



## Police and Fire Commission

City of Stevens Point  
1515 Strongs Avenue  
Stevens Point WI 54481

August 9, 2011  
4:35 p.m.

1. **Roll Call:** Commissioners George Hanson, Mary Taylor, Dave Schleihs and Gary Wescott

**Also**

**Present:**

Chief Kevin Ruder, Chief Tracey Kujawa, Director Sally McGinty, Alderperson Brian Brooks, Mayor Andrew Halverson, Assistant Chief Bob Finn, City Treasurer John Schlice, Matthew Brown – Portage County Gazette, Brian Kowalski - Stevens Point Journal

Fire Department Employees: Tom Wastart, Justin Thomson, Joe Gemza

Victoria McGrath participated telephonically.

**President Schleihs, upon hearing no objection, rearranged the agenda to discuss the IAFF Local 484 participation in the 2011 Muscular Dystrophy Association Fundraiser**

2. **Discussion, with possible action, IAFF Local 484 participation in 2011 Muscular Dystrophy Association fundraiser**

Comptroller John Schlice voiced concerns regarding the Fire Department participating on duty in the "Fill the Boot "Muscular Dystrophy Fundraiser. If there were any injuries while on duty, worker's compensation would cover those injuries. However, there is no incentive for the employee to return to work within a reasonable time frame because the city makes up the difference in pay of what worker's compensation does not cover.

Via a memo to the Police and Fire Commission, Assistant Chief Marty Skibba suggested Friday, August 26<sup>th</sup> may be a traffic concern due to high volume at Main and Division. He stated that traffic flow decreases after 6:00 p.m. which would result in less traffic congestion. In order to address the traffic congestion issue, Assistant Chief Skibba suggested the fundraiser hours be between the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., or after 6:00 p.m.

The Commissioners agreed that the union could participate in the fundraiser on off duty hours for two days, for two or three hour intervals. The Fire

Department will work with the Police Department on identifying the hours of participation.

Commissioner Schleih moved, seconded by Commissioner Wescott, to approve the IAFF Local participating off duty in the Fill the Boot fundraiser two days for two to three hour intervals. The Fire Department will work with the Police Department to identify the dates and times of participation.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

### **3. Discussion, with possible action, fire chief recruitment process**

The Commission discussed advantages and disadvantages to re-advertising nationally for the position of Fire Chief but ultimately decided to advertise the position in central Wisconsin and consider advertising state-wide.

Victoria McGrath said the national search hasn't been as effective as they had hoped. The McGraths tried advertising the position at the Wisconsin Fire Chief's Association convention in June but reported little success. There is a perception that something is wrong with Stevens Point and therefore they aren't getting many takers. Victoria reported that potential candidates have the perception that an internal candidate already has a lock on the position.

Director McGinty, Human Resources Manager Lisa Jakusz and President Dave Schleih will review the advertisement. They will ensure the fire chief vacancy is advertised in local papers, the city's website and explore other viable options for the posting.

Once applications are received the Commission will review them and make a decision as to the next step in the recruitment process.

Commissioner Wescott moved, seconded by Commissioner Hanson, to review the advertisement for the position of Fire Chief for the City of Stevens Point. The position will be advertised and a report will be made to the commission on September 8<sup>th</sup> at their regular commission meeting as to the results of the process.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

### **4. Discussion, with possible action, 2011 Fire Department budget and staffing levels**

Chief Kujawa, Comptroller Schlice and Mayor Halverson met on Friday, August 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss Fire Department overtime costs and possible ways to offset these costs. One offset to consider would be to lower minimum staffing. Chief Kujawa doesn't feel comfortable lowering minimum staffing at this time.

Chief Kujawa presented the Commission with historical information regarding staffing increases and decreases for the past 20 years. She discussed current staffing, staffing standards, and the current status of the budget.

Fire management and the union will look at ways to reduce overtime and the overall budget.

The Commission will schedule a special meeting to discuss fiscal issues.

**5. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.