

City of Stevens Point Meeting Minutes

Police and Fire Commission

Tuesday, June 2, 2009, 4:31 p.m. Present: Commissioners Meyer, Nuck, Rice, Schleih and Taylor

Also Present: Administrative Director Jeff Morris; Fire Chief John Zinda; Police Chief Kevin Ruder; Mayor Andrew Halverson;

Firefighter/Paramedics Jodi Baganz

Index of these Minutes:

2. People to be heard and announcements
3. Discussion of Fire Department grievance regarding time trade cancellation
4. Adjourn into closed session (approximately 4:35 p.m.) pursuant to Wis. Stats. sec. 19.85 (1) (c) and (f) for the following: a. Discussion of Fire Department grievance regarding time trade cancellation b. Discussion - permanent appointment of Fire Chief
5. Reconvene into open session (approximately 45 minutes after adjourning into closed session) for possible action on items 4 (a) and 4 (b)
6. Approval of Minutes - May 5, 2009
7. Confirmation of Bills
8. Discussion of 2008 EMS Annual Report
9. Police Chief's Report
10. Fire Chief's Report
11. Administrative Director's Report
12. Commissioner Bill Meyer's report on progress of Portage County EMS committee status
13. Adjournment
2. People to be heard and announcements

Commissioner Bill Meyer was recognized for his 12 years of service as a police and fire commissioner.

3. Discussion of Fire Department grievance regarding time trade cancellation

President Jodi Baganz provided a history to the Commission of circumstances surrounding the filing of the grievance. On March 6, 2009 Chief Zinda issued a memorandum stating "time trades that have already been posted will be allowed. No new time trades will be allowed during the scheduled class hours." The Union believes that by issuing this directive, the city has disregarded the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Stevens Point and IAFF Local 484 and has violated stated articles and is in direct violation of arbitration award #109 No. 59116 MA - 11180.

Chief Zinda stated that no time trades were canceled; he just didn't allow additional time trades to take place once the mandatory training was scheduled. He also stated time trades are a privilege and that time trades can cost the Department and the City large amounts of money and time if training has to be rescheduled due to time trades. Chief Zinda believed his actions were supported by the current Collective Bargaining Agreement which contains a Management Rights Article.

Chief Zinda further stated that when the arbitration was awarded to the union in 2000 there was no Management Rights clause in the contract.

4. Adjourn into closed session (approximately 5:00 p.m.) pursuant to Wis. Stats. Sec. 19.85 (1) c) and (f) for the following:
 - a. Discussion of Fire Department grievance regarding time trade cancellation
 - b. Discussion regarding permanent appointment of Fire ChiefCommissioner Nuck moved, seconded by Commissioner Taylor to adjourn into closed session.

Ayes: Meyer, Nuck, Rice, Schleih and Taylor

Nays, none. Motion carried

Commissioner Rice left the meeting after closed session.

5. Reconvene into open session (approximately 45 minutes after adjourning into closed session) for possible action.

Commissioner Meyer moved, seconded by Commissioner Taylor to reconvene into open session for possible action.

Ayes: Meyer, Nuck, Schleih and Taylor

Nays, none. Motion carried

Commissioner Schleih moved, seconded by Commissioner Nuck, to sustain Fire Chief John Zinda's denial of the grievance regarding time trades.

Ayes: Meyer, Nuck, Schleih and Taylor

Nays, none. Motion carried

President Schleih reiterated that all correspondence from Local 484 should be sent directly to Director Morris as the Commission's representative. Chief Zinda should also be provided correspondence through the proper chain of command. Firefighter Baganz stated the union's attorney doesn't recognize Director Morris as part of the chain of command because his position is not allowed by state statute but at the commission's direction will include the Director in future correspondence.

Commissioner Taylor moved, seconded by Commissioner Meyer, to approve Fire Chief Zinda as the permanent Fire Chief through September 14, 2010 contingent upon a discussion with the City Attorney as to the City's rules and regulations. If Chief Zinda should continue employment after September 14, 2010 the residency requirement for Department Heads would be immediately applicable. The commission will begin a search for Fire Chief no later than January 1, 2010.

Ayes: Meyer, Nuck, Schleih and Taylor

Nays, none. Motion carried

6. Approval of Minutes - May 5, 2009

Commissioner Nuck moved, seconded by Commissioner Meyer, to approve the minutes of the May 5, 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 May 2009 Police Department bills.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

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

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

8. Discussion of 2008 EMS Annual Report

The Commission thanked Assistant Chief Kujawa for her part in the completion of the 2008 EMS Annual Report.

Assistant Chief Kujawa reported the Stevens Point Fire Department and Portage County Ambulance have put safety at the forefront and in 2008 implemented several initiatives in an attempt to keep both the community and personnel out of harm's way. Several Standard Operating Procedures for driver training were implemented in the fall of 2007 and in conjunction with the SOPs both driver simulator training and an Emergency Vehicle Operations Course were provided for all personnel in the Department.

