

City of Stevens Point Meeting Minutes

Police and Fire Commission

Tuesday, May 5, 2009, 4:32 p.m. Present: Commissioners Meyer, Nuck, Rice and Schleihs

Commissioner Taylor, excused

Also Present: Administrative Director Jeff Morris; Fire Chief John Zinda; Police Chief Kevin Ruder; Mayor Andrew Halverson; Alderperson Randy Stroik; Firefighter/Paramedics Jodi Baganz and Justin Thomson; Casey Bielen

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2. People to be heard and announcements
3. Discussion of Fire Department grievance regarding not receiving pay for lunch (nonworking) hour while training off duty
4. Adjourn into closed session (approximately 5:15 p.m.) pursuant to Wis. Stats. sec. 19.85 (1) (c) and (f) for the following: A. Entry level Firefighter/Paramedic interview B. Discussion of Fire Department grievance regarding not receiving pay for lunch (nonworking) hour while training off duty
5. Reconvene into open session (approximately 60 minutes after adjourning into closed session) for possible action
6. Approval of Minutes - April 7, 2009
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2. People to be heard and announcements

None.

3. Discussion of Fire Department grievance regarding not receiving pay for lunch (nonworking) hour while training off duty
President Jodi Baganz provided a history to the Commission of circumstances surrounding the filing of the grievance. On February 28, 2009 seven members of the Department attended a seminar in Fitchburg, Wisconsin. A van from UWSP/State auto pool was rented. Members were paid for travel time and time in attendance while at the seminar. During the seminar a meal break between 45 to 60 minutes was afforded to all members.

During review of pay by local 484 members, it was noted that select members had time reduced by management. The Union is stating that by reducing this pay the city has disregarded the Agreement between the City of Stevens Point and the IAFF Local 484 and violated the following articles of the Contract: Article 2 - Management Rights; Article 21 - Existing Rights.

The Union's resolution is to pay all members for the entire time spent for travel, training and any break periods that may have occurred and to also discontinue the practice of arbitrarily changing the time records of employees.

Before becoming Chief, John stated he wasn't involved in the payroll aspect of the job. Payroll, as it pertains to training, was handled by Lorna Whalen and also retired Bureau Chief Clarke Crandell. John was told that Department members did not get paid for nonworking lunches so any training he received he excluded the lunch hour when he completed his training/payroll slip.

John, based on his personal experience as a member of the Fire Department for 28 years, said to his knowledge that the information presented by Jodi Baganz was not reflective of actual Department practice. He discussed the grievance with Lorna Whalen, who concurred.

Chief Zinda distributed a memo from Lorna Whalen, Payroll Coordinator, stating the general policy since she began employment with the Department is the lunch hour is unpaid when training off duty.

4. Adjourn into closed session (approximately 5:15 p.m.) pursuant to Wis. Stats. Sec. 19.85 (1) c) and (f) for the following:
 - a. Entry Level Firefighter/Paramedic Interview
 - b. Discussion of Fire Department grievance regarding not receiving pay for lunch (nonworking) hour while training off duty
- Commissioner Meyer moved, seconded by Commissioner Nuck, to adjourn into closed session.

Ayes: Meyer, Nuck, Rice, Schleihs

Nays, none. Motion carried

5. Reconvene into open session (approximately 60 minutes after adjourning into closed session) for possible action.
Commissioner Meyer moved, seconded by Commissioner Nuck, to reconvene into open session for possible action.

Ayes: Meyer, Nuck, Rice, Schleihs

Nays, none. Motion carried

Commissioner Meyer moved, seconded by Commissioner Nuck, to approve the hiring of Case Bielen as Probationary Firefighter/Paramedic contingent upon the successful completion of all hiring protocols and testing.

Ayes: Meyer, Nuck, Rice, Schleihs

Nays, none. Motion carried

Commissioner Rice moved, seconded by Commissioner Meyer, to sustain Fire Chief Zinda's denial of the grievance.

Ayes: Meyer, Nuck, Rice, Schleihs

Nays, none. Motion carried

6. Approval of Minutes - April 7, 2009

Commissioner Nuck moved, seconded by Commissioner Rice, to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2009 meeting.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

7. Confirmation of Bills

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

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

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

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

8. Commission appointments

Commissioner Meyer moved, seconded by Commissioner Nuck, to appoint Dave Schleih as Commission President and Maury Rice as Commission Secretary.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

Past practice has been to appoint a liaison to the Police and Fire Departments. With the reorganization of both department President Schleih would like to look at a changing role for the Police and Fire Commissioners. At the June meeting there will be a discussion regarding the role of the commissioners in reference to project oriented assignments.

