

CITY OF STEVENS POINT
POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSION
March 9, 2021

1. **Roll Call:** Commissioners Carlson, Kirschling, Moore, Ostrowski, Wescott

Also Present: Fire Chief Finn, Assistant Chief Gemza, Trevor Howard, Alderperson Kneebone, Assistant Chief Kussow, Attorney Beveridge, Lt. Dana Williams, Kevin Ruder
2. **President's Report**

Nothing to report.
3. **Update on COVID 19 - Police and Fire Departments**
 - The CDC is coming out with new guidelines for people who have completed the vaccine.
 - 10.5% of people in the state of Wisconsin are vaccinated.
 - At the end of May there should be enough vaccines to vaccinate the whole country.
 - Chief Finn will meet with FD employees on March 10th to set new policies at the department for those who are vaccinated.
 - Beds in use in our area are at 73%.
 - No new variant in Portage County.
 - PD: records personnel are back to full staff duty at the department effective March 1. Auxiliary is being requested for more events such as hockey games, etc.
4. **Annual report**

Interim Chief Tom Zenner presented the 2020 Police Department Annual Report via PowerPoint. The Annual Report can be viewed on the City of Stevens Point Website under the Police Department section.
5. **Approval of minutes**

Commissioner Carlson moved, seconded by Commissioner Ostrowski to approve the February 2, February 10 and February 19, 2021 minutes.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

6. Confirmation of bills

Commissioner Wescott moved, seconded by Commissioner Carlson, to approve the confirmation of the February 2021 bills.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

7. Approval of Fire Department eligibility list

Commissioner Wescott moved, seconded by Commissioner Kirschling to approve the Fire Department eligibility list as presented.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

8. Discussion on new hiring standards – Fire Department

The chief briefed the commission on new hiring standards he is suggesting in order to keep qualified candidates interested in applying at the Fire Department:

- Must have valid Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT) dated within 1 year at the time of conditional job offer.
- Must have a Wisconsin Firefighter 1 certification of IFSAC accredited equivalent Firefighter 1 certification at date of hire.
- Must be a NREMP-Paramedic or obtain within 1 year of date of hire and be eligible for a WI Paramedic License. Paramedic students are encouraged to apply.
- Must have a Wisconsin Firefighter 2 certification or IFSAC accredited equivalent certification within 1 year of date of hire.

Chief Finn will keep the commission briefed on the progress of the new hiring standards at each monthly commission meeting.

9. Fire Chief's Report/EMS report

Virtual Paramedic Refresher: The National Registry has allowed virtual paramedic refresher this year allowing our paramedics to complete their refresher this year online. This change was due to COVID 19. It has allowed the Department to complete it in these uncertain times.

Tempus Monitor Trial: SPFD completed the field trial of the Tempus Cardiac Monitor. The Monitor Committee will meet on March 15th to make its recommendations.

Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival (CARES): Stevens Point Fire Department has registered with CARES. CARES helps communities measure performance and identify how to improve cardiac arrest survival rates.

Benefits of Joining CARES:

- Join a network of communities working together to increase survival from sudden cardiac arrest
- Compare your community to local, state and national performance and discover ways to improve your emergency medical system's response to cardiac arrest
- Use simple HIPAA-compliant web-based software to link EMS and hospital data, creating a single record for each OHCA event.
- Access multiple real time reporting features, including charts, graphs, and tables for use in reports, presentations and more

- Receive training and ongoing support from CARES staff to get the most out of participation, including one-on-one consultation to review your community's annual reports and comparison to national benchmark.

The State of Wisconsin has covered the cost of joining this program, allowing us to participate in this registry.

Significant events:

- Lieutenants are back to doing Fire inspection within the community
- Crew and company training is getting back to a new normal process
- We are working with MABAS Div 110 and the State to get IFERN in Portage County
- Metro Fire calls (3)
- Structure fires (2)
- Vehicle fires (0)
- Brush, grass, wildland fires (0)
- Cooking fire contained (0)
- Overheated cooking (0)
- Other fires (1)
- Rescue (5)
- EMS assist calls (49)
- False alarm responses (12)
- Hazardous materials responses (10)
- Other responses (3)
- Total fire losses (\$10,500.00)
- Total Property saved (\$258,700)
- Total responses (82)
- Training: Basement Fires Podcast; Crew Technical Rescue Training; Forcible Entry Training; Total training hours: 429.50
- Fire inspections: Certificate of occupancy (2); fire alarm inspections (0); general fire inspection (4); general/liquor license inspection (13); re-inspection/liquor license inspection (0); re-inspection (0); sprinkler system (10); complaint inspection (0); special event permit (0); ANSUL/Hood inspections (0); self-certification (0); tent inspection (0); consultation (45); re-inspection certificate of occupancy (1)
Total inspections: 75
- Public Activities: No public activities due to COVID 19.

Commissioner Wescott moved, seconded by Commissioner Ostrowski to accept the Fire Chief's Report for February 2021.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

**10. Police Chiefs report
COVID-19 related:**

COVID-19 Related:

- Auxiliary Unit operating in increasing capacity.
- Fingerprinting services remain suspended until further notice.
- Patrol continue to work a modified schedule to limit shift change interactions.
- Investigations Bureau and Sworn administrative personnel operating normal scheduling hours.
- Records Personnel have returned to onsite normal work schedule.
- Lieutenant Jeremy Mueller remains the Department Point of Contact for all COVID-19 related communication and FEMA data collection.

