

City of Stevens Point Meeting Minutes

Police and Fire Commission

Tuesday, December 1, 2009, 4:30 p.m. Present: Commissioners Nuck, Rice, Schleihs, Taylor and Wescott

Also Present: Administrative Director Jeff Morris; Police Chief Kevin Ruder; Fire Chief John Zinda, Alderperson Mary Stroik, Mayor Andrew Halverson, Officer Bethany Reed, Officer Joe Quisler

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2. People to be heard and announcements

None.

3. Approval of minutes

Commissioner Rice moved, seconded by Commissioner Wescott, to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2009 meeting.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

4. Confirmation of Bills

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

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

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

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

5. Power Point Presentation - Public Safety use of Face Book and other social networking sites

Officer Joe Quisler and Officer Bethany Reed demonstrated via Power Point a proposed Face Book account for the Stevens Point Police Department for use as a communication tool between the Department and the community.

The Department is considering a Face Book site, which would consist of two phases. Phase I would be an information only page which would allow the public to access the city's website. Phase II would be an interactive phase where users can link directly to involved police officer's department pages and present comments and/or questions directly through individual pages. The page would be monitored on a regular basis.

The Department is anticipating a January 1, 2010 start date for Phase I. Progress to Phase II will be determined at a later date.

Commissioner Taylor moved, seconded by Commissioner Nuck, to support a January 1, 2010 date to begin use of Face Book. Chief Ruder will keep the commission updated as to the progress of the site and request to move on to Phase II.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

6. Police Chief's Report

Chief Ruder reported:

- **Portage County Health & Human Services is in the final stages of developing a mobile crisis unit to assist law enforcement with mental health crisis situations.** The mobile crisis unit will be an asset to the Department to bridge the gap between mental health services and law enforcement.
- **Representative Louis Molepske Jr. was contacted reference legislation requiring the registration of pharmaceutical on a state registration data base.** The legislation is currently in the Senate and all indications are that it will be sent to the Governor for signing.
- **On December 5, 2009 the Department will assist the Salvation Army ringing the bell for their kettle campaign.**

Commissioner Wescott moved seconded by Commissioner Taylor, to approve the Police Chief's Report for November 2009.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

7. Discussion, with possible action, initiation of search process to select a new Fire Chief (based on pending retirement)

Commissioner Wescott moved, seconded by Commissioner Rice, to initiate the process for Fire Chief to begin in January 2010. Director Morris will research how the Commission has handled previous hiring protocols and report his findings at the January Commission meeting.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

8. Fire Chief's Report

Chief Zinda reported:

- **The Department is in the process of contracting with Mid-State Technical College to conduct a 66 hour Certified Driver/Operator-Pumper and a 33 hour Certified Driver/Operator-Aerial course for each shift.**
- **With the year end approaching, Chief Zinda is trying to prepare for the implementation of the new Department structure which will go into effect on January 1, 2010.**
- **Assistant Chief Kujawa is coordinating the Paramedic and Intermediate Technician refresher course that is needed for all Department personnel.**

The Department is also exploring new innovative ways to partner with surrounding Departments that also need EMS refresher courses biannually.

- **The Chief suggested the Commission review Chapter 6 of the City Ordinance for possible updates.**

Commissioner Wescott moved, seconded by Commissioner Taylor, to approve the Fire Chief's Report for November 2009.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

9. Administrative Director's Report

Administrative Director Jeff Morris reported:

- **The Common Council reviewed and adopted the proposed budget for the City which included Police, Fire/EMS and PFC Administration.**

Comments were heard from some of the council members regarding the reality of the savings outlined when the Commission initiated with Council approval the Public Safety system approach to managing Police, Fire/EMS and related support services. Reports were distributed that documented the ongoing savings as well as 2009 achievements.

- **Work in IT services has included proofing of the data base for the City map system, as well as the data base to ensure as close to 100% accuracy in all files as possible.**

- **The new three year ambulance contract was approved by all parties.**

• **Work has continued on creating a successor Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City and IAFF Local 484. One step of the bargaining process that has been completed is the city has notified the union that as of January 1, 2010 we will be implementing the Fire Department organizational operating structure that was previously reviewed and accepted. This plan continues the Captain position, renews the Lieutenant position, eliminates the Lead Paramedic position, reduces the number of Motor Pump Operators to match the number of staffed apparatus, and increases the number of firefighter/paramedic positions. The plan, once fully staffed after January 2012, will result in three shifts of 13 persons each available for all fire, EMS and heavy rescue calls. A key component of this plan is our new mutual/limited automatic aid plan with surrounding villages and towns.**

- **The Director distributed a copy of the goals for the period 2009 through 2011.**

• **The Director has prepared a Gantt chart which documents the timeline for all major projects undertaken in the period 2008 through 2010. A more detailed report on each project will be forthcoming.**

- **The Director distributed a copy of the notes from the tank car exercise that took place on November 18, 2009.**

Commissioner Nuck moved, seconded by Commissioner Rice, to approve the Administrative Director's report for November 2009.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

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