

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

**CITY OF STEVENS POINT
POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSION MINUTES
MEETING OF JANUARY 6, 2022**

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

Also Present: Fire Chief Finn, Police Chief Zenner, Alderperson Mary Kneebone, AC Moody, AC Gemza, Lt. Williams, Lisa Jakusz, Drew Egan, Trevor Howard

2. **Approval of Minutes**

Commissioner Ostrowski moved, seconded by Commissioner Kirschling to approve the December 7, 2021 minutes.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

3. **Confirmation of bills**

Commissioner Ostrowski moved, seconded by Commissioner Kirschling to approve the confirmation of the December 2021 bills.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

4. **Discussion, with possible action, reclassification of one Administrative Assistant position within the Records Bureau – Police**

Chief Zenner presented a job description to be forwarded to the Personnel Committee for consideration and approval. This employee will act as lead worker providing training and mentoring for other records bureau staff. The lead is also expected to act in the capacity of the Records Bureau Supervisor in their absence. Additional administrative duties will include:

- Audio and video evidence coordinator
- Wireless communication program administrator
- TAC Officer (Time Agency Coordinator) responsible for state required audits
- Department Administrator for the Records Management System (RMS)
- Assist Administrative Division Chief with Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) compliance and audits

Commissioner Ostrowski moved, seconded by Commissioner Mrozek to approve the reclassification of one Administrative Assistant within the Police Department as presented.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

5. **Approval of Officers Gartmann and DesRosier to regular police officer status**

Commissioner Ostrowski moved, seconded by Commissioner Taylor to approve Officer Gartmann and Officer DesRosier to regular police officer status.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion

6. **Police Chiefs Report**

The Department would like to make you aware of the following project(s) status updates:

COVID-19 Related:

- New Policy implemented adopting CDC guidelines related to close contact and active case quarantining recommendations

Note of Interest:

- Officer Zachary Gartmann and Officer Kim DesRosier have completed their 18 month probationary period.
- Officer Stacy Morton has completed orientation week and is currently in Step 1 of the Field Training Program with Ofc Robert Roser assigned as FTO. Ofc Morton is progressing to expectations.
- Lt. Dana Williams, assisted by the Portage County Sheriff's Office, completed the "Run, Hide, Fight" active threat training which was provided for all city employees.
- Interviews were held for vacant Community Service Officer Positions. Patrick Hogan and Kaylie Bachaus hired to fill two vacant slots.

Calls of Interest:

- **12/05/2021 – Open Line 911 – 2157 Water St** – Officers responded to a 911 call with female subject asking for help without citing a problem. Upon arrival, officers observed a vehicle attempting to leave and a male subject jumping into the vehicle. It was later determined the Male subject was attempting to stop female subject from leaving. Traffic stop conducted on the Vehicle. Female immediately became resistive towards officers, punching one Officer and attempted to kick another officer. Subject ultimately arrested on OWI 1st, 3 counts battery to Law enforcement, and resisting arrest.
- **12/08/2021 – Catalytic Converter Theft – 2300 block Illinois Ave** – Officer responded to the area after a Ring Doorbell notified resident of attempted theft at the residence. Officers were able to obtain good pictures of vehicle from Ring Doorbell device and distributed the photos to area law enforcement. Later that evening, a UWSP Officer located the vehicle leaving a student parking lot. Vehicle stopped by UWSP law enforcement, assisted by SPPD. Four Catalytic Converters located within the vehicle. Three male subjects, all from the State of Minnesota, ultimately arrested for the thefts.
- **12/19/2021 – Agency Assist – St Croix County – Stolen vehicle/False Imprisonment** – Male suspect and vehicle were located in SPASH parking lot. Officer attempted to stop the vehicle which fled the scene. After a short distance at high speeds, the pursuit was terminated. St Croix Sheriff's Office continued to track the vehicle by GPS and it was again located in Plover shortly thereafter. The Male driver ultimately arrested along with the female occupant. Initial report that female subject may have been held against her will was determined to be false

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

Number of Use of Force Incidents: 5 (79)