9. Police Chief's Report

Chief Ruder reported:

- **The Budget work committee narrowed its focus to five projects: Parking issues; seizures/impounds; storage of impound vehicles; website update; nuisance calls.**
- **The drug drop off box is complete and soon will be available to collect unwanted prescription medications from the community. The Department is in the process of developing a policy to conduct the program.**
- **The Department met with Ray Przybylski from Health and Human Services to discuss the impact of budgetary cuts in psychological services.** Also discussed was ways to reduce the number of man hours needed to conduct mental health commit investigations. To date, the Department has completed 48 mental health commitments. Discussion to reduce the officers' time spent on these investigations included: change department policy allowing investigating officers to complete commitment paperwork with supervisory approval, changing protocol at Health and Human Services for intake worker availability and exploring the viability of a grant funded mobile crisis unit through Health and Human Services.
- **The Chief formally recognized the efforts of three officers on the Department who went above and beyond while performing their duties as peace officers:**
 - **On May 2, 2009 officers responded to a house fire at 1701 Church Street. Upon arrival, officers determined that the fire had spread to neighboring homes and attempts were made to contact the residents. Officers Spath and Moss entered the residence of 1709 Church Street and assisted with the evacuation of two elderly residents who were reluctant to leave. While windows were breaking due to the intense heat, these officers acted without hesitation in assuring the safety of the endangered couple and hence prevented any loss of life.**
 - **On May 24, 2009 officers responded to a report of a female threatening to jump off the parking ramp at Sentry. Officer Rottier found the female and attempted to persuade her from jumping from the ramp which was three to four stories off the ground. Officer Rottier was able to grab the female around the waist and pull her from the ledge to safety. Officer Rottier's quick action and response prevented what could have been a tragic death.**

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

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

10. Fire Chief's Report

Chief Zinda reported:

- **A joint organizational meeting with the Chiefs of the Plover FD, Whiting FD and Hull FD is scheduled for Wednesday, June 10th. We will be reviewing MABAS card changes, incident command procedures and discussing upcoming joint training exercises.**
- **The Stevens Point Fire Department has developed new standard operating procedures for calling a MAYDAY at a fire scene and also an SOP for personnel accountability at the fire scene. It is critical that these are in place, especially in light of the increasing instances that we have multiple departments operating together. The Chief intends to work with the surrounding metro departments to ensure they have similar SOPs for fire ground continuity and safety.**
- **The Stevens Point Fire Department has been informed that Firefighter/Paramedic Armando Ramon will be deployed to Germany for a minimum of twelve months in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He will leave July 31st.**
- **There are currently two other employees on deployment with the military.**
- **There are many factors that will have a negative impact on the overtime line items of the Fire department budget this year. The Chief anticipates the department may run a deficit in this area. Factors impacting overtime to date: administrative and department restructuring; three employees on military deployment overseas; one employee on long term workers compensation; one employee resigned.**

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

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

11. Administrative Director's Report

Director Morris reported:

- **The activity for this month has been focused on reviewing Fire union grievances and developing a counter-proposal to the Union's last proposal, writing the Portage County Emergency Medical Services technical committee's final report, and filling the new Information Technology position that will report to the Administrative Director and support both Fire/EMS and Police IT needs.**
- **A new proposal was received from the Union about one week before the negotiating session scheduled for the 20th of May. Given the need to study this proposal and develop a carefully considered response, the meeting on the 20th was canceled.**
- **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 CT Schlice and Jennifer from the Portage County Finance Department. The technical committee report was prepared by the Director following the last meeting on May 20th.**

- **No new information is available on the SAFIR grant for Fire Departments. The Police Department has been notified of another JAG grant for \$14,000 that we are eligible to receive. This grant must be submitted by July 9th. We will have to develop a program to share some portion of the money with Portage County Sheriff's Department and Plover Police Department per rules of the grant because they received no award.**
 - **Interviews were completed on Wednesday, May 27th with the two applicants for the IT position. The interview panel consisted of Lisa Jakusz and Director Morris. Following the interviews it was determined the position would be offered to Ed Eggleston. He has verbally committed to the position pending a formal letter and his anticipated start date is June 2nd, 2009.**
- Commissioner Nuck moved, seconded by Commissioner Meyer, to approve the Administrative Director's Report for May 2009.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

12. Commissioner Bill Meyer's report on progress of Portage County EMS committee status

A draft copy of the Portage County Emergency Medical Services report was distributed. A short discussion followed. The report will be presented to the Portage County EMS Oversight Board on Thursday, June 11, 2009.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

The meeting minutes reproduced on this website are derived from the computer files used to produce the official minutes for the City of Stevens Point, but are unofficial. The minutes on this web site cannot be certified under s. 889.08, Wis. Stats., and cannot be considered prima facie evidence under s. 889.04, Wis. Stats. Certain tables, maps, and other documents that are a part of the official minutes are not included in the files reproduced on this website. Please consult the printed minutes, available in the City Clerk's Office, for the official text. The decisions made by City of Stevens Point boards, committees, and commissions (other than the Police & Fire Commission) are advisory only and are not binding on the City until affirmed at a meeting of the Common Council. Some of the minutes on this web site might not be approved by the Common Council as of today.