

**CITY OF STEVENS POINT
POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSION MINUTES
MEETING OF JANUARY 12, 2023**

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

Also Present: Police Chief Kussow, Fire Chief Moody, AC Williams, Lt. Johnson, Alderperson Kneebone, Alderperson Christianson, Officer Kris Marchel and K-9 Willow, Brandi Makuski – Point/Plover Metro Wire

2. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Kirschling moved, seconded by Commissioner Ostrowski, to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2022 meeting.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

3. Confirmation of Bills

Fire Chief Moody explained why they have gone over the 2022 budget.

Commissioner Ostrowski moved, seconded by Commissioner Mrozek, to approve the confirmation of the December 2022 bills.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

4. Discussion, with possible action, to hire William Klismith as a Patrol Officer upon successful completion of the academy and upon successful completion of the psychological and medical screening. Expected start date of May 22, 2023.

Commissioner Mrozek moved, seconded by Commissioner Ostrowski, upon successful completion of the academy and successful completion of the psychological and medical screening, to hire William Klismith, expected start date May 22 of this year.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

5. Discussion, with possible action, to place Kylie Bachaus on a three-month eligibility list upon successful graduation of the academy (due to expected officer retirement).

Commissioner Taylor moved, seconded by Commissioner Kirschling, to place Kylie Bachaus on a three-month eligibility list upon successful graduation of the academy.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

6. Police Chief's Report

Chief Kussow thanked the Commissioners and Alderpersons for helping with milestones in 2022 – reclassification of Records Administration to improve opportunities for advancement, the parking lot project, approval of full-time CSO, and promotion of first female officer to Assistant Chief. The Department also received a donation of a labradoodle therapy dog from Blueberry Cottages. Willow was picked up in December and Officer Kris Marchel is her handler.



Note of Interest:

- 12-1-22 Lt. Johnson Run, Hide, Fight presentation to New Directions Counseling.
- 12-5-22 Lt. Long's shift gave a tour of the PD to 20 Cub Scouts. They participated in fingerprinting to get their forensic badges.
- 12-9-22 Ofc. Solis end of Step 1 onto Step 2.
- 12-16-22 Met with PowerDMS/Plan it to implement computerized on-line scheduling that is compatible with the City's accounting program.
- 12-17-22 Ofc. Morton, Ofc. Marchel, Aux. Ofc. Strasser, Ast. Chief Williams and Chief Kussow participated in Shop with a Cop
- 12-17-22 SPPD Honor Guard presented colors for Wreaths Across America – wreath laying on graves of veterans.
- 12-20-22 Ofc. Marchel picked up K9 Willow and the training has begun.
- 12-22-22 Lt. Johnson met with Probation Supervisor to discuss building security and the transfer of custody for clients.
- December – Det. Drossel, Det. Poeschel, Det. Lepak, Det. Yenter and Det. Sgt. Lawrynk completed background investigation on police applicants.

Calls of Interest:

12-30-22 Overdose attempt, Area by SPASH teenage girl took Overdose of Tylenol, transported to Hospital followed by safety plan.

12-30-22, Welfare check, Econo lodge, Med. unit and Officers called to check welfare of Mother of 3 who was tweaking on Meth. (she was later transported) Three children found in deplorable conditions. Officers purchased some diapers to address the children's needs while waiting for Child Protective Services. Children removed from the residence.

12-30-22, Weapons call, SPPD Officers requested to assist Portage County Sheriff's Office at Morey's Bar with a report of male with hatchet threatening patrons. Male took swing at a patron, missing and striking a cement ashtray. Suspect fled, was located in his apartment where a perimeter and dialogue were established. Male was upset with the FBI. Portage County Deputies made entry to the apartment and placed the suspect in custody without incident.

12-29-22, Disturbance with Firearm, Officers were called to 900 blk Arlington for report of male refusing to leave. Female caller stated she was armed with a firearm. Male suspect left prior to officers arrival. Further investigation led to charges of battery, damage to property, and Disorderly Conduct. (Suspect was taken into custody on a later date at his place of employment).