- **12-1-21** – Officers arrived to a residence after receiving a report of a subject at the location with active warrants for his arrest. The subject had a history of fleeing officers on several previous occasions and current reports were that he was armed with a handgun. When the officers arrived and given consent by property owner to enter the residence, one officer had his handgun out and two other officers had their tasers out. The subject was found hiding in a bedroom closet. Subject was ordered out at gunpoint and taken into custody without incident. No injuries
- **12-2-21** – An Officer was attempting to make contact with a suspicious individual who was downtown pulling on car doors. The suspect tried to run away as officer approached. The officer was able to catch up to the suspect and grab ahold of an arm. The suspect tensed his arm and tried to pull away. The officer was able to direct the suspect to the ground, where he was handcuffed. No injuries
- **12-6-21** – Officers were investigating an incident where a female party had called 911, repeatedly asking for help. As officers arrived at the residence, a vehicle was leaving the residence and was stopped by an officer. A male exited the car along with a female. Officers tried to talk with the female who wished to go back into the house without speaking to officers. Officers were unaware of the situation and tried to stop the female from going inside. The female began screaming and attempted to punch the officers. The officers were able to grab the female and apply pressure to her wrists to handcuff her without success. The officers were forced to lay the suspect on the ground and place her into handcuffs. No injuries.
- **12-8-21** – Officers were investigating a drunk and disorderly bar patron complaint. The suspect was verbally resistive to officer's request and continued to be disruptive in the bar. The suspect was escorted outside by officers where he then tried to hit an officer in the face, making slight contact. The officers then took the subject down to the ground, used wrist pressure and placed the suspect into handcuffs. No injuries
- **12-19-21** – SPPD/Plover SWAT searched a residence in Plover where a Suspect had hid after holding a person hostage for several hours at knifepoint. The suspect was known to be under the influence of drugs and alcohol. SWAT operators had their service weapons and rifles drawn, a taser was drawn and K9 Barry was deployed. None of these shows of force were effective once the suspect was located hiding in a crawl space. Verbal commands brought the suspect out where he was handcuffed and taken to jail without incident.
- **12-27-21** – Officers were investigating a domestic disturbance where the male suspect was intoxicated and holding a baby. To facilitate the arrest, officers attempted to get the male to hand the baby to the mother. The female ultimately took the baby from the male. Male subject refused to comply with officer's commands and officers had to direct suspect to the ground. While on the ground, officers had to use pressure on his wrists to get handcuffs on and due to subject's refusal to walk, had to carry/drag the suspect to the squad car. No injuries.

Mental health related incidents

- Officers Responded to the following:
 - 41 Welfare Checks
 - One Emergency Commitments
 - eight Voluntary Commitments

K-9 Unit

- K9 Barry assisted SWAT with Suspect apprehension at a location within Plover's jurisdiction.
- K9 Barry assisted Salvation Army with a request to conduct a free air sniff of the entire complex. Sniff completed Dec 20th and information provided to the Salvation Army staff.

- K9 deployments on traffic stops led to the following seizures:
 - Three indications for drug paraphernalia and packaging equipment
 - Two positive indications for marijuana
 - Two positive indications for methamphetamines

Training:

- Assistant Chief Robert Kussow continues to attend Command College at Fort McCoy.
- Detective Matt Drossel and Detective Stormy Gerndt completed training at the Sexual Assault Investigation Academy.

Auxiliary Unit:

- five events held, **totaling 28.25 hours**, included:
 - Frostbite Run
 - UWSP Hockey games
 - Sentry Basketball Classic

Commissioner Moore moved, seconded by Commissioner Mrozek to accept the Police Chief's report for December 2021.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

7. Discussion, with possible action, recruit salaries – Fire Department

Commissioner Kirschling moved, seconded by Commissioner Mrozek to support a lateral salary increase for recruits per the Agreement between the City of Stevens Point and International Association of Firefighters Local 484, AFL-CIO, Article 19, Salaries, Section D. Recruit Salaries.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

8. Fire Chief's Report/EMS report

A. Revised timeline Fire Chief Retirement

Significant events:

- Retirement letter from MPO Pingel
- Resignation letter from Fire Marshal Egan
- Purchase Agreement with FAE on the new truck for the Stevens Point Fire Department, "BMP" Program.
- Metro Fire calls (6)
- Structure fires (2)
- Vehicle fires (1)
- Brush, grass, wildland fires (0)
- Cooking fire contained (0)
- Overheated cooking (7)
- Other fires (3)
- Rescue (2)
- EMS assist calls (56)
- False alarm responses (17)
- Hazardous materials responses (3)
- Other responses (13)
- Total fire losses (\$7,000.00)
- Total Property saved (\$6,025,000)
- Total responses (104)

- Training: Cold weather operations policy; How to clean your Motorola portable radio; SPFD crew technical rescue training. Total Training Hours: 216.3
- Fire inspections: Certificate of occupancy (5); fire alarm inspections (0); general fire inspection (125); general/liquor license inspection (0); re-inspection/liquor license inspection (0); re-inspection (10); sprinkler system (0); complaint inspection (0); special event permit (0); ANSUL/Hood inspections (0); self-certification (0); tent inspection (0); consultation (75); re-inspection certificate of occupancy (1)
Total inspections: 216
- Public Activities: Fire Extinguisher training. Number of attendees: 60.

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

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

9. **Adjourn into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stats. Section 19.85 (1) (c) considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, and 19.85 (1) e) (deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session) for discussion on the following:**
- Discussion with Fire Department Management staff and the City Attorney regarding the letter sent to the PFC by Local 484 dated December 21, 2021 regarding the creation of the battalion chief position and aspects of such change related to items contained within the collective bargaining agreement with Local 484.**
 - Review of interviews and deliberation regarding advancement of candidates for the Fire Chief position.**

Commissioner Moore moved seconded by Commissioner Mrozek to adjourn into closed session.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

10. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.