

**CITY OF STEVENS POINT
POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSION**

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2019
Stevens Point Police Department
933 Michigan Avenue

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

Also Present: Police Chief Skibba, Fire Chief Finn, Assistant Chief Gemza, Assistant Chief Moody, Lt. Jeremy Mueller, Alderperson Kneebone, City Treasurer Corey Ladick, Brandi - SP Metro Wire

2. **Election of Commission President, Secretary and appointment of liaisons**

Commissioner Ostrowski moved, seconded by Commissioner Carlson, to elect Gary Wescott as President.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

Commissioner Wescott moved, seconded by Commissioner Kirschling, to elect Bob Ostrowski as Secretary.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

President Wescott made the following appointments which are effective immediately:

- Ron Carlson is appointed commissioner at large for special projects
- Joe Kirschling is re-appointed as liaison to the Fire Department
- Jerry Moore is appointed liaison to the Police Department

3. **President's Report**

President Wescott, on behalf of the Police and Fire Commission, thanked retiring Park and Recreation Director Tom Schrader for his decades of dedicated service to the people of Stevens Point.

Brandi Makuski, Point/Plover Metro Wire, addressed the commission regarding the issues social media, specifically Facebook, can cause a news agency that is trying to accurately report local news.

4. **Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Moore moved, seconded by Commissioner Carlson, to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2019 meeting.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

5. **Confirmation of Bills**

Commissioner Wescott moved, seconded by Commissioner Kirschling, to approve the confirmation of the April 2019 bills.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

6. Review of Combined Portage County dispatch

In August of 2013 all Stevens Point operational dispatch services were transferred to the Portage County Sheriff's Office. This transfer included the employment of seven city dispatchers to county employment, a payment of \$127,000 and a levy transfer valued at \$437,250.00.

A primary benefit of combing dispatch services to both Stevens Point and Portage County residents was a more robust, fully staffed center consisting of 18 employees. The increased staffing was intended to provide increased coverage of two dispatchers during the day assigned to the City of Stevens Point calls for service.

Additionally, a Communications Board would be created to provide county wide oversight with input from all parties involved, to include Fire, EMS and Police agencies. The intended purpose of combined dispatch stated in the contract was to provide cooperative accountability and stewardship of the county wide dispatch system. The Board holds monthly meeting with respective emergency services representatives.

Some staffing observations made by the SPPD are that Portage County has sole funding and staffing authority. It was noted that Staff shortages started and have persisted from the onset of the transfer of city dispatch to the county.

SPPD observations regarding Incident resolution:

- Portage County has sole supervisory authority.
 - Inconsistent response to citizen's requests generate complaints that SPPD has no authority to correct when originating from the Communications Center.
 - Ongoing requests for standardized response to "quality of life" calls.
 - Access to records (delays in obtaining records previously belonging to PD dispatch that are needed to address complaints level against SPPD).

The Fire Department noted the same staffing observations as the city, which Portage County has sole funding and staffing authority and that staffing shortages started and have persisted from the onset of the transfer of city dispatch to the county.

The FD noted radio and paging policy inconsistencies in Fire and EMS, to include:

- Communications Center will change paging policies without notifying SPFD chain of command.
- SPFD request for radio and page policy implementation and changes are rebuffed with unclear explanations from the Communication Center.
- Mobile units are not receiving Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) tickets consistently leading to discrepancies in times and vital emergency information.

Chief Finn has had issues that were brought before the Communication Board and the issues started in October 2018 with letters that weren't answered regarding the new paging system. Chief Finn received a letter from Portage County Executive Chris Holman and will meet with him on May 8, 2019 on this and other issues. Also, at the last Communication Board meeting Chief Finn asked that the sheriff and the county executive be put on the agenda to come and explain the rules and responsibilities of the communication board. This meeting will be held on July 9th and the Chief hopes the communication board duties will be clarified at this time.