12-28-22 Driving complaint, report of vehicle driving through a snow bank striking trash can. Vehicle located and the driver was later arrested for Operating While Intoxicated..

12-28-22, Stolen Vehicle, Officers were called to the homeless warming shelter for report of guest with a newer 2018 Nissan Titan XD with dealer plate. Male guest was later arrested for theft of vehicle.

12-27-22 Vehicle Slide in/Operating while intoxicated 300 blk Bukolt, Officers responded to a vehicle which went into the yard. Three occupants appeared under the influence and complete Standardized Field Sobriety Tests resulting in two OWI arrests.

12-23-22, Disturbance, report of people yelling at each other in the parking lot of 1200 Main. Upon further investigation on male was taken into custody on Bail Jump for No Drink. Subject did not consent and warrant obtained.

12-23-22, Porch Pirates in Custody, SPPD Officer located suspect vehicle and stopped occupants. One male arrested on theft charges upon evidence of items stolen. Detective to follow up with Wisconsin Rapids PD.

12-22-22 Structure Fire, SPPD Officer responded to 4500 blk Pioneer dr. to assist FD.

12-22-22 Disturbance, 1000 blk Arlington (halfway house) Intoxicated resident causing a disturbance. Resident taken to jail on hold and resisting.

12-22-22, Low Speed Pursuit, SPPD Officer attempted to stop vehicle and driver for revoked Driver's license. Driver did not stop and led officer on slow speed pursuit. Driver eventually stopped and arrested for fleeing, Probation and Parole and drug charges.

12-20-22, Crash with death, SPPD Officer witnessed a one vehicle crash near the PD. The driver gave medical excuses for his driving. Med unit called to scene where the driver died despite medical interventions.

12-20-22, Assault with knife/Attempted Homicide, SPPD Officer responded to report of female and her juvenile daughter who suffered stab wounds by unknown suspect. Officers from multiple agencies responded and located the suspect who was taken into custody. Mother and daughter transported to Hospital for life threatening injuries. Multiple charges for suspect to include attempted homicide.

12-19-22 Overdose, 1900 blk Strong's Ave. Officer responded to report of male who overdosed on pills. Male was transported to hospital and with possible chapter.

12-18-22, Disturbance, 2600 blk 4th, Officers responded to residence where the female victim was located by family. Female victim had been beaten resulting in injury. Male suspect was later located at family residence in Green Bay. Suspect was taken into custody on Probation and parole and other charges.

12-17-22 Welfare check, male who had been previously involved in disturbance downtown self-reported being lost and given drugs. Male was located in a snowbank several blocks away near Patch St. The male was paranoid that someone was following him after using mushrooms.

12-16-22 Welfare check with Armed subject, Officers responded to 2800 blk Minnesota, to investigate a report of suicidal male who took pills. The suicidal male told the caller he would stab police. Officers made a tactical entry to locate the male asleep next to a knife. Male was transported to hospital.

12-12-22 Fleeing Felon & Area Search, SPPD Officer responded to Stevens Point Probation and Parole Office to arrested know subject on warrant. Subject fled the area prior to police arrival. An area search of the neighborhood were the suspects girlfriend is known to reside located him hiding in the surrounding area. Male subject taken to jail.

12-09-22 Disturbance, Juvenile male at 1900 blk Elk caused a physical disturbance after his parents confronted him about drugs in his room. Male attempted to flee police upon arrival, however was stopped. Male juvenile kicked an officer prior to being transported to Juvenile Detention

12-07-22 Vehicle Pursuit, SPPD Officer observed a vehicle speeding. The vehicle attempted to elude the officer by driving onto the green circle on the west side of the city. The vehicle also extinguish the head lights to avoid detection. When located on the trail, the Suspect vehicle led officers on pursuit which ended behind 449 W Clark St. Driver was taken into custody and off to jail.

12-03-22 OD, 400 blk Bukolt, Male subject took and overdose of pills in attempt to kill himself. Male was taken to hospital and later chaptered.

12-03-22 OD, Econo lodge, male reported to be Overdosing. Officers administered Narcan and male was later transported to Hospital.

