

These Minutes are unofficial and subject to modification upon review of the commission at their March 2022 meeting.

**CITY OF STEVENS POINT
POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSION MINUTES
MEETING OF FEBRUARY 1, 2022**

1. **Roll Call:** Commissioners Kirschling, Moore, Mrozek, Ostrowski
Commissioner Taylor, excused

Also Present: Fire Chief Finn, Police Chief Zenner, Alderperson Mary Kneebone, AC Moody, AC Gemza, AC Kussow, AC Rottier, Lt. Williams, Drew Egan, Alderperson Geymer, City Attorney Beveridge, Brandi – SP Metro Wire

2. **Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Ostrowski moved, seconded by Commissioner Mrozek to approve the January 6, 2022 minutes.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

3. **Confirmation of bills**

Commissioner Ostrowski moved, seconded by Commissioner Kirschling to approve the confirmation of the January 2022 bills.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

4. **Discussion, with possible action, police chief succession planning**

The Stevens Point Police and Fire Commission has agreed to explore a succession plan for the department's command staff. Chief Zenner asked President Jerry Moore to consider a public discussion and place the item on the PFC agenda.

Chief Zenner went on to state that during the last police chief recruitment process several candidates were identified and one candidate currently works for the Police Department. He believes the commission should consider AC Robert Kussow as a potential candidate.

Since becoming Assistant Chief in April 2020, AC Kussow has overseen department operations and currently supervises 30 police officers. Zenner said Kussow has gained a year of experience and is currently attending the command college. Command College is a special type of training for law enforcement which he feels is on par with the FBI academy at the national level. Zenner feels that once AC Kussow has completed Command College he will be a highly desirable candidate for law enforcement agencies.

Commissioner Kirschling moved, seconded by Commissioner Ostrowski to explore a succession plan for the Stevens Point Police Department.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

5. Police Chiefs Report

The Department would like to make you aware of the following updates:

COVID-19 Related:

- Policy updated to address close contact and active case recommendations

Note of Interest:

- Motorola/Spillman Records Management System (RMS) implementation commenced with software going live on January 25th.
- Officer Stacy Morton has completed Step 1 of the field training process. She is currently in Step 2 assigned to Officer Alex Beach. Officer Morton is progressing to expectations.
- With the New Year, several leadership roles have been reassigned. Lt. Dana Williams moved to her reassignment as supervisor for the Investigations Bureau, Lt Joe Johnson has begun his new role as Administrations Lieutenant and PIO, and Lt Brian Brooks was reassigned to Lieutenant on Patrol.
- Plover Police Department received an award by the International Homicide Investigators Association in regard to a homicide investigation within their jurisdiction. As part of that award, Stevens Point Police Detective Kent Lepak also received recognition with an award for "Investigative Excellence" for the assistance he provided.

Calls of Interest:

- **01/06/2022 – House Fire -2117 Wyatt Ave-** Juvenile intentionally set fire to her room and stuffed animals. Juvenile fled the scene prior to officer arrival. No injuries, except to juvenile who had smoke inhalation and minor burns. Juvenile was located soon after and taken to hospital for injuries.
- **01/07/2022 – Welfare Check – 633 John's Drive –** Report of a female who was suicidal after breaking up with her boyfriend. Upon arrival, officers discovered she had stabbed herself in the chest. Transported to hospital.
- **01/07/2022 – Assist PTO – Airport Bar –** Report of a male attempting to use counterfeit money. Subject left scene prior to officer arrival. Located soon after and arrested for possession of marijuana and over \$2000.00 in counterfeit money.
- **01/14/2022 – 500 Block Illinois Ave – Welfare Check -** Juvenile female suicidal. Upon arrival, officers determined 15 year old subject consumed approx. 30 pills, transported to Hospital
- **01/18/2022 – Traffic – Operating while intoxicated (OWI) –** Officers responded to railroad tracks on Water St. where female driver was attempting to drive down railroad tracks and got stuck. She was arrested for 4th Offense OWI. Subject currently has another OWI charge pending. Locked in jail.
- **01/27/2022- Overdose Death -** Officers responded to report of deceased female subject who is suspected of overdosing on heroin. Investigation in ongoing.

