

CITY OF STEVENS POINT
POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSION
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, - 4:00 P.M.
Stevens Point Fire Department
1701 Franklin Street

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

Also Present: Police Chief Skibba, Fire Chief Finn, Mayor Mike Wiza, Alderperson Mary Kneebone, Alderperson Cathy Dugan, Assistant Chief Joe Gemza, Assistant Chief Mike Rottier, Assistant Chief Tom Zenner, Assistant Chief Jodi Baganz, SP City Times - Joe Bachman, Brandi Makuski - Point/Plover Metro Wire

Police Department personnel:
Sergeant Kussow, Sergeant Moss, Sergeant Spath, Sergeant Johnson, Corporal Brooks, Corporal Mueller, Officer Klein, Officer Lee, Officer Poeschel, Officer Hansen, Officer Roser, Officer Ballew, Officer Brandt, Officer Kontos, Officer Long

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

None.

3. **Presentation of Meritorious Conduct Award to Officer Ashley Hansen**

On December 2, 2017 Sergeant John Moss recommended Officer Ashley Hansen for the Meritorious Conduct Award. The award resulted from an incident that occurred in December when Officer Hansen responded to a late night report of a suicidal girl on the Clark Street Bridge. When Officer Hansen arrived on scene, the girl had climbed onto the bridge's railing and was facing the river. Officer Hansen tried to establish a dialog with the girl, but the girl began to slide over the edge of the railing in what appeared to be an attempt to jump. Hansen grabbed the girl's leg and pulled her down from the railing.

Officer Hansen's actions clearly stopped the female from jumping into the river, the results of which would have a high probability of serious injury or death. Officer Hansen's quick actions and willingness to risk her own safety to keep the female from jumping and preventing further attempts to harm herself show great credit to herself and the Stevens Point Police Department, the community and her profession.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Wescott moved, seconded by Commissioner Moore, to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2018 meeting.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

5. **Confirmation of Bills**

Commissioner Carlson moved, seconded by Commissioner Ostrowski, to approve the confirmation of the January 2018 bills.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

6. Discussion regarding EMS survey

The City of Stevens Point (along with the leadership of Portage County's 27 municipalities) received a letter dated December 7, 2017 from Portage County Executive Patty Dreier requesting our municipality complete a survey which will help Portage County determine future direction for its EMS program. The survey was completed by the Mayor, Assistant Chief Gemza and Chief Finn. Chief Finn will ensure the commission receives a copy of the completed survey.

The City made it clear in their response to the survey that two paramedics responding to all calls countywide is the city's vision of the future of EMS in Portage County.

7. Fire Chief's Report/EMS Report

Chief Finn reported:

- Fire apparatus ordered
- Ice Rescue Mutual Aid PC Sheriff (WI River)
- Active duty firefighter funeral cover in Wisconsin Rapids
- Metro Fire calls (8)
- Structure fires (2)
- Vehicle fires (1)
- Brush, grass, wildland fires (0)
- Cooking fire contained (1)
- Overheated cooking (7)
- Other fires (2)
- Rescue/EMS calls (59)
- False alarm responses (16)
- Hazardous materials responses (7)
- Other responses (12)
- Total responses: (107)
- Training: Elevator operations; fire inspections; behavioral health; rope rescue. Total training hours: 51
- Fire inspections: Certificate of occupancy (1); general fire inspection (69); re-inspection (0); sprinkler system (0); tent inspection (0). Total inspections: 70
- New Medical Director: Dr. Michael Clark started as the new medical director on January 1, 2018. Dr. Clark is a Physician of Emergency Medicine with Ascension Hospitals. He works at the Stevens Point, Weston, and Merrill hospitals. Dr. Clark has been meeting with each crew over the course of the month.
- Public Education: Six different four (4) hour hands only CPR classes were taught in the month of January.
 - UWSP: Taught hand only CPR for dining services and Tree Haven
 - Ellis Stone Construction: Taught two different classes of hands only CPR and general first aid for the Ellis Stone safety meeting.