12-01-22 Med Assist, Welfare check, Report of male slumped behind the wheel of running vehicle in the Auto Zone parking lot. Upon further investigation the male was found to be deceased. Follow up investigation male was known to have substantial medical concerns.

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

Number of Use of Force Incidents: 8 (74)

December 2022 Use of Force Summaries

11/30/22 – A SPPD Detective assisted Portage County Sheriff's Office Detectives with a drug warrant. During the execution of the warrant, the Detective pointed their firearm at a suspect while clearing the residence. No injuries.

12/2/22 – SPPD Officers had made contact with an individual who was suspected of stealing some items. The suspect was arrested by Officers and walked outside to the squad car. Once to the squad car the suspect began to tense up and lift their feet off of the ground, causing Officers to hold the suspect up. The suspect refused to get into the squad car. Officers were forced to pull the suspect in backwards into the squad. Once the doors were shut, the suspect began to kick the squad doors. The suspect was taken to jail and turned over to jail staff where he continued to resist with them. No injuries.

12/12/22 – SPPD Officers were attempting to locate an individual who had fled from Law Enforcement earlier, while at the Probation and Parole Office. The suspect had been put under a Probation hold prior to fleeing. Officers had been searching for the subject for several hours and finally located him hiding behind a shed. One Officer ordered the suspect to show their hands. The suspect showed one hand. The Officer grabbed that hand, placing it behind the suspect's back, while directing the suspect to the ground. While on the ground the suspect was handcuffed. No injuries.

12/16/22 – SPPD Officers were conducting a welfare check on a subject who had threatened suicide and also threatened to stab Officers if they arrived at the residence. After all options had been exhausted Officers entered into the residence to check for the subject. One Officer had their firearm out and another had the less lethal, bean bag gun out. Officers located the subject under a blanket with a knife close by. The Officers pointed their weapons at the subject and gave them commands to remove the blanket and show their hands. The subject complied and was handcuffed without incident or injury.

12/19/22 – A SPPD Officer was attempting to locate a subject wanted by Probation and Parole. The subject was seen walking on the sidewalk and attempted to run into their residence. The SPPD Officer was able to catch up to the suspect and displayed their taser to the suspect. The suspect stopped attempting to flee and was taken into custody without incident or injury.

12/20/22 – SPPD Officers had arrived at the scene of an assault. Two victims sustained significant injuries during the assault. Officers were able to locate the suspect hiding in an exterior basement entrance. Officers pointed their firearms at the suspect due to not knowing if the suspect was in possession of a weapon. The suspect did not follow commands, but just stood there. Some Officers holstered their weapons and pulled their tasers and pointed them at the suspect. The suspect was eventually handcuffed without incident or injury.

12/22/22 – SPPD Officer was attempting to conduct a traffic stop on the vehicle. The vehicle failed to stop for a short distance and a slow speed pursuit began. The vehicle pulled over a short time later and SPPD Officers drew their firearms on the sole occupant and issued orders. The suspect was taken into custody without incident.

12/28/22 – SPPD Drug Detectives assisted agencies outside Stevens Point with the execution of drug warrants. During the execution the Detectives pointed their firearms at suspects inside the residence. All the suspects were taken into custody without incident or injury. Another SPPD K9 Unit was outside the residence and observed 2 subjects trying to flee from inside. The K9 Unit yelled at the subjects, while pointing his gun at them, that if they tried to flee outside, the K9 would be released and they would be bit. The subjects stopped trying to come outside and ran further to the back, inside the residence.

Mental health related incidents: Officers Responded to the following as of 11/22/2022:

- 67 Welfare Checks
- 3 Chapters
- 4 Voluntary

K-9 Unit:

New Therapy dog Willow welcomed to SPPD as of 12-20-22.

