

**CITY OF STEVENS POINT
POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSION
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 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, Comptroller Corey Ladick, Alderperson Kneebone, Alderperson Johnson, Assistant Chief Baganz, Sgt. Joe Johnson, Officer Austin Lee, Officer Jeremiah Ballew, Sgt. Bob Kussow, Assistant Chief Rottier, Brandi - Stevens Point City Times, Cassie Lennox - Portage County Gazette, UWSP Students: Dayne Retallick, Trevor Ramos, Charles Ackerman, Ryan Valesh

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

None.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Moore moved, seconded by Commissioner Carlson, to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2017 meeting.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

Hearing no objection President Wescott rearranged the agenda to hear agenda items 11 and 12

4. **Update and budget implications of addition of third ambulance to the EMS system**

President Wescott thanked Alderpersons Johnson and Kneebone for the valiant effort they have shown in attending County meetings and voicing their concerns regarding the expansion of a one paramedic, one EMT ambulance system into the Village of Plover.

He also stated in the very near future the commission would need to address the inaccuracies being reported by the county, specifically in their meeting on November 1, 2017. One such inaccuracy reported during that meeting was the county reporting the City of Stevens Point started as a one paramedic, one EMT service. This is not true as the City of Stevens Point started their paramedic service on December 24, 1998 as a two paramedic service. This is just one inaccuracy that was reported during the meeting.

President Wescott encouraged the Commission to watch the part of the video of the County Board meeting which discussed the addition of a third ambulance to the EMS system.

Mayor Wiza read a letter he sent as an open letter to the Stevens Point City Times:

On Thursday, Nov. 9 at 5 PM the Portage County Board of Supervisors will be considering a decision that will affect everyone in Portage County, and I don't believe in a good way.

Since 2000, all residents of Portage Co. have had the advantage of a countywide ambulance system. This has been contracted with the City of Stevens Point with two paramedics to provide award winning and often modeled service. This is in addition to our extensive first responders that often arrive on scene first.

The training level of each paramedic is over 1,080 hours, at minimum, before the continuing education that each participate in annually.

Service benchmarks are set by a county group of experts in their fields - and those benchmarks are continually met or exceeded and because of that two paramedic service Portage County's survival rate for sudden cardiac arrest is significantly better than the national average.

Even at the most recent contract negotiation, the county expressed complete satisfaction with the service they are receiving.

It is clear that the two paramedic service is the standard we hope to enjoy.

Several months ago, the county began talks of improving the system, and the city stood ready to do whatever it took to assist in those improvements. Based on response times, maps were drawn up to show where an additional ambulance would be a benefit. The data showed the most efficient location would be the Town of Plover.

Members of the county began talks of the addition of an ambulance, but in the Village of Plover, an area already served by a response time well within the benchmarks. Response time map data showed an improved response time of less than 2 percent to areas further from the county core.

The county then chose to not seek quotes for this service, but rather negotiate directly with only the Village of Plover to provide the EMS service, but at a reduction in staff credentials, down to only one paramedic and one EMT. Training requirements for an EMT basic are 185 hours. On top of that, the cost is about \$630,000.00 annually for this reduced service.

Every taxpayer in Portage County will be paying for that reduced service.

With Plover and areas south being served now with one paramedic and one EMT, you will be paying more taxes to get less service. In addition to that, if the two currently staffed ambulances from Stevens Point happen to be out on calls, the next ambulance may be the one on one from Plover. Everyone in the county will now see a lower level of service, but a marginally improved response time. In other words, they'll get there slightly quicker, but cannot perform all of the same functions that the two-paramedic teams are allowed to.

The county could choose to pay for the two-paramedic level of service, even with Plover, and that's what I hope they do. The small increase in cost, spread over the county's 70,000 residents would be nearly insignificant.

But if the county really had the best interest of its citizens in mind, they would seek the best service for the best price rather than forsaking that duty and negotiating only with one entity at a reduced service level.

What is the real goal here? Is it to continue to provide the best service for everyone in the county, or is it to give Plover a contract because of some unknown reason and risk fracturing an award winning, top-notch ambulance service?