Commissioner Wescott moved, seconded by Commissioner Ostrowski to accept the Fire Chief's Report for January 2018. Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

8. Bicycle donation - Police Department

Chief Skibba reported the department was approached by Heartland Bike Club (HBC) who wish to make a donation toward the Department's bicycle patrol unit. The offer is a minimum of \$1,500.00 toward an electric assist patrol bicycle.

With the Commission's approval of the donation, the bicycle patrol unit will expand, providing more timely responses to calls while additionally keeping the officer physically prepared to respond to the call.

The overall cost of an electric assist bicycle is \$3,000.00. The remaining cost, after the \$1,500 donation, would come from existing operational budget funds.

Commissioner Wescott moved, seconded by Commissioner Carlson, to accept a minimum donation of \$1,500.00 from Heartland Bike Club to be used toward the purchase of an electric assist bicycle for the bicycle patrol unit.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

9. Building update - Police Department

The Department received the donations of the following exercise equipment from SPPD employees:

- Viper Home Gym \$300.00 Mike Radsek
- Weider Home Gym \$125.00 Dana Williams
- Weight Set \$125.00 Trina James
- Weights/Bench \$300.00 Brian Brooks

February 7 Chief Skibba meets with Bray Architects for a walk through of the facility. At this time the Chief will share areas that have been working well for the Department, as well as areas that may need improvement. The Chief will develop a financial plan to approach the city for capital improvements for the 2019 budget.

10. K9 update

During the process of establishing the K9 Unit, Stevens Point Police Department administration evaluated the costs and benefits of introducing the program to Stevens Point and the SPPD has received overwhelming support from the Police and Fire Commission, Council and the Mayor's office to bring the K9 unit to fruition.

During these assessments and subsequent interviews of potential K9 handlers, the need for more than one officer and dog became clearer. With the approval of the Police and Fire Commission, the Police Department will be increasing the K9 unit from one to two dogs and will increase the handlers from one to two police officers. Current asset forfeitures and donations will address costs related to the start-up and operational costs. Future operational costs will be discussed and addressed to deal with ongoing costs.

The Department recognizes the need to address quality of life and community safety issues and these tools will position the Department to better respond to related issues. Further, with the city currently not funding the requested second drug officer position, the second K9 will help as a stop-gap measure until staffing in IB and patrol are increased.

The Department has reached out to Wausau Police Department to collaborate in developing the program and will leverage Wausau's 20 plus years' experience and expertise to develop and maintain a quality K9 program.

11. Police Chief's Report

Chief Skibba reported:

Auxiliary Unit:

- 14 events, 104 volunteer hours in 2018

January:

- 5 weapon involved incidents (2 gun related)

- 91 mental health related incidents (2 involved knives, 6 emergency detentions)

Projects:

- Relocation to 933 Michigan Avenue (ongoing meetings with Bray Architect Firm)
- K9: Officer selection completed; fundraising
- Staffing: Records personnel opening; Minister James Brengosz added to Chaplain program; Health Lima, Josh Morrison and Mitchel Jazdzewski joined Auxiliary Unit; sworn personnel (seeking grant funding); Officer Koback in Step 1 FTO process

January:

Events:

- Auxiliary assisting at college and high school sporting events
- 5th 0 Workplace Violence presentation Heartland Hospice
- 30th - Safety Planning at Habush, Habush and Rottier

February:

Events:

- Auxiliary assisting at college and high school sporting events
- 3rd - Polar Plunge (10 SPPD officers)
- 3rd - 4th - Model Railroad Show, assisted by Auxiliary
- 17th - SPASH Winter Formal, assisted by PSL and Auxiliary

Commissioner Ostrowski moved, seconded by Commissioner Moore, to accept the Police Chief's report for January 2018.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.