Fala on light duty due to dental surgery

1. Dec 31, 2022
HWY 54//Lincoln Ave
Plover, WI
54467

Case: C22-14173
Requesting Agency: Plover PD
Dog: Barry
Type: Detection
Report Reviewed: Yes, by Jeremiah Ballew

DETECTION
Sniff of 1 Vehicle with 1 indication
Ford Ranger : Registered in WI, US.
Drugs seizure: Methamphetamine, 0.25 Grams
Concealed: Black bag in front seat
Packaging: Plastic bag

2. Dec 28, 2022
NORWAY PINE DR & TORUN RD
Stevens Point, WI
54482

Case: C22-14083
Requesting Agency: PTSO 157
Dog: Barry
Type: Detection
Report Reviewed: Yes, by Jeremiah Ballew

DETECTION
Sniff of 1 Vehicle with 1 indication
Chevrolet HHR: Registered in WI, US.
Drug Paraphernalia seizure: Paraphernalia, 1 Items
Concealed: Digital scale in between driver and passenger seat behind console.
Packaging: None
Drugs seizure: Methamphetamine, 1 Grams
Concealed: Ambers Purse
Packaging: None

3. Dec 27, 2022
Compound
370 Akron Ave
Bancroft, WI
54921

Case: C22-14060
Requesting Agency: PTSO 150
Dog: Barry
Type: Patrol
Report Reviewed: Yes, by Jeremiah Ballew
Reason For Deployment: Drug Warrant

NON-SEARCH
Warrant Types: Search warrants, Arrest warrants

People Found: 2
Total Arrests: 2

4. Dec 09, 2022
Highway 66 // CTH J
Custer, WI
54423

Case: C22-13526
Requesting Agency: Portage County S.D. // Hawkins
Dog: Fala
Type: Detection
Report Reviewed: Yes, by Jeremiah Ballew

DETECTION
Sniff of 1 Vehicle with 1 indication
Brown Jeep Grand Cherokee (SUV): Registered in WI, US. License Plate #: ST1055
Drugs seizure: Methamphetamine, 14.9 Grams
 Concealed: On drivers person
 Packaging: Plastic
Drugs seizure: Marijuana, 0.5 Grams
 Concealed: On drivers person
 Packaging: Plastic
Firearms seizure: Hand Gun, 1 Items
 Concealed: Rear of vehicle
 Packaging: None
Drug Paraphernalia seizure: Paraphernalia, 2 Items
 Concealed: on drivers person
 Packaging: None

5. Dec 08, 2022
Ben Franklin Junior High
2000 Polk St
Stevens Point, WI
54481

Case: C22-13490
Requesting Agency: Stevens Point - Marchel
Dog: Fala
Type: Detection
Report Reviewed: Yes, by Jeremiah Ballew

Training:

- SWAT
- K-9 training
- Officer Wellness Video – Emotional Survival for Law Enforcement

Field Training (FTO):

- Ofc. Jadon Solis advanced to step 2 Field Training

Auxiliary Unit:

- Total events: (w/out Aux. Mtgs) = 3
 1. UWSP Hockey 12-3-22
 2. UWSP Hockey 12-9-22
 3. Salvation Army Bell Ringing 12-10-22
- Total Hours without ride along / = 10.50
- Meetings: Dec. 13, 2022 @6pm
 - a. PD Policy 328 Harassment and 340 Standards of conduct, Informational present on new scheduling app Track it forward.
 - b. Issued new polos and hats
 - c. Each Aux. Admin assigned new SPPD Aux. member to mentor

School Resource Officers:

SPASH

84 calls for service including the following:

-10 vaping complaint/investigations

- * 3 citations issued
- 4 truancy citations
- 2 weapons (knives) located- both incidents handled with school discipline

- 1 welfare check, leading to student transported to St Mikes for voluntary
- 2 threat related investigations. Cleared with report.
- 1 expulsion hearing
- 1 CPS report passed on from IB regarding possible extortion-cleared with report.

PJ Jacobs

Calls for service - 79
School consequences for poor behaviors - 31
Arrests (citation issued) - 1
Truancy citations issued - 3
YES program referrals - 1
POP taught in FACS classes - 2

Other activities - I'm working with the school district on Standard Response Protocol (SRP) and Standard Reunification Method (SRM) trainings. We've set a date of August 4th 2023 for our annual training held at PJ Jacobs. This is the same training held as last August involving all of school district admin, law enforcement, Fire, Ems, etc.