Moving forward the Commission will work to identify what is working as well as areas that need improvement. Commissioner at Large Ronald Carlson will be appointed to work with the Sheriff's Office and Communications Center on dispatch issues.

7. Fire Chief's Report/EMS Report

Significant Events:

- Mock car crash hosted with Greek Life and UWSP
- Metro Fire calls (1)
- Structure fires (2)
- Vehicle fires (1)
- Brush, grass, wildland fires (0)
- Cooking fire contained (1)
- Overheated cooking (0)
- Other fires (9)
- Rescue (2)
- EMS assist calls (42)
- False alarm responses (10)
- Hazardous materials responses (4)
- Other responses (5)
- Total fire losses (\$0)
- Total Property saved (\$0)
- Total responses (76)
- Training: Pipeline training; ventilation, flow paths and fire growth; sensit gas meter training; vehicle extrication; ropes anchors and rappelling. Total training hours: 90
- Fire inspections: Certificate of occupancy (2), Fire Alarm inspections (2), general fire inspection (98), General/liquor license inspection (1), Re-inspection (90), Sprinkler system (1), complaint inspection (1); Special Event permit (0); tent inspection (0). Total inspections: 195
- Public Activities: Mock car crash; Cub Scout safety walk; hands only CPR training; B&GC wine and cheese. Number of attendees: 865

Activities Report:

- Webelo Scout First Aid: An area Webelo pack visited the station to learn first aid and have a station tour.
- Public Service Announcement: Suicide Prevention Coalition Video SPFD, SPPD and Plover PD all participated in the filming.
- Critical Incident Stress Management: Stevens Point Fire Department along with Chaplain Ficken and UWSP Protective Services have formed a Critical Stress Management Team. Stevens Point Police, Plover PD and Portage County Sheriff's Office all have plans to send personnel to the training and join the team.
- Rescue Task Force Planning: The Team continues to work on planning our large scale multi-agency exercise to be held late June.

Commissioner Wescott moved, seconded by Commissioner Kirschling to accept the Fire Chief's Report for April 2019.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

8. Police Chief's Report

Notes of Interest:

- May is Mental Health Awareness month. SPPD officers will be wearing a green ribbon that represents mental health awareness.

- K9 assisted Plover PD with armed robbery investigation. Multiple items recovered and suspect subsequently taken into custody.
- 5 weapon involved incidents
- 88 mental health related incidents (13 emergency detentions)

Projects:

- Capital: Building update (internal building construction approved by State (updating cost), roof replacement (request for proposals being drafted with Director Beduhn's assistance)

Training:

- Criminal Justice Student shadow/ride-alongs
- Co-hosted LGBTQ training with Crisis Center

Presentations:

- Active Event presentation for Trinity Lutheran staff
- SPASH, consequences to risky behavior

Staffing:

- Assignments: Officer Chi Yang, Step 1 Field Training
- Vacancy: Adult School Crossing Guard

Activity/Events:

April:

- Auxiliary to assist at college and high school sporting events
- 6th - Run for Life Color Run at SPASH
- 12th - Trivia Parade
- 27th - Drug Take Back, Lincoln Center
- 27th - SPASH prom
- 28th - SPASH MORP, Rogers Cinema

May:

- Auxiliary to assist at college and high school sporting events
- 4th - Readers Ruck Run
- 11th - Cultural Fest
- 18th - Portage County Safety Fair
- 18th - Washington School Tiger Trek
- 19th - Mid-State Graduation, Sentry
- 24th - Spud City Car Cruise

Auxiliary Unit:

- 28 events, 435 volunteer hours in 2019

Commissioner Ostrowski moved, seconded by Commissioner Kirschling to accept the Police Chief's Report for April 2019.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

9. **Adjourn into closed session (approximately 4: 45 p.m.) pursuant to Wisconsin Statute Section 19.85 (1) (e) [deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session] for an update on EMS ambulance contract negotiations**

Commissioner Carlson moved, seconded by Commissioner Kirschling to adjourn into closed session.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.