

**CITY OF CEDARBURG
POLICE & FIRE COMMISSION
SEPTEMBER 14, 2023**

**PFC20230914-1
UNAPPROVED**

A meeting of the Police & Fire Commission of the City of Cedarburg, Wisconsin, was held on Thursday, September 14, 2023, at the Cedarburg Police Department, W75 N444 Wauwatosa Road, Community Room.

Vice President Terry Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Stacy Tolomeo, Jim Salp, Terry Zimmerman, Mark Sette

Excused: Joel Dhein

Also Present: Police Chief Mike McNerney, Fire Chief Jeff Vahsholtz

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE

Vice-President Terry Zimmerman acknowledged the agenda for this meeting was posted and distributed in compliance with Wisconsin Open Meetings Law.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER – MARK SETTE

Newly appointed Commissioner Mark Sette introduced himself and gave a brief overview of his Law Enforcement background. Commissioner Sette served in Law Enforcement for 30 years. He began his career with the Wisconsin State Patrol. He transitioned to the Washington County Sheriff's Office in 1997. He retired from Washington County in 2021 with the rank of Detective. Commissioner Sette currently serves as the Vice-President of the Wisconsin Fraternal Order of Police. Commissioner Sette is looking forward to working collaboratively with the Police and Fire Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Jim Salp, seconded by Stacy Tolomeo, to approve the July 13, 2023, Police & Fire Commission meeting minutes. Motion carried without a negative vote with Joel Dhein excused.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Application for Membership for Active Fire/EMS in the Cedarburg Fire Department for Robert T. Henry; and Action Thereon

Fire Chief Vahsholtz reported that Robert Henry is a good candidate for the Fire Department. He advised that Mr. Henry is very motivated. He has previous fire experience, military experience, and is a Cedarburg resident. Fire Chief Vahsholtz recommends approval.

Motion made by Stacy Tolomeo, seconded by Jim Salp, to approve the application of Robert Henry for Active EMS with the Cedarburg Fire Department. Motion carried without a negative vote with

Joel Dhein excused.

Consider Application for Membership for Active Fire/EMS in the Cedarburg Fire Department for Will R. Didier, Andrew M. Schottler, and Michael J. Ray; and Action Thereon

Fire Chief Vahsholtz reported that Will Didier is a Cedarburg resident with no prior fire experience. He has an engineering background and is interested in both fire and EMS. Fire Chief Vahsholtz recommends approval of his application contingent on successful completion of medical / physical testing.

Motion made by Jim Salp, seconded by Stacy Tolomeo, to approve the application of Will Didier contingent on successful completion of medical / physical testing for Active Fire / EMS with the Cedarburg Fire Department. Motion carried without a negative vote with Joel Dhein excused.

Fire Chief Vahsholtz reported that Andrew Schottler is a long time Cedarburg resident and local business owner and believes he is a good candidate. Fire Chief Vahsholtz recommends approval of his application contingent on successful completion of medical / physical testing.

Motion made by Mark Sette, seconded by Stacy Tolomeo, to approve the application of Andrew Schottler contingent on successful completion of medical / physical testing for Active Fire / EMS with the Cedarburg Fire Department. Motion carried without a negative vote with Joel Dhein excused.

Fire Chief Vahsholtz reported that Michael Ray is a strong candidate for the Fire Department. However, Mr. Ray is 18 years of age and is currently a senior at Grafton High School. Fire Department Policy dictates that active members must be 18 years of age and have a high school diploma or G.E.D. Fire Chief Vahsholtz recommends re-visiting Mr. Ray's application after he completes high school.

Motion made by Jim Salp, seconded by Stacy Tolomeo, to table the application of Michael Ray to a later date for Active Fire / EMS with the Cedarburg Fire Department. Motion carried without a negative vote with Joel Dhein excused.

Consider Application for Membership for Passive Membership in the Cedarburg Fire Department for Judy Delillo; and Action Thereon

Fire Chief Vahsholtz reported that Judy Delillo's husband is currently a passive member of the Fire Department and that both Ms. Delillo and her husband routinely volunteer at Fire Department fundraisers at Maxwell St. Days. Fire Chief Vahsholtz recommends the approval of her application.

Motion made by Stacy Tolomeo, seconded by Mark Sette, to approve the application of Judy Delillo for passive membership with the Cedarburg Fire Department. Motion carried without a negative vote with Joel Dhein excused.

