement made by the Medical Director, saying essentially we can disagree all we want behind closed doors but really we feel we need the support from our Medical Director to support the structure of our current medical system.

May 15, 2017 there was a text message received by a staff member from Portage County Emergency Management Director Joe Brandt saying, "I don't know if you knew, but SPFD fired Sarah as Medical Director today." That didn't happen and we don't have the authority to do that since Dr. Sarah Brandt is an employee of the Ascension staff. Dr. Sarah Brandt is still the Medical Director as of today's date.

May 18, 2017 Dr. Sarah Brandt and Portage County Emergency Medical Director Joe Brandt made reports to the EMS Oversight Committee about 3 complaints against the Stevens Point EMS. There was no elaboration on what the complaints were but obviously this was something of great concern to the chiefs. FD management asked for copies of the complaints and were refused.

In July 2017 City Attorney Beveridge sent a letter to Portage County Corporation Counsel and requested a copy of the complaints under the Open Records Law. Attorney Beveridge was given copies of the documents and realized these were actually patient satisfaction surveys, not actual complaints.

July 18, 2017 FD staff met with Dr. Andrews and discussed the MOU and expressed concern about the Medical Director saying that the Fire Chief was trying to get her fired. Chief Finn relayed to Dr. Andrews it was not his intention to get Dr. Brandt fired as Medical Director but he wanted to know we have the backing of the Medical Director with the current structure of our EMS system.

July 20, 2017 at an EMS Oversight Committee meeting Portage County Emergency Management Director Joe Brandt stated the EMS office supports the county adopting a relationship with Ascension to provide a Medical Director for the county and require those doing business with the county under contract to utilize that Medical Director regardless of who it is.

There was a short discussion on whether Dr. Sarah Brandt being the Medical Director and Joe Brandt being the Emergency Management director is a violation of the Portage County Code of Ethics.

Commissioner Kirschling moved, seconded by Commissioner Carlson to draft a letter to Portage County Executive, Chair of the EMS Oversight Committee and Chair of the Portage County Board voicing the city's concerns discussed above.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

6. Fire Chief's Report/EMS Report

Chief Finn reported:

- Stevens Point Firefighters are wearing pink throughout the month of October in an effort to fight breast cancer. T-shirts are available for purchase at Station 1.
- On October 11th fifteen members of the department will attend PTSD training. The commission is welcome to attend this training which will be held at the Holiday Inn.

Commissioner Wescott moved, seconded by Commissioner Kirschling, to accept the Fire Chief's Report for September 2017.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

7. Request to create a part-time supported employment position to be filled through Opportunity Development Centers - Fire Department

The Department would like to add a supported employment position to be filled through Opportunity Development Centers, Inc. This position would be four hours per day, four days per week. Three of the days the person would be at Station 1 and one day per week at Station 2. The hours would be 8A to 12P. The wage would be \$7.50 per hour.

If approved the FD will develop a job description.

Commissioner Wescott moved, seconded by Commissioner Carlson to approve the position as presented.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

8. PD relocation update

The PD relocation was approved by the Common Council at its September Council meeting. The PD is currently working with city IT to get connectivity up and running. The Department has received donations of workstations and is working to get areas set up. The Chief hopes to have all departments into the new location by January 1, 2018.

9. Police Chief's report

Chief Skibba reported:

Auxiliary Unit:

- 76 events, 939 hours to date

September:

Calls for Service:

- 9 weapon involved incidents (2 gun related)
- 68 mental health related incidents (4 emergency detentions)

Events:

- Auxiliary assisting at high school and college sporting events
- 4th - Belts welcome UWSP live band
- 8th - 10th Pacelli Panacea, assisted by Contractual Officers

- 9th - Pacelli Color Run, assisted by Auxiliary
- 9th - 10th - Gus Macker Basketball, assisted by Auxiliary
- 13th - 18th - In-service training (Officer Wellness) Alders, LE
- 16th - Pointoberfest/Blubber Run, Contractual Officers and Auxiliary
- 22nd - Pacelli Homecoming Parade, assisted by Auxiliary
- 23rd - Run from the Cops, assisted by Auxiliary
- 23rd - UWSP Spud Run, assisted by Auxiliary
- 29th - SPASH Homecoming Parade, assisted by Auxiliary
- 30th - SPASH homecoming dance, assisted by PSL and Auxiliary
- 30th - St. Paul's 5K Color Run, assisted by Auxiliary

October:

Events:

- 8th - Chodzinski 5K Run, assisted by Auxiliary
- 14th - UWSP homecoming, assisted by Auxiliary
- 29th - Midnight Monster Dash, assisted by Auxiliary

Projects:

- Safe Point Community
 - Grant funded patrol (collaborative project between UWSP and Stevens Point PD)
 - Increased community and business contacts
- Parking
 - Kiosks (transition from traditional meters to area, electronic metered parking)

Commissioner Carlson moved, seconded by Commissioner Kirschling, to accept the Police Chief's report for September 2017.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

- 10. Adjourn into closed session (approximately 4:45 p.m.) pursuant to Wisconsin Statute Section 19.85 (1) (e) [deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session] for the following:**
- Update on MOU with Ascension St. Michael's for a Medical Director.**
 - Update for the possible addition of an ambulance to the EMS system.**

Commissioner Kirschling moved, seconded by Commissioner Moore, to adjourn into closed session.

Ayes: Carlson, Kirschling, Moore, Ostrowski and Wescott
Nays: None. Motion carried.

- 11. Reconvene into open session for possible action**

Commissioner Kirschling moved, seconded by Commissioner Ostrowski, to reconvene into open session.

Ayes: Carlson, Kirschling, Moore, Ostrowski and Wescott
Nays: None. Motion carried.

- 12. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.