(Mayor Halverson & Alderperson Stroik left the meeting.)

9. Report on Police Academy and acceptance of donation from Academy graduate

Chief Ruder moved to table the report on the police academy to a later date.

Commissioner Rice moved, seconded by Commissioner Meyer, to accept a \$100.00 donation from Reverend and Mrs. Barnes to support the Firing Range.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

10. Distribution of 2008 EMS Annual Report to be discussed at regularly scheduled June Police and Fire Commission meeting

A copy of the 2008 EMS Annual Report was distributed. Deputy Chief Kujawa will be present at the June meeting to discuss this report with the Commission.

(Commissioner Rice left the meeting.)

11. Police Chief's Report

Chief Ruder reported:

- **Officer Bob Kussow was appointed to be the Police School Liaison Officer at Ben Franklin Junior High School. Bob has done a commendable job for the last number of years as a Sensitive Crimes Detective and will be a valuable asset for the community in his new role as PSL.**
- **Officer Tony Zblewski was recommended by an interview panel to fill the vacancy of Detective Kussow in the Investigation Bureau. Officer Zblewski will be assigned to the Detective Bureau at the conclusion of the school year.**
- **On April 21st the Budget Work Committee completed the initial orientation/education phase of the budgetary process. Senior Account Osegard and Treasurer Schlice gave a presentation to the Committee. A brief question and answer session was held. The committee will now begin researching and exploring cost saving ideas and proposals.**
- **The Chief has begun his one-on-one talks with members of the Department.**
- **Sgt. Skibba will be overseeing the development of a Department training plan, receiving input from a committee representing all segments of the Department. Once completed, the plan will be forwarded for the Chief's review and will be presented to Director Morris and the Commission for input.**

Commissioner Nuck moved, seconded by Commissioner Meyer, to approve the Police Chief's Report for April 2009.

12. Fire Chief's Report

Chief Zinda reported:

- **A joint training meeting with Plover Fire Department, Whiting Fire Department and Hull Fire Department is scheduled for Saturday, May 16th. At the meeting there will be a review of MABAS card changes, incident command procedures, staging expectations and acquainting personnel with other departments first due apparatus and equipment.**
- **The Stevens Point Fire Department has reprogrammed all portable and mobile radios. This was done to take advantage of increased radio range using the new central repeater installed on the Police Department's tower in Goerke Park.**
- **The Stevens Point Fire Department has implemented a new fee based fire re-inspection program. The program will encourage more compliance, reduce man hours devoted to field inspection and provide needed revenue to offset the high cost of the inspection program. A fee will be charged to all non-compliant occupancies after thirty days of the initial inspection.**
- **The Department is completing two FEMA Assistance to Firefighters' grant applications. One application is being submitted for a breathing air compressor and SCBA test bench. A second regional application (Stevens Point, Plover, Whiting and Hull) is being submitted for Remote access software and computers. This will aid in force and property protection by giving fire, EMS and other personnel access to critical emergency response data while en route to an incident and during pre-incident planning and training activities.**
- **The Department has met with Portage County Health personnel to review plans for a pandemic outbreak. Supplies and procedures are in place to aid all EMS and fire responders when treating patients in the field.**

Commissioner Meyer moved, seconded by Commissioner Nuck, to approve the Fire Chief's Report for April 2009.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

13. Administrative Director's Report

Director Morris reported:

- **Fire negotiations: there have been no meetings. The Department's attorney has contacted the Fire Union's attorney on several occasions via e-mail to arrange dates, but the attorney has received limited return communication. The next date for negotiations is tentatively scheduled for May 20th.**
- **The discussions with the County on creating a successor agreement to the current Portage County Emergency Medical Services provider agreement are progressing. The financial aspect is being reviewed by Comptroller Schlice and Jennifer from the Portage County Finance Department. Hopefully a suitable funding arrangement will be possible and agreed upon by June 1st.**

- **The Safer Grant Program, which would allow the City to add a firefighter position, is going to become part of this Federal Stimulus package** according to a letter received from Senator Feingold's office. This is a program recommended by the Director which would be used to bring the Fire Department staffing level to the point where each of the three shifts has 13 personnel. The Director will keep the Commission updated regarding this grant.
- **The civilian IT position that was authorized in the 2009 budget has been posted. The deadline to apply for this position is May 8th.**
- **John Bajus, Management and Program Analyst for the FBI, conducted a Quality Assurance Review of the Police Department on May 5th.** Commissioner Nuck moved, seconded by Commissioner Meyer, to approve the Administrative Director's Report for April 2009.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

14. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

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