

CITY OF STEVENS POINT
POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSION
Wednesday, December 2, 2020

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

Also Present: Fire Chief Finn, Police Chief Zenner, Assistant Chief Moody, Assistant Chief Gemza, Interim Assistant Chief Kussow, Lt. Dana Williams, Alderperson Kneebone, Alan – Stevens Point Journal

2. **President's Report**

President Wescott commended Attorney Gunta for the exceptional informational presentation regarding the roles and responsibilities of Police and Fire Commissions in the State of Wisconsin. President Wescott said that three separate attorneys, including the City Attorney, the Special legal counsel to the commission and Attorney Gunta have all independently confirmed the commission followed state law in the investigation of former Police Chief Skibba.

3. **COVID 19 update – Police and Fire Departments**
A. Update COVID state of emergency – FD

Chief Finn reported as far as the state of emergency being relaxed, the department is back to full manpower and there is currently no one in quarantine. He also reported that on the advice of Assistant Chief Gemza the department has taken a very proactive approach as to how the department operates in the fire house. When not on an emergency call, an employee still isolates in a pod. Other precautions still in place at the fire house are employees are not training together and fire prevention crew has suspended inspections. These procedures will be in place until at least the end of the year.

Chief Gemza has been working diligently with the Portage County Health Department on the protocols for the vaccines that could come out for administration by the end of the year. Within the last 2 or 3 weeks Chief Gemza has been working with the State and the Portage County Health department trying to develop a vaccine distribution plan. The state has asked for the number of people anticipated to be a phase 1A worker, which is an essential health care worker. The definition of an essential health care worker is paid or unpaid but a person who has direct contact with possible patients.

AC Gemza was informed today the Pfizer vaccine is the one that will most likely be distributed to our area. The Pfizer vaccine needs a super cold storage of negative 70 degrees. The University science building has such a cold storage freezer and they have agreed to hold the vaccine until it is administered to phase A1 workers. Yesterday the

definition of a Phase 1A was expanded to include long term care residents which include nursing homes and assisted living facilities (workers and residents).

December 10 it is anticipated the FDA will come out with the okay of the Pfizer vaccine and shortly thereafter AC Gemza anticipates the distribution of the vaccine to FD employees.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has come up with new protocols. Based on local circumstances and resources the following options to shorten quarantine are acceptable alternatives:

- Quarantine can end after day 10 without testing and if no symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring
- When diagnostic testing resources are sufficient and available then quarantine can end after day 7 if a diagnostic specimen tests negative and if no symptoms were reported during daily monitoring.

The agreement with Portage County to do testing at the ADRC, or Lincoln Center, is extended through the end of the month of December. The Wisconsin National Guard testing has also been extended through the end of the month of December. Portage County Health Care Officer Gary Garske would like to move to an extension of March 2021 to continue to do COVID testing.

UWSP continues to do antigen testing. This has been made available to FD employees.

The last situation report from Portage County for our region (North central):

- 94% of hospital beds are in use
- 90.9% of ICU beds are in use
- 21.5% of ventilators are in use

4. Approval of minutes

Commissioner Ostrowski moved, seconded by Commissioner Wescott to approve the November 3, 2020 minutes.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

5. Confirmation of bills

Commissioner Ostrowski moved, seconded by Commissioner Kirschling, to approve the confirmation of the November 2020 bills.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

6. Records Management system update – Police and Fire

The Police and Fire Departments have been working with Portage County on a new software system for records management and computer aided dispatch. A proposal from Motorola has been selected and this software project is slated in the capital budget plan of 2022. A significant discount is being offered if the agreement is signed prior to December 18, 2020 so Portage County has agreed to pay the city's portion upfront since the city's capital budget for 2021 has already been adopted. The city will repay Portage County in 2022 as a capital budget expenditure.