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

Number of Use of Force Incidents: 4 (4)

- **01/01/2022 –** Officers attempted to stop a vehicle for a traffic violation. Driver attempted to elude officers and fled for several blocks before pulling into a driveway. Officers pulled out their handguns and pointed them at the vehicle, which was occupied by

three people. The driver got out of the vehicle and did not follow officer's commands. The driver was advised of taser deployment if he did not comply. When officers attempted to handcuff the suspect, he pulled away and officers directed him to the ground for stabilization and handcuffing. During this time, one officer split his knuckle open. No medical treatment was needed for the minor injury. The suspect was not injured.

- **01/06/2022** – An Officer was attempting to stop a vehicle for a traffic violation. The vehicle failed to stop for the officer and fled until it pulled into a driveway. The Officer exited their squad car and pointed their gun at the suspect driving the vehicle, issuing commands for the suspect to exit the vehicle. The suspect was taken into custody at this point without incident.
- **01/13/2022** – Officers attempted to locate a suspect who had fled on foot from a vehicle he was driving. The passenger of the vehicle was apprehended and upon inspection of the vehicle, a gun was found on the floor. Officers followed the suspect's tracks and located the suspect hiding under some bushes. Due to the unknown, the fact a gun was in the vehicle and the fact the suspect fled, the officers pointed their firearms at the suspect and took him into custody without incident. No injuries.
- **01/19/2022** – Officers were trying to subdue a female who was trying to put herself into a working oven in a suicide attempt. Due to the female subject resisting their efforts to stop her from harming herself, the officers were forced to grab her arms and put her on the ground to handcuff her. No injuries.

Mental health related incidents

- Officers Responded to the following:
 - 34 Welfare Checks
 - Six Emergency Commitments
 - 10 Voluntary Commitments

K-9 Unit

- 01/01/2022 - K9 assist Portage County Sheriff's Office. Traffic stop resulted in seizure of methamphetamine paraphernalia.
- 01/04/2022- K9 deployment on traffic stop resulted in seizure of methamphetamine and paraphernalia.

Training:

- Assistant Chief Robert Kussow continues to attend Command College at Fort McCoy.
- Lt Joe Johnson attended the training, "Manage Communications" as part of his education as the Department's Public Information Officer (PIO) role.

Auxiliary Unit:

- Three events held, **totaling 56 hours**, included:
 - UWSP Hockey games

Commissioner Moore moved, seconded by Commissioner Mrozek to accept the Police Chief's report for January 2022.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

6. Fire Chief's Report/EMS report

A. Revised timeline Fire Chief Retirement

Significant events:

- Rudolph Fire Department had a MABAS request at 4621 Bluebird Road

- Metro Fire calls (6)
- Structure fires (3)
- Vehicle fires (0)
- Brush, grass, wildland fires (0)
- Cooking fire contained (0)
- Overheated cooking (8)
- Other fires (2)
- Rescue (2)
- EMS assist calls (48)
- False alarm responses (17)
- Hazardous materials responses (3)
- Other responses (7)
- Total fire losses (\$55,000.00)
- Total Property saved (\$300,300.00)
- Total responses (90)
- Training: Fire Industry Driver Inspection Safety; The Secret of Leadership; Assembly occupancy fire and life safety inspection; Firefighter Fitness, NFPA 1500. Total Training Hours: 299.9
- Fire inspections: Certificate of occupancy (0); fire alarm inspections (3); general fire inspection (18); general/liquor license inspection (8); re-inspection/liquor license inspection (0); re-inspection (10); sprinkler system (4); complaint inspection (1); special event permit (0); ANSUL/Hood inspections (0); self-certification (0); tent inspection (0); consultation (45); re-inspection certificate of occupancy (0)
Total inspections: 79
- Public Activities: Smoking with oxygen video. Number of attendees: 15,932.

Commissioner Moore moved, seconded by Commissioner Kirschling to accept the Fire Chief's Report for January 2022

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

7. President's Report

- The March 1, 2022 meeting will be in person at 2:00 p.m. at the Community Room.
- President Moore hopes to have the Fire Chief hiring process complete by the middle of February.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.