

**CITY OF CEDARBURG  
POLICE & FIRE COMMISSION  
MARCH 14, 2024**

**PFC20240314-1  
UNAPPROVED**

A meeting of the Police & Fire Commission of the City of Cedarburg, Wisconsin, was held on Thursday, March 14, 2024, at the Cedarburg Police Department, W75 N444 Wauwatosa Road, Community Room.

Vice President Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:00 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, Officer John Schemenauer, K-9 Officer Nitro, City Clerk Tracie Sette

**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.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Jim Salp, seconded by Stacy Tolomeo, to approve the January 11, 2024 Police & Fire Commission Meeting minutes. Motion carried without a negative vote with Joel Dhein excused.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Officer John Schemenauer introduced K-9, Nitro, the newest member of the Cedarburg Police Department, to the members of the Commission. Officer Schemenauer conducted a demonstration with Nitro and he alerted to the odor of gun powder in a hidden location that had previously been placed in the room. Nitro is also trained for apprehension and does a great job in that arena as well.

**Consider application for membership for Active Fire / EMS in the Cedarburg Fire Department for Colt Cofta; and action thereon.**

Chief Vahsholtz advised that Colt is currently an explorer on the fire department. He earned his Firefighter 1 & 2 along with his EMT certification in high school; and has spent considerable time at the fire department. Colt will be graduating from high school soon. He knows the equipment and the department very well. He is exceptionally motivated for his age. He passed a background check and physical test. The Chief stated that Colt is a “rockstar” and strongly supports him.

A motion was made by Mark Sette, seconded by Stacy Tolomeo, to approve Colt’s application contingent upon him attaining his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Motion carried without a negative vote with Joel Dhein excused.

**DISCUSSION ON FGM ARCHITECTS PROPOSAL ON A SPACE NEEDS ANALYSIS FOR A FUTURE PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING; AND ACTION THEREON**

The Police and Fire Chiefs highlighted the following items regarding a possible combined police and fire facility:

- The construction of a new facility has been part of the City's strategic plan for some time.
- The fire department is out of space and not ADA compliant.
- The police department is quickly outgrowing its space.
- The planning committee has narrowed down its choices to two (2) architects. Both Chiefs and Administrator Hilvo feel that FGM Architects is best suited for the potential project.
- FGM presented to the City Council and provided unanimous support to move forward with a proposed plan for the space.
- Currently the best suitable location for the project is on City owned property just north of the Police Department.
- The current Police Department was built to meet the needs of the agency without much insight into future needs. This plan is a 20+ year plan to accommodate current needs well into the future.
- The Chiefs are advocating for a combined space which will involve updating the current Police Department and expanding it to include the Fire Department.
- A combined space would be beneficial as it would allow the sharing of certain spaces.
- The physical location would allow good Fire Department response times. A more central location would be preferred but congestion in the downtown area is detrimental to response times. Additionally, there are no other suitable locations.
- There are few choices for available spaces in the City, making the current Police Department location most favorable.

There was no action taken by the Commission for this agenda item.

**REPORT OF POLICE CHIEF AND FIRE CHIEF**

**Update on Police Department Projects**

Chief McNerney advised on the following items:

New squad cars (Dodge Durango) are being upfitted. There was a hiccup on camera upfit but that has been solved. All new squads have ALPR (automated license plate readers).

Officers are cycling through the explosive training in New Mexico. This is valuable training for all officers. The entire cost of training, travel, etc. is covered by the federal government. No additional cost to the city.

Drone pilot training is underway. This training is also completely paid for by the federal government. The department will have two drones, of which, one was donated to the Department. One was purchased and has FLIR (night vision) capabilities.

The department is looking to start a cadet / explorer program to encourage young folks to consider Law Enforcement careers. Explorer programs tend to be good “feeder” programs to the agency.

A bowling charity recently raised \$10,500 for K9 Nitro. They are also selling sweatshirts and stuffed animals as a fund raiser. The agency is looking to raise enough money to purchase a new drug dog after K9 Ranger’s retirement.

The PD will now be providing extra staffing at downtown “alcohol walk” events (i.e. scary bloody mary walk, shamrock shenanigans, etc.). The events are typically problem free but they are growing in popularity and there have been some isolated incidents / problems.

Chief Vahsholtz advised on the following items:

A new ambulance is expected to be delivered in April. The rig is priced at around \$420,000.

The Chief advised he has been extremely busy since the last meeting working on issues related to the upcoming referendum. There has been extensive work happening with marketing and community education regarding the referendum. There have also been several community meetings and informational programs aimed at getting the word and the voters out. Feedback about the referendum at these events have generally been very positive so far and the Chief is cautiously optimistic about the outcome of the referendum.

**Confirm Next Meeting Date (May 9, 2024) and agenda items; and Action Thereon**

Chief McNerney confirmed the next meeting will be held on May 9, 2024.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Jim Salp, seconded by Stacy Tolomeo, to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 P.M. Motion carried without a negative vote with Joel Dhein excused.

Mark Sette  
PFC Secretary