I urge you to contact your County Board Supervisor, or attend the meeting on Nov. 9 and voice your opposition to this expensive reduction in service, and demand that the county only contract for a two-paramedic expansion to the system.

Mike Wiza,
Mayor, City of Stevens Point

President Wescott is encouraging any commission member who is available to please attend the County Board meeting on November 9th when the budget is scheduled to be adopted. He feels it is important that concerns are voiced that the EMS tax levy will increase by 60% and the result will be less service to the community.

5. Updated letter to Portage County officials regarding PFC concerns about Emergency Management Director

The letter has been revised and the final version is before the commission for signature. Commissioner Wescott is optimistic that the letter will re-start dialog that will put the county and city back into the mode to become partners again. He also feels if the letter is signed by all five commissioners, it is a good statement of unity.

The letter will be distributed to the County Board, Alderpersons, News Media and candidates running for County Executive.

6. Confirmation of Bills

Commissioner Ostrowski moved, seconded by Commissioner Wescott, to approve the confirmation of the October 2017 bills.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

7. Final approval of 2018 PD and FD budgets

Commissioner Wescott moved, seconded by Commissioner Kirschling, to move approval of the 2018 Police Department and Fire Department operating budgets as presented to the Police and Fire Commission.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

8. Fire Chief's Report/EMS Report

Chief Finn reported:

- Citizens Academy on EMS topics
- FF Miller started and sworn in
- 2 serious crashes with patients flown to Trauma Center on one day
- Critical incident stress debriefing incident
- Metro Fire calls (4)
- Structure fires (1)
- Vehicle fires (0)
- Brush, grass, wildland fires (1)
- Other fires (0)
- Rescue/EMS calls (57)
- False alarm responses (14)
- Hazardous materials responses (4)
- Other responses (10)
- Total responses: (88)
- Training: EMS Medication; cold weather operations; automobile fires; building construction. Total training hours: 48.5
- Public Education: Fire safety education in schools; hand only CPR; Fire safety book to all third grade students. Number of students: 391
- Fire inspections: Certificate of occupancy (0); general fire inspection (9); re-inspection (10); sprinkler system (0); tent inspection (0). Total inspections: 19

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

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

9. Update on Chiefs annual evaluations

Commissioner Carlson has met with Chief Skibba and Commissioner Kirschling has met with Chief Finn to discuss a draft of their 2017 evaluations. The evaluations will be finalized at a special meeting to be held sometime after December 11 when Chief Finn returns from vacation.

10. PD relocation update

Sgt. Bob Kussow is coordinating the PD remodeling project at its new location at 933 Michigan Avenue. The moving company will start moving desks and filing cabinets the week of November 27th.

11. Consideration for K-9 Unit (presentation)

Officer Jeremiah Ballew presented the following via a power point:

What message are we trying to give to the Community?

- The Stevens Point Police Department is committed to the community.
- The Stevens Point Police Department will not tolerate drug activity.
- A fully marked K9 Patrol vehicle makes the statement we are here to use every tool available to protect our community.

What can a K9 do?

- Track missing people with disabilities.
- Track fleeing suspects.
- Clear large areas in a fraction of the time.
- Locate odors of illegal drugs in schools, vehicles and houses.
- Officer protection.

What is the benefit of a K9?

- In just over three months, a K9 could have been used approximately 30 times.
- Be a link from the Police Department to the community.
- Deter drug activity at school.

When the Stevens Point Police Department could have used a K9

- March 2, 2017 officers were dispatched to a person destroying an apartment. The person was throwing things at officers and was challenging them to fight. A K9 was not on duty in Portage County on this date.
- April 17, 2017 officers were dispatched to a mentally disabled person who could not talk located in the front yard of another person's home. It took several hours to locate the mentally disabled person's home.
- At the end of June detectives received a call from the Marathon County Drug Unit. They had information on a vehicle leaving a house in Stevens Point with a large amount of meth. They had to get the help of the State Patrol K9 as none were available in Portage County. In the vehicle 2.5 ounces of meth was located.

How does a K9 locate items?