7. Police Chiefs report

COVID-19 related:

- Auxiliary Unit operating in limited capacity.
- Fingerprinting services remain suspended until further notice.
- Patrol continues to work a modified schedule to limit shift change interactions.
- Investigations Bureau and Administrative personnel operating normal scheduling hours.
- Records personnel working a modified schedule limited to one personnel working on location during open hours.
- Police Department lobby remains open to the public.
- Lieutenant Jeremy Mueller remains the Department point of contact for all COVID 19 related communication and FEMA data collection.

Notes of interest:

- Agency Assist (Drowning): Officers responded to an agency assist at Whiting Park for a male subject down in the water. Officers assisted in retrieving the male from the water and emergency lifesaving procedures. Unfortunately the male subject did not survive.
- Investigation Fraud: Officers responded to an area gas station for a fraud complaint. Complaint involved a telephone scam which required the store employee to take money from the safe and transport to a fictitious vendor. This particular scam involved approximately \$16,900.00. Detectives continue to work on this case, which now includes several similar incidents throughout Central Wisconsin.
- Shooting Investigation: Officers responded to a gunshot victim on Johns Drive. Initial reports indicated the shooting was self-inflicted and accidental. Wound was to the leg, involving the femoral artery, which required officers to apply a tourniquet. A revolver was recovered at the scene and investigation continues.

Community Outreach:

- After reading a recent article written by local news media concerning Officer Radsek's work with the homeless, a six year old girl from our community worked with Thrivent Financial to donate care packages for distribution. Officer Radsek met with the young girl at the Police Department and accepted the outstanding care packages which contained edibles, clothing and thermal blankets.
- Lt. Williams met with St. Paul Lutheran School to review their safety plan protocol per continued guidelines with the federal school safety grant.
- On November 13 officers participated in the Red Kettle Salvation Army kickoff at Trigs Food Center. The public safety challenge will take place December 5 with Stevens Point officers again posted at Trigs from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Be there or be square.....

Drug Enforcement:

- Investigators have witnessed a continued increase in cases involving drug endangered children. These cases stem from young children found at the scene of drug related investigations. Hair follicle samples of the children are tested and ultimately test positive for drugs such as fentanyl, heroin and methamphetamine.
- Officers responded to reported drug overdose. Attempts to revive the male subject were unsuccessful. Active investigation involved suspect heroin.

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

Number of Use of Force incidents 7 (45)

- November 7 – officers involved in high speed pursuit. Two suspects in vehicle and contact made at Iverson Park. Officers displayed handguns. Suspects

uncooperative after exiting vehicle and officers utilized decentralizing measures on both suspects. No injuries.

- November 10 – officers located a suspect vehicle involved in a domestic disturbance in Plover. Information was the suspect in the vehicle may be in possession of a firearm related to the earlier disturbance. Officers conducted a high risk stop on the vehicle and displayed handguns. Suspect taken into custody without incident. Handgun and ammo found in the vehicle. No injuries.
- November 13 – officers responded to a domestic disturbance between brothers. Officers attempted to take one suspect into custody. Suspect resisted, striking one officer with his knee and threatening to kill officers. Pain compliance (mandibular angle) and display of Taser used to gain control. Arrested without injuries.
- November 14 – officers attempted to apprehend suspect involved in a domestic abuse incident and believed to be in possession of a firearm. Officers displayed handguns and suspect taken into custody without further incident. Suspect found in possession of firearm and ammo.
- November 14 – officers attempted to stop vehicle for speeding. Suspect, who was intoxicated, made it to their residence and refused to cooperate with officer. Suspect actively resisted and officer directed him to the ground. Taser was displayed in attempt to gain compliance. No further incident and no injuries. Arrested for OWI 2nd and resisting arrest.
- November 17 – officers dealing with suicidal subject at St. Michael's Hospital. Subject, who earlier had significantly cut her wrists, attempted to flee the hospital. Officer was able to grab an arm and stabilize subject against a wall. Subject did hit her head against the wall and bit her lip. Subject continued to resist and was decentralized/handcuffed. No further incident.
- November 22 – Officers responded to a report of a male found in the caller's vehicle. The caller confronted the male, who displayed a knife while still inside the vehicle. Upon officer arrival, the male subject had exited the vehicle and began chasing the caller. Suspect confronted by officers who displayed handguns. Suspect continued to resist. Taser displayed ineffective and suspect was decentralized. Knife located in jacket pocket. No injuries.

