



Police and Fire Commission

City of Stevens Point
1515 Strongs Avenue
Stevens Point WI 54481

October 5, 2011
4:31 p.m.

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

Also

Present:

Chief Kevin Ruder, Chief Tracey Kujawa, Director Sally McGinty, Mayor Andrew Halverson, Alderperson Brian Brooks, Assistant Chief Brian Kudronowicz, Assistant Chief Marty Skibba

Matthew Brown, Portage County Gazette; Brian Kowalski, Stevens Point Journal; Tony Babl, Matt Drossel, John Lawrynck, Mike Bink, Ben Uitenbroek, Maria Boris, Bev Betro, David James, Tim Davy

- 2. Discussion, with possible action, 2012 Public Safety budget**

- **Police Department**
- **Emergency Management**
- **Fire Department**

Chief Ruder was tasked to reduce the budget \$150,000.00 to \$200,000.00. The Chief's primary focus was to accomplish this reduction without eliminating sworn police officers. The data he has collected indicates that the reduction of sworn police personnel would be detrimental to the mission of the Department and would not be in the best interest of the community.

The major reductions within the 2012 Police Department budget to attain the mandated cuts are as follows:

- ✓ Hiring freeze until January 2013
- ✓ Overtime reduction of 16%
- ✓ 57% reduction in general training expenses
- ✓ Discontinue funding for the adult school crossing guards and the safety cadet program
- ✓ Reduce budget for uniform and ammunition supplies

The Police Department has already implemented the following cost saving measures:

- ✓ Increased bicycle enforcement and foot patrol assignments to reduce fuel consumption
- ✓ 60% reduction of management staff
- ✓ 38% reduction of first line supervision
- ✓ State training aids per year are \$7,000 - \$9,000
- ✓ Grant funding – since 2006, Federal and State grants totaling \$750,000; since 2012, 80% reduction in grant funding as compared to 6 year average; grant funds utilized primarily for manpower in extra patrol assignments
- ✓ Partnered with Stevens Point School District for funding PSL's (\$137,000.00)
- ✓ Federal forfeiture funding – utilized to pay for equipment without taxpayer funds

Chief Ruder stressed the budget reductions proposed come at a cost to the community. Attempts will be made to retain some programs with alternative funding sources. The objective of retaining the number of sworn officers was of the highest importance to continue to be able to provide the police protection the community needs.

Director McGinty reported that the Emergency Management budget line items were separated from the Police Department budget. There were no cuts imposed on the Emergency Management budget other than training, which is shared with the Police Department.

The 2012 budget will result in less buying power (maintenance contracts and supply costs will likely increase but budget will remain constant). The 2013 budget will need to include growth for maintenance of new IT systems/software. She also reported that future budgets may see significant changes depending on the decision regarding a joint dispatch center.

Chief Kujawa was tasked with reducing the Fire Department budget by \$150,000.00 for 2012. The areas of the budget affected are as follows:

- ✓ Training and overtime would be reduced by approximately \$60,000.00
- ✓ Equipment replacement costs would be reduced by \$21,000.00
- ✓ Building maintenance (Stations 1 and 2) reduced by \$18,000.00
- ✓ Fire Safety Education budget – 62% dissolved, retain \$6,000 to maintain fire investigation program

Chief Kujawa distributed a proposed fee schedule which, if enacted, could produce revenue to offset the reductions.

Some of the difficulties of reducing the budget include:

- ✓ Union contract (unable to open contract; subject to the provisions of Act 10 and Act 32)
- ✓ Adherence to requirements for 2% dues
- ✓ Adherence to requirements for FAP monies
- ✓ Dissolving the Juvenile Fire setters program (only program in the county; referral from Health and Human Services and self referrals)
- ✓ Elimination of entire Fire Prevention/Inspection Program
- ✓ Ability to maintain training and maintenance of equipment
- ✓ Computerization – there is no line item for computerization; the FD doesn't have a basic inspection/records management system/CAD connection
- ✓ Technical Rescue Team – countywide Technical Rescue Team; need for FD to provide confined space rescue to city entities; the need to get our least senior personnel trained
- ✓ Potential need for concealed carry training

The Chief feels 2012 is going to be a very difficult year and trusts the FD can attain the budget as set forth.

3. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.