REPORT OF POLICE CHIEF AND FIRE CHIEF

Update on Police Department Projects

Police Chief Mike McNerney reported on the following items:

- *Officer Wyatt Ecclestone has completed his probation.
- *Officer Justin Buboltz is just off field training and is doing very well. He will be working different shifts to gain experience in different areas.
- *Officer Vladislav Melnikov is on field training and is doing very well so far.
- *The Department is transitioning squad cars from the Ford Explorer to the Dodge Durango. Supply chain issues and cancellations from Ford have made it difficult to get the Explorer. The Durango's are available and are a very good replacement option for the Department. They currently are getting two marked and two unmarked Durango's. Chief McNerney stated they are slated to get three Durango's next year and are moving to a lease program instead of the traditional purchase.
- *The Department is starting up a motorcycle enforcement program. Access for officers to the large festivals (Strawberry, Wine & Harvest, Etc.) is impossible in traditional squad cars. The motorcycle program will help officers' ability to quickly access these events. Several officers have shown interest in becoming motor officers. Selected officers will attend rigorous training. The Department will be acquiring Harley-Davidson Pan America, which is an on / off road style cycle, for the project.
- *Officer Jonathan Schemenauer has been selected as the new K-9 handler. The Department will be acquiring a K-9 cross trained for bomb detection and tracking. The K-9 is being sourced from a trainer in Shallow Creek, PA. This trainer is renowned and is used by several Federal agencies. The K-9 will be selected and trained in Nov / Dec during a 7-week program. The K-9 should be ready to be deployed in early 2024.
- *The current K-9 (Ranger) is trained for drug detection and is still active. However, Ranger has been on duty for 8 years and is reaching the end of his service life. He will remain active until he retires. The Police Department intends to seek a replacement drug detection dog after Ranger retires.
- *National Night out was a huge success. It was well attended by the community. There was great collaboration between the Police and Fire Departments. The Blackhawk helicopter that landed for the event was also a huge success. Special thanks to Amy Fischer for all her hard work coordinating the event.
- *The Police Department is in the process of obtaining a grant for two officers. The grant will cover salaries for the officers for three years. Extra positions are needed to cover festivals and other events happening in the City as they are a big draw on Police Department resources.
- *The Common Council recently approved a pay increase for Auxiliary Officers. Officers' salaries at festivals, events, etc. are paid for by those entities (festivals, CITB, etc.) and do not come out of the City budget.

Update on Fire Department Projects

Fire Chief Jeff Vahsholtz reported on the following items:

- *Call volume for the Fire Department continues to be up.
- *The Chief reported that he recently attended a County Board meeting regarding the A.R.P.A. funds that were promised to various public safety agencies throughout the County, including the City of Cedarburg. The County Board initially allocated / promised \$600,000 to the Cedarburg Fire Department. That number has been reduced to \$438,000. He stated that he was disappointed in the reduction, yet still thankful that the Department is getting a significant amount that will help the EMS program immensely. The \$438,000 will be dispersed in two payments: One now and one in April 2024.

Vice-President Zimmerman praised the Chief for his willingness to confront the County Board with his concerns about the reduction and thanked him for positivity in the face of a less than ideal situation.

*There will be a referendum on the ballot next spring for funding the new Shared Services Agreement with the Town of Cedarburg that includes paramedic level services. The agreement will require hiring full-time positions and moving from a volunteer to paid on call program. The Fire Department is working with a company for media / marketing / information sharing to the public regarding the referendum.

*The Chief also requested that the Police & Fire Commission publicly support the referendum initiative when it is fully rolled out to the public. He stated he has consulted the City's legal counsel and has been advised there are no legal problems with the Police & Fire Commission supporting the initiative. The Mayor and Council are also in agreement.

*As we are moving into budget season, City Administrator Hilvo is 100% in support of public safety from a budgetary standpoint.

*The Department recently went through ambulance inspections which are required by law and are performed by specially trained officers from the Wisconsin State Patrol. The Chief reported that the inspectors are quite thorough and pay close attention to detail on the inspections. He reported that Cedarburg passed the inspections with flying colors and also indicated that the inspector commented on how well the ambulances are kept.

*Both Chief McNerney and Chief Vahsholtz commented that the Country In The Burg event was recently held in the City and that the event did not require an excessive amount of interaction with the public from either agency. They reported some minor issues at the event with a few people but that all issues were handled relatively easily. Police Chief McNerney went on to say that has been his experience with all of the larger events in the City (Summer Sounds, festivals, Maxwell St. Days, Etc.).

Confirm Next Meeting Date (November 9, 2023) and Agenda Items; and Action Thereon

Police Chief McNerney confirmed the next meeting will be held on November 9, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion made by Jim Salp, seconded by Stacy Tolomeo, to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m. Motion carried without a negative vote with Joel Dhein excused.

Mark Sette,
PFC Secretary