Note of Interest:

- The Department's Honor Guard presented the colors at the Wisconsin Traffic Safety Association held this month at the Stevens Point Holiday Inn Convention Center
- Department hosted a small gathering in honor of our City's School Crossing Guards.
- Flag ceremony held at the Police Department in honor of Officer Dana Krzykowski's service to our community. Officer Krzykowski retired from the Department February 16th.
- Adjustments to annual Firearms Range Schedule made due nationwide ammunition shortages. Current situation will have Impact on Department transition to new 9 mm handguns.

Patrol high Priority Calls:

- **02/02/21 – Traffic Stop** – Officers involved in a traffic stop which culminated in K9 sniff. Sgt. Ballew and K9 Barry had positive indication on the vehicle during their vehicle sniff. A search of the vehicle resulted in the recovery of methamphetamine, fentanyl, unknown substance on blotter paper and other drug paraphernalia. 2 subjects locked in jail
- **02/08/21 –Overdose Death** – 911 Call for unresponsive non-breathing 21 year old male, Officers and medics attempted to life saving measures but were not successful. Detectives called in for investigation.
- **02/16/21 – Threats to Injure** – Male subject sent pictures of himself with weapons to his former girlfriend that he was going to come and kill her, suspects was located in Jefferson County where he was arrested on our felony charges. Subject resisted arrest and had guns on his person.
- **02/19/21 – Disturbance** – Disturbance involving roommates. Following physical altercation highly intoxicated male subject jumped out of second story window. Subject, clothed only in underwear, proceeded to flee on foot. Located and transported to St Mikes. Upon medical clearance, Subject transported to jail on Disorderly Conduct Domestic and damage to property.
- **02/20/21 – Drug Overdose** – Male subject overdosed on heroin laced with fentanyl. Subject's wife, who had also overdosed but alert, called 911. Officers were able to bring male subject back with Narcan. Both male and female medically cleared.

Monthly Use of Force Reporting (annual total in parenthesis):

Number of Use of Force Incidents: 5 (14)

- 01/25/21 - A Detective pointed their duty firearm at a suspect during a felony traffic stop. Taken into custody without incident
- 01/30/21 – A long standoff with a suspect occurred in the City of Stevens Point involving the Stevens Point SWAT Team and Portage County SRT. During the standoff, several officers pointed their service weapons in the direction of the apartment where the suspect was barricaded. The suspect was wanted for allegedly shooting a handgun off inside the apartment near another person, while intoxicated. Once contact was made, Suspect refused to follow s commands and actively resisted officers. Taser deployed. The Taser deployment was effective and the suspect taken into custody without injury to anyone involved.
- 2/07/21 – Officers responded to call of an intoxicated individual no longer welcome at residence. While attempting to escort Subject home, the subject fell into a creek in below zero temperatures. Subject then resisted officers' attempts to give him a ride home and became verbally assaultive which led to his arrest. Subject continued to resist officers and forced to the ground to be handcuffed. The subject was eventually handcuffed and medically treated without further incident.

- 2-8-21 - Detectives were conducting a buy-bust operation and during the take down, pointed their guns at the suspect. The suspect was arrested and jailed without incident or injury.
- 2/20/21 – Officers were called to a residence where an intoxicated female was causing a disturbance. During the investigation, the female advised she was not free to go and attempted to leave out the back door. An officer attempted to stop her by grabbing her arm and the female resisted and tried to pull away. The officer decentralized the subject onto the floor, handcuffing her without injury to anyone involved.

Mental health related incidents

- Officers Responded to the following:
 - 23 Welfare Checks
 - 10 Voluntary Commitments
 - Six Emergency Detentions
 - Three Alcohol Commitments

K-9 Unit

- Deployments including:
 - four deployments
 - One traffic stop
 - Two building searches
 - One Agency Assist

Staffing:

- Officer Cole O'Neal and Officer Josh McClouth sworn in February 22nd and have begun the field-training program.

Training:

- All sworn personnel completed the Cold Weather Firearms range on Feb. 2nd & 3rd.
- Adjustments to annual Range Schedule due nationwide ammunition shortages
- Five Officers attended the 4 day Reid Interview and Interrogation Training
- Interim Chief Zenner and Asst. Chief Rottier attended the WI Police Chiefs Conference

Auxiliary Unit:

- Auxiliary Unit has been reactivated and events have started
- Four total events (UWSP Hockey) in February, totaling 33 hours of service

Commissioner Carlson moved, seconded by Commissioner Moore to accept the Police Chief's Report for February 2021.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

11. **Consideration of motion to adjourn into closed session pursuant to Section 19.85 (1) (c) of the Wisconsin Statutes for the purpose of considering the employment of a public employee over which the Commission exercises jurisdiction and responsibility for, including discussion regarding final candidates for the position of Police Chief and authorization for continuation of hiring process.**

The commission will adjourn from closed session without reconvening into open session.

Commissioner Wescott moved, seconded by Commissioner Ostrowski, to adjourn into closed session.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.