Ben Franklin

85 - Total calls for service, not including meetings and trainings
35 - School Consequences assigned for behavior
2 - Truancy Citations issued
2 - NTC's issued for minor possessing vaping devices, 5 total devices located, 2 containing Delta-8 and Delta-10 THC
2 - YES (Youth Enrichment Services) referrals, both were denied enrollment due to prior enrollment and no change in behavior
3 - Securely reports of students Google searches for weapons, all were determined not to be threats
1 - Fire Drill
1 - At-home welfare check on student who has been truant for 3 weeks, no contact
1 - K-9 training walk-thru for drugs, nothing located
1 - Disturbance between parents in student pick-up line, report done
1 - Phone call to registered owner concerning driving complaint in our school zone for speed

Included in the calls for service were 2 thefts and 1 physical fight, all handled through alternative methods or school consequences. I also continued meeting with the School District Safety and Security Team to update SRP with the discontinued use of the WAVE system in the district. FACS Police Outreach classes were taught to 5 class periods of 7th graders involving Sexting, Conflict Resolution and Anger Management. Lastly, Ben Franklin students were introduced to our new therapy dog, Willow right before the holiday break. Willow was well received by students and staff.

Commissioner Moore moved, seconded by Commissioner Kirschling, to approve the Police Chief's report for December 2022.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

7. Discussion, with possible action, on the promotion of Firefighter/Paramedic Ross Oestreich to the position of Lieutenant.

With this promotion, all company officer positions will be filled.

Commissioner Kirschling moved, seconded by Commissioner Taylor, to promote Firefighter/Paramedic Ross Oestreich to the position of Lieutenant.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

8. Discussion, with possible action, on the appointment of Firefighter/Paramedic Jason Pettis to the position of Motor Pump Operator.

Commissioner Mrozek moved, seconded by Commissioner Kirschling, to appoint Firefighter/Paramedic Jason Pettis to the position of Motor Pump Operator.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

9. Discussion, with possible action, to approve Probationary Firefighter/Paramedics Bryan Fisher and Jake Butler to the status of Firefighter/Paramedic with the completion of their probation this past week.

Due to the change in the PFC meeting date to this week, both Fisher and Butler completed their probation earlier this week (January 10). Recommend they both come off probation effective immediately.

Commissioner Moore moved, seconded by Commissioner Ostrowski, for that approval.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

10. Discussion, with possible action, on hiring new Administrative Assistant Karyn Baxter.

With the approval of the PFC last month to hire a new Administrative Assistant due to resignation, the Department decided to move forward with hiring the current temporary Administrative Assistant Karyn Baxter. No need for action to be taken on this because it was taken last month, but only for discussion.

Commission accepts the recommendation.

11. Discussion, with possible action, on offering conditional offer of employment to Entry Level Firefighter/Paramedic Josh Boldt.

Pending the completion of all the requirements and the application process, if all goes well, we onboard Josh Boldt as a new Entry Level Firefighter/Paramedic.

Commissioner Kirschling moved, seconded by Commissioner Mrozek, to offer a conditional offer of employment as Entry Level Firefighter/Paramedic to Josh Boldt upon successful completion of all job requirements.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

12. Discussion, with possible action, of Assistant Chief Zvara vacation carryover of 151 hours of unused time in 2023.

AC Zvara submitted request in writing. He is allowed to carry over 80 hours, and is asking to carry over an additional 71 hours. In the past, we have allowed the last five Assistant Chiefs that have been hired since the restructure to do this. When they have come off the line, with the conversion of vacation, they have been allowed to have a one-year grace period to use their time. Will not cause overtime in the department. Full support of Chief Moody.

Commissioner Kirschling moved, seconded by Commissioner Mrozek, to allow Assistant Chief Zvara to carry over 151 hours of unused time into 2023.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

13. Fire Chief's Report/EMS Report

Chief Moody thanked everyone for their support. After the hiring of Josh Boldt, the Fire Department will be two positions short on the line. Per Commissioner Moore, a vast improvement from where we were a year ago.

