



## Police and Fire Commission

City of Stevens Point  
1515 Strongs Avenue  
Stevens Point WI 54481

February 9, 2010  
4:32 p.m.

1. **Roll Call:** Commissioners Nuck, Rice, Schleihs, Taylor and Wescott

**Also**

**Present:** Administrative Director Jeff Morris; Police Chief Kevin Ruder; Fire Chief John Zinda, Mayor Andrew Halverson, Alderperson Randy Stroik, Firefighter/Paramedic Jodi Baganz, Cathy Dugan, Gary Itzkowicz

2. **People to be heard and announcements**  
None.

3. **Presentation by Gary Itzkowicz – Public Safety Survey results**

Gary Itzkowicz presented the results of the Community Safety Survey which was conducted by the Community Research Center. A few of the highlights of the survey include:

- The overall perception of Stevens Point public safety was 4.2 (out of 5).
- The median score for questions asking respondents to rate their perception of safety during the day was 4.6
- The median score for questions asking respondents to rate their perception of safety at night was 4.1.
- Less than 1/3 of respondents had anyone in their family contact Stevens Point public services in the past two years.
- Half of all respondents have been a victim or witnessed criminal activity or nuisance behavior in Stevens Point.
- Over half of the respondents see Stevens Point police in their neighborhoods daily or weekly and less than half see police monthly or never.
- Slightly more than ¼ of respondents have used 9-1-1 in Stevens Point.
- Auxiliary Public Safety services had uneven recognition by respondents.
- The location of safety stations had uneven recognition by respondents.
- Most respondents gained information about Public Safety Services from the newspaper (49%), followed in descending order by TV, the internet, other methods not listed, and neighbors.
- Younger respondents are more likely to be victims or witness assaults, gain knowledge of public safety services through the internet.
- Respondents age 44 and younger are less satisfied with contacts with public safety services.

Director Morris said overall public safety services received a B+ average rating. He feels it is somewhat an affirmation of the good work the departments do. He didn't feel any of the results were particularly surprising and that the results were similar to the survey the police department did five years ago.

Director Morris stated the survey results might mean the departments need to reach out more to those in the 18-24 age group. According to the survey those in that age group are more likely to have had police contact, but are less satisfied with the contact.

Police Chief Ruder said he saw no surprises in the results of the survey, but the department will make people more aware of services the Police Department provides. He said he would encourage officers to do listening sessions to inform the public about what the department can do to serve the community.

**4. Adjourn into closed session (approximately 5:15 p.m.) pursuant to Wis. Stats. Sections 19.85 (1) (c) and (e) for an update on collective bargaining.**

Commissioner Wescott moved, seconded by Commissioner Nuck, to adjourn into closed session.

Ayes: Nuck, Rice, Schleih, Taylor, Wescott  
Nays: None. Motion carried.

**5. Reconvene into open session (approximately 5:45 p.m.)**

Commissioner Nuck moved, seconded by Commissioner Wescott, to reconvene into open session.

Ayes: Nuck, Rice, Schleih, Taylor, Wescott  
Nays: None. Motion carried.

**6. Approval of minutes**

Commissioner Taylor moved, seconded by Commissioner Nuck, to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2010 meeting.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

**7. Confirmation of Bills**

Commissioner Wescott moved, seconded by Commissioner Nuck, to accept the confirmation of the January 2010 Police Department bills.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Rice moved, seconded by Commissioner Nuck, to accept the confirmation of the December 2009 Fire Department bills.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Nuck moved seconded by Commissioner Wescott, to accept the confirmation of the January 2010 Fire Department bills.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

**8. Discussion, with possible action, final termination of Firefighter/Paramedic**

Fire Chief Zinda filed with President Schleihs an original affidavit of charges in connection with Firefighter/Paramedic Michael Wheeler's conduct. Upon receipt of such charges and revision of the information presented Commissioner Nuck moved, seconded by Commissioner Rice, to hold a hearing upon the charges filed by the Chief of the City of Stevens Point Fire Department. Such hearing shall be held on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2010 at 4:30 p.m. at the City Hall Conference Room located at 1515 Strongs Avenue, Stevens Point, WI 54481.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

**9. Discussion, with possible action, out of state travel request for Bob Finn to attend training in Indianapolis, Indiana**

Commissioner Rice moved, seconded by Commissioner Taylor, to approve Assistant Chief Bob Finn to attend the 2010 Fire Department Instructors Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana from April 19 – 24, 2010.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

**10. Fire Chief's Report**

Chief Zinda reported:

- The Stevens Point Fire Department will be one of the Portage County fire departments hosting the Department of Natural Resources training this year. These training sessions will be held during the daytime so any firefighters from across the county who work evening or night shifts may attend any one of the sessions. The training will take place at the Department on February 22, 23 and 26.
- Assistant Chief Bob Finn will attend the 2010 Fire Department Instructors Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. This year's FDIC promises to be the largest, most comprehensive and most beneficial training opportunity nationally and internationally for all levels of fire service practitioners.
- Assistant Chief Kujawa has applied to the National Fire Academy for a two week course "Advanced Leadership Issues in EMS". The Chief is awaiting notification of her acceptance. Travel and the course fee are paid for by the academy.
- The management team continues working with the line officers to make the restructure a success. Daily morning briefings are held with the shift officers to monitor the changes and jointly address concerns.

Commissioner Wescott moved, seconded by Commissioner Rice, to approve the Fire Chief's Report for January 2010.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

## **11. Police Chief's Report**

Chief Ruder reported:

- The Stevens Point Police Department face book page has been active since January 1, 2010. Feedback from the community has been positive. To date the page has had 1,250 visitors.
- The School Safety Committee involving members of the community, school district, and police and sheriff's department completed their final survey of schools within the Stevens Point school district. The efforts of this committee resulted in several recommendations to protect the welfare of children and motorists going to and from the various schools.
- The school district is planning to reduce one junior high school liaison officer effective January 1, 2011. The Department will continue to work with the School Board to revisit their decision.

Commissioner Wescott moved seconded by Commissioner Nuck, to approve the Police Chief's Report for January, 2010.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

## **12. Administrative Director's Report**

Administrative Director Jeff Morris reported:

- The Fire Department collective bargaining agreement, plus several outstanding Fire Department grievances brought by the union, remains open. An update on the current status of negotiations will be provided during a closed session briefing at the February meeting.
- Three consulting firms submitted proposals to provide consulting services relative to recruiting and hiring a new Fire Chief. All three firms will be interviewed by the Commission on February 16<sup>th</sup> beginning at 3:30 p.m. at the Fire Department, 1701 Franklin Street. One hour per firm has been allotted for each interview.
- The Tech Team is reviewing a draft proposal for operating a patient transfer services outside the 9-1-1 system that accommodates the needs to move hospitalized patients from their facility to other area hospitals for continued care. In the past these movements have been facilitated using the existing Portage County emergency medical transport system. There was a negative impact on staff and the tax levy. The new proposal would eliminate this impact while still providing the service needed by residents of our county while using our local hospital.
- The initial authorization for the 2010 bond/borrowing program was given by the Common Council during the January meeting. As reported in the January Director's report, once borrowing is complete the radio and early warning outdoor severe weather alert projects will begin. It is anticipated the work on these projects will be complete in October 2010.
- Substantial time was spent working with the Public Works Department, Police Department and university on a traffic study and plan to enhance the safety of pedestrians crossing Division Street at Franklin. The plan, which includes making Franklin one way from Division for one block in both directions from Division, will be presented to the Common Council – Public Works Board on Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Nuck moved, seconded by Commissioner Rice, to approve the Administrative Director's report for January 2010.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

**13. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.