Mental health related incidents:

Officers responded to the following:

- 36 welfare checks
- Five emergency commitments
- Five voluntary commitments
- Two alcohol commitments

K-9 Unit

- K9 deployments including:
 - Sgt. Ballew and K9 Barry are currently in training out of state.
 - K9 Fala deployed for Agency assist (Plover) for vehicle search. Marijuana, Methamphetamine paraphernalia and handgun located in vehicle. Driver also arrested for domestic related offenses from Plover PD.

Staffing:

- Officer Zachary Gartmann and Officer Kimberly DesRosier have finished the Field Training Process and are on solo patrol.
- Officer Cody Stankowski will begin Step 3 of the Field Training Process and progressing on schedule.
- Officer Matt Drossel reassigned to the Investigation Bureau. He will fill sensitive crimes investigation spot vacated by Officer Mike Schultz.

- Office Kris Marchel will fill Officer Drossel's School Resource Officer vacancy at Ben Franklin Junior High following Christmas Break.

Training:

- Sergeant Jeremy Ballew currently attending Vohne Liche Kennels in the State of Indiana as he completes his training as a K9 Recertification Instructor. He is on target to complete training on December 18th.
- Officer Kris Marchel completed the Basic School Resource Officer training module.

Auxiliary Unit:

- On November 19th Auxiliary participated in one event at the Boys and Girls Club assisting in traffic control for distribution of Thanksgiving meals. 468 meals were distributed.

Commissioner Wescott moved, seconded by Commissioner Moore to accept the Police Chief's Report for November 2020.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

8. **Fire Chief's Report/EMS report**

MSTC Virtual Internship Fair:

- Lt. Travis Koch and Firefighter/Paramedic Kraig Arndt participated in a Virtual Internship Fair with current MSTC paramedic students.

Training:

- Weapons of Mass Destruction

COVID 19 Testing:

- We continue to partner with Portage County Health with community COVID 19 testing.
- Testing was extended through the end of the year.

COVID 19 Vaccine:

- Ongoing meetings at state and local level to develop an action plan for when a vaccine becomes available for both our personnel and assisting in vaccine distribution when it is available to the public.

Significant Events:

- MABAS request on 11/27/20 to 3212 Victory Road in the Town of Eau Claire. This call was to assist Rudolph FD.
- Crews were able to do real Vertical Ventilation training on the Belke House just prior to it being removed.
- Metro Fire calls (3)
- Structure fires (3)
- Vehicle fires (2)
- Brush, grass, wildland fires (1)
- Cooking fire contained (0)
- Overheated cooking (0)
- Other fires (6)
- Rescue (3)
- EMS assist calls (43)
- False alarm responses (9)
- Hazardous materials responses (3)
- Other responses (6)
- Total fire losses (\$37,500)
- Total Property saved (\$712,500)

- Total responses (76)
- Training: Ventilation/VEIS/Forcible Entry; Department Policy Review; Emergency Preparedness for Weapons of Mass Destruction. Total training hours: 460.75.
- Fire inspections: Certificate of occupancy (2); fire alarm inspections (0); general fire inspection (2); general/liquor license inspection (0); re-inspection/liquor license inspection (0); re-inspection (0); sprinkler system (0); complaint inspection (1); special event permit (0); ANSUL/Hood inspections (0); self-certification (0); tent inspection (0); consultation (35); re-inspection certificate of occupancy (0)
Total inspections: 40
- Public Activities: No public activities due to COVID-19. Number of attendees: 0

Commissioner Carlson moved, seconded by Commissioner Kirschling to accept the Fire Chief's Report for November 2020.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

- 9. Adjourn into closed session (approximately 2:45 p.m.) 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, for police chief candidate status for possible advancement in the selection process and to conduct annual performance evaluations of the Police and Fire Chiefs.**

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

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.