Commissioner Kirschling wished the public to know that Chief Moody helped deliver presents with Santa. He also congratulated Chief Moody for being elected to the North Central Fire Chief's Association. Chief Moody was elected by his peers and speaks volumes of his dedication and great job that he does for the Stevens Point Fire Department.

Highlights of 2022 – Moody as new Fire Chief, restructuring of department and adding Battalion Chief position, taking over the Village of Park Ridge fire suppression through May 2025, onboarding of 16 people to the Department (allowing current employees to see their families and not work so much overtime), new Lexipol program.

Significant Events

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| • Graduation Ceremony (Hageman, Ewing, Mosely, Windsor) | Dec 2 nd |
| • Promotions (BC Kedrowski, LT. Westphal, MPO Ostrowski) | Dec 2 nd |
| • Awards Banquet all Crews | Dec 19-21 |

Metro Fire Response: (4)

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| | YTD (38) |
| • 4257 Heffron Street | 12/11/2022 |
| • 299 Bills Drive (Hull) | 12/11/2022 |
| • 4501 Pioneer Drive | 12/22/2022 |
| • 800 Plover Road (Plover) | 12/24/2022 |

Fires

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| • Structure Fires-3 | YTD (30) |
| • Vehicle Fires-0 | YTD (9) |
| • Brush, Grass, Wildland Fires-0 | YTD (4) |
| • Trash/Dumpster Related Fires-0 | YTD (2) |
| • Cooking Incidents-3 | YTD (41) |
| • Chimney Fire -0 | YTD (2) |
| • Excessive Heat, Scorch, No Fire-0 | YTD (6) |
| • Electrical Issues-0 | YTD (14) |

EMS/Rescue

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| • EMS Assist Calls-83 | YTD (576) |
| • Assist Invalid-0 | YTD (4) |
| • Vehicle Accidents-0 | YTD (19) |
| • EMS Standby-0 | YTD (3) |
| • Assist Other Government Agency-1 | YTD (5) |
| • EMS Call, Other-0 | YTD (3) |

Alarms

- False Alarms Responses-12 YTD (125)

Hazardous Materials

- Carbon Monoxide Detected-3 YTD (14)
- Natural Gas Detected-4 YTD (23)
- Gasoline and Flammable Leak/Spill-0 YTD (2)
- Hazardous Investigation nothing found-1 YTD (20)
- Oil/Combustible Spill included Vehicle Accidents-0 YTD (10)
- Chemical Spills-0 YTD (7)

Other Incidents

- Animal Rescue-0 YTD (9)
- Burning Regulation Issues-0 YTD (32)
- Citizen Complaints-0 YTD (8)
- Water/Steam Leak-1 YTD (4)
- Smoke Scare, Odor of Smoke, Steam Mistaken for smoke-1 YTD (14)
- Dispatched and Cancelled Enroute-2 YTD (41)
- Nothing Found on Arrival- 0 YTD (5)
- General Service Call-1 YTD (2)
- Bomb Scare-0 YTD (1)

Technical Rescue

- Water/Ice Incidents-0 YTD (3)
- Rope/High Angle Rescue-1 YTD (1)
- Extrication of Victim from Elevator-2 YTD (9)
- Extrication of Victim from a Vehicle-0 YTD (4)
- Extrication of Victim from Building-0 YTD (3)

Monthly Total (118)

Year to Date Total (1,055)

Total Fire Losses City Property-\$700

YTD: \$289,300

Total City Property Saved-\$415,000

YTD: \$26,994,050

Training:

- o Advanced Cardiac Life Support Dec 7-9
- o All Crews

Public Activities:

- o Cub Scouts 298 First Aid Badge Dec 5th
- o Red Kettle Public Safety Event Dec 10th
- o Park Ridge Santa visit Dec 14th
- o Shop with a Hero at Fleet Farm Dec 20th

Commissioner Moore moved, seconded by Commissioner Kirschling, to accept the Fire Chief's Report for December 2023.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:53 p.m.