- When a K9 is deployed the K9 searches the air space around the vehicle or other objects, thus not needing a search warrant.
- The K9 is not searching for the presence of drugs, the K9 is searching for the odor of drugs.
- When tracking the K9 is smelling for areas of disturbance or the fear odor a person gives off as they run.

Where will the K9 come from?

- After completing some research, we believe the best kennel to go with is Vohn Liche Kennels from Indiana. This decision was based on the things they would be able to offer the Stevens Point Police Department. They socialize the K9 at their kennel which means the K9 is used to being around people. Also Vohn Liche trains the K9 to have a passive alert, not an aggressive alert. What this means is that the K9 detects the odor of an illegal drug, it will sit, not causing damage to the vehicle.

Vohn Liche Kennel can offer the Stevens Point Police Department:

- Dual purpose narcotic detector dog six week class
- Dual purpose pre-trained narcotic dog, untitled. Guarantee: effective from the date of purchase: 100% health for 1 year; skeletal for 1 year
- Workability 1 year guarantee
- Compatibility 1 year guarantee
- Housing
- A \$2,000 combo discount for the purchase of the dog and course
- All equipment for the K9

Cost of the K9, course and all equipment would be \$16,999.00

Vehicle: We would take a vehicle with the least amount of miles from the current fleet. That vehicle would be fitted with a K9 insert cage with a prisoner transport and heat warning system with door popper.

- 2/3 kennel - \$3,099
- Heat alert system - \$1508
- Install from Low Voltage Solutions LLC - \$1,190
- Total: \$5797

Vet Care from the Oakview Veterinary Medical Center

- Prophylactic Veterinary care at no charge
- Semiannual completed physical examinations
- Semiannual fecal examinations
- Flea and tick prevention
- Annual and bi-annual vaccinations: rabies, distemper combination which includes hepatitis, parainfluenza, parvovirus as well as Lyme, Leptospirosis and kennel cough
- Annual heart worm testing and prevention
- Screen for hip dysplasia at the appropriate times
- Dental prophylaxis when indicated
- Emergency and non-routine veterinary care at a 25% discount
- Specialty consultations such as poison control, orthopedic and radiology. Specialists will be billed only the amount the medical center is billed.

Fundraisers:

- Golf outings
- Cook outs
- T-shirt sales
- Fishing tournaments
- Stuff toy dog sale
- Sponsorships

Conclusions:

- Looking at studies completed over recent years, a well-marked K9 vehicle clearly states the intent of the police department to combat crime and drug use/sales.
- When an elderly person or child goes missing, time is of the essence. A k9 team can help track large areas with limited manpower and complete a thorough search in a much

shorter time. A K9 can not only be used to track humans, but they can also be utilized to locate drugs or other evidence that a criminal may have tried to hide or conceal.

Commissioner Carlson moved, seconded by Commissioner Kirschling to pursue adding a K9 unit to the Stevens Point Police Department.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

12. Police Chief's Report

Chief Skibba reported:

Auxiliary Unit:

- 86 events, 1026 hours to date

October:

Calls for Service:

- On 10/25/17 the Stevens Point Police Department participated in a multi-jurisdictional drug interdiction detail. The detail utilized nine K9 deployments and involved 30 traffic stops. The Stevens Point Police Department's involvement resulted in over 11 gr. Of crack cocaine, \$1000.00 seized, and multiple criminal arrests being charged.
- 4 weapon involved incidents (1 gun related)
- Mental health related incidents (6 emergency detentions)

Events:

- October - Citizen Academy ride-along(s)
- Auxiliary assisting at high school and college sporting events
- 4th - Pacelli Career Expo
- 8th - Chodzinski 5K run, assisted by Auxiliary
- 14th - Partners Pub Homecoming, contractual officers
- 14th - UWSP Homecoming, assisted by Auxiliary
- 29th - Midnight Monster Dash, assisted by Auxiliary

November:

Events:

- November - Auxiliary assisting at college and high school sporting events
- 17th - Holiday Parade, assisted by Auxiliary

Projects:

- Safe Point Community
 - Grant
- Parking
 - Kiosks (transition from traditional meters to area, electronic metered parking)

Commissioner Wescott moved, seconded by Commissioner Moore, to accept the Police Chief's report for October 2017.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.