

**CITY OF CEDARBURG
POLICE & FIRE COMMISSION
JANUARY 11, 2024**

**PFC20240111-1
UNAPPROVED**

A meeting of the Police & Fire Commission of the City of Cedarburg, Wisconsin, was held on Thursday, January 11, 2024, at the Cedarburg Police Department, W75 N444 Wauwatosa Road, Community Room.

President Joel Dhein called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

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

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

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE

President Joel Dhein acknowledged the agenda for this meeting was posted and distributed in compliance with Wisconsin Open Meetings Law.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jim Salp noted that there was a typo on the spelling of his last name (incorrectly spelled “Stolp”) in the previous minutes. A motion was made by Jim Salp, seconded by Stacy Tolomeo, to approve the November 9, 2023, Police & Fire Commission Meeting minutes with the noted correction regarding the typo on his name. Motion carried without a negative vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Consider application for membership for Active EMS in the Cedarburg Fire Department for Joseph V. Panella; and action thereon.

Chief Vahsholtz advised that Joseph is interested in firefighting and EMS service at CFD. He is 24 years old. He attended high school in Mequon. Joseph is interested in a full-time firefighting career. He is a personal trainer in a couple of different locations in the area. He took the initiative to come to CFD and tour. He knows members of other fire agencies but is very interested in joining CFD as he believes he has the time to commit to service to the agency. He interviewed very well and passed the medical, physical, and background check. Chief Vahsholtz is recommending Joseph for a paid-on-call position with CFD.

A motion was made to approve Joseph’s application for membership for Active EMS in the Cedarburg Fire Department by Stacy Tolomeo, seconded by Terry Zimmerman. Motion carried without a negative vote.

REPORT OF POLICE CHIEF AND FIRE CHIEF

Update on Police Department Projects

Chief McNerney advised on the following items:

President Dhein noted the many letters of accommodation, distinguished service awards, and lifesaving awards to various officers in our packet. Chief McNerney noted that it was a very good year and commented that he was pleased to be able to issue all of the awards to the officers.

New squads arrived today and will be getting ready to be deployed. He reminded the Commission that the department has switched over to the Dodge Durango and will be moving away from the Ford Explorer / Interceptor. Reliability and availability issues are plaguing the Ford vehicles and the Chief is expecting the switch to Dodge will be positive. Chief McNerney advised that one of the new cars will be a “ghost” car with a clean top and darked out reflective graphics and will be deployed in identified problematic traffic areas.

Officer John Schemenauer is the new K-9 handler and is currently in Pennsylvania training with the dog. Chief McNerney advised he had been in contact with the handler today and it was reported that the dog is doing phenomenally well. The new K-9 “Nitro” is well socialized and is very friendly. He is trained in explosives detection and tracking. Chief McNerney also advised that K-9 “Ranger” has officially retired.

Chief McNerney advised that Amy had the idea to post monthly department stats on Facebook and that has been very well received by the public.

Every officer will be sent to New Mexico for explosives investigation training this year. The training is a week course (including travel). The cost of the program is covered by the federal government so there is no cost to the department. He also advised that 3 officers will also be sent to New Mexico for drone pilot training. The cost of that training is also covered by the federal government. The County Sheriff’s Office is also sending deputies to the training. The department is applying for a grant for a new drone. They run about \$6,000. There will be a drone pilot on every shift.

Supervisors have recently gone through CRG training which is a mapping software that allows officers to know where other officers are while responding to incidents. The school system received a grant for this software / technology that maps the various school campuses. Officer locations can be pinpointed and viewed on mobile devices which makes for more efficient deployment of resources. The mapping can be applied anywhere including schools, businesses, fairgrounds, etc. It also makes coordinating critical incidents with other agencies statewide (that have the technology) much easier and more efficient. The Chief advised many agencies county wide have adopted the technology and is hoping all agencies will get on board in the future.

Update on Fire Department Projects

Chief Vahsholtz reported on the following items:

The Fire Department has been very busy with the City / Town Fire & EMS Committee. A survey was sent out to get an idea of community support for the funding of the proposed combined fire / EMS service with the township. Full survey results are not back. However, the return rate on the survey was very good and preliminary indications are very positive in favor of the referendum and funding.

The City Council approved moving forward with the proposed referendum and approved the wording that will appear on the ballot for the referendum in April 2024.

The Chief discussed the plan for hiring personnel if the referendum passes. They will not all be hired at once. New staff will be phased in over several years. The benefits of that plan are financial as well as keeping a balance between full-time and volunteer staffing.

The Chief advised that City Administrator Hilvo continues to be very supportive of public safety and is looking at the possibility of an expanded public safety complex in 2027. The City has sent an RFP for the architecture of a combined police / fire complex where the police department is currently located. The current plan is to add fire services to the location and share resources between the police and fire departments. Administrator Hilvo along with the police and fire chiefs have toured other communities that share police / fire space.

The Chief advised that a media campaign to educate the community regarding the referendum is underway. They continue to work with Mueller communications to get information out to the community (City & Town) about the referendum.

The Chief reported that they remain very busy and call volumes continue to be up. He reported there were 2 fires recently in the city including one garage fire and one residential structure fire. Both fires were discovered early and allowed for a very quick response.

Confirm Next Meeting Date (March 14, 2024) and agenda items; and Action Thereon

Chief McNerney confirmed the next meeting will be held on March 14, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Stacy Tolomeo, seconded by Mark Sette to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 P.M. Motion carried without a negative vote.

Mark Sette,
PFC Secretary