

**CITY OF CEDARBURG/TOWN OF CEDARBURG
AD HOC JOINT FIRE/EMS SERVICES
COMMITTEE MEETING
UNAPPROVED MINUTES
NOVEMBER 1, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Ad Hoc Joint Fire/EMS Services Committee was held Tuesday, November 1, 2022, at Cedarburg Fire Station #2, 1350 Covered Bridge Road, Cedarburg, WI.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Fire Chief Jeff Vahsholtz at 7:02 p.m.

Roll Call: Present – City of Cedarburg – Scott Gonwa, Council Member Robert Simpson

Town of Cedarburg – Town Supervisor Larry Lechner, Don Borgwardt, Daryl Herrick

Also Present - Assistant Administrator/Town Clerk Jack Johnston, Fire Chief Jeff Vahsholtz, Fire Inspector Blake Karnitz, Retired Fire Chief Rich Van Dinter, and interested citizens.

Absent - Daniel Den Boer

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE

At Chairperson Jeff Vahsholtz's request, Assistant Administrator/Town Clerk Jack Johnston verified that notice of this meeting was posted in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law.

COMMENTS & SUGGESTIONS FROM CITIZENS - None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Larry Lechner made a motion to approve the October 4, 2022, Joint Fire/EMS Services Committee minutes, seconded by Robert Simpson. Motion carried without a negative vote.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion and possible action on Cedarburg Fire Department future staffing plan

Chief Vahsholtz started discussion by providing detail on the executive summary that the Fire Department created for the draft future staffing plan, as well as questions and data requested by Town members of the Committee since the last meeting in October. The submitted information from the Fire Department included a full staffing timeline 5 years into the future as well as the introduction of a step-pay program for new hires. The Town also requested data to show Town vs. City response times for service, with the Fire Departments data showing response times have steadily improved since 2020.

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Don Borgwardt requested a clarification on what has changed, if anything, from the past meeting. Chief Vahsholtz responded that the step-pay program was new. He explained that the initial pay for new hires would be slightly higher than neighboring departments, but pay would average out to other departments after 5 years of employment.

Larry Lechner requested clarification on how projected staffing from AEMT's or paramedics in future years would have the same pay rate, as a paramedic requires more training. Blake Karnitz responded that the numbers shown to the Committee for staffing are all on the high end, explaining that an AEMT would be paid less than someone with a paramedic license. The numbers were presented in this way so the Committee would have an idea on how much a fully funded department would cost on the very highest end, with the disclaimer actual costs would most likely be lower.

After further discussion, the Committee requested more time to digest the information before making any formal recommendations. They agreed to meet on November 10, 2022 at 5 pm at Fire Station #2 for another meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Scott Gonwa made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 pm. Don Borgwardt seconded, and the motion passed without a negative vote and the meeting adjourned.

Jack Johnston
Assistant Administrator/Town Clerk
Town of Cedarburg