

CITY OF STEVENS POINT
POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSION
February 2, 2021

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

Also Present: Fire Chief Finn, Assistant Chief Rottier, Assistant Chief Moody, Assistant Chief Gemza, Interim Assistant Chief Kussow, Lt. Dana Williams, Alderperson Kneebone, Trevor Howard, Attorney Dean Dietrich, Rick Anderson, Hobbes, Ginger Keymer, Benjamin Nusz, Colleen Kane, Bobbi Damrow, Michael Leischner – WSAU, Thomas Leek, Brandi – Point Plover Metro Wire

2. **Memorandum of Understanding with Mid-State Technical College**

The Stevens Point Fire Department and Mid-state Technical College have a new 10 year collaborative agreement that will expand local and regional training offerings in fire protection and emergency services. The training will take place at 3100 Whiting Avenue, which is property currently owned by the City of Stevens Point. The site's location will allow for training to occur closer to regional career and volunteer fire departments.

Assistant Chief Moody reported the training center will allow the Stevens Point Fire Department to have many different fire and technical rescue training props on site which will enhance Fire Department personnel, in-house and across the region. The training site will prepare current and future firefighters through real life scenarios and state-of-the art training techniques.

Mid-State's involvement in the project stemmed from listening sessions, meetings and surveys conducted by the college to identify solutions to better serve its surrounding communities. Mid-state's role in bringing the projection to fruition includes providing training on site and procuring needed equipment to support state-of-the art fire learning experiences.

President Wescott said the Stevens Point Fire Department's unique collaboration with Mid-State Technical College is a great regional development for training emergency public protection professionals. He also said the training will positively impact the health and safety of the entire region.

The training center will be available to neighboring departments for training use. The first training will primarily focus on meeting the entry level and advanced training needs of Mid-State District fire departments. Facility development will be evaluated and prioritized every year through fire department and college collaboration.

Next steps in the agreement call for additional collaboration between Stevens Point Fire Department and Mid-State Technical College's School of Protective & Human Services to create training calendars and identify and acquire necessary equipment. Training at the new center could begin as early as this summer.

Commissioner Carlson moved, seconded by Commissioner Ostrowski, to authorize President Wescott to sign the Memorandum of Understanding as presented.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

3. Update on COVID 19 - Police and Fire Departments

- The Chief intends to have a meeting on February 3rd and then send a memo to all Fire Department personnel explaining how the Fire Department will start reopening. These changes will take effect February 8th.
- March 1 will begin doing fire inspections.
- Regional review of hospitals:
 - 81.7% of beds are in use
 - 87.2% of ICU beds are in use
 - 15.4% of ventilators are in use
- The highest group of COVID patients is between 20 to 29 years of age. There have been 1,500 positive cases reported.
- The next closest group is 50 to 59 years of age. There have been 889 positive cases reported.
- Continue with COVID testing at the ADRC. This is done on Thursdays between 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.
- The FD is purchasing reusable masks which allow medics to speak clearer. The medic can clean the mask after every use.
- The PD is fully staffed but working a modified schedule in both patrol and records bureau to limit contact.

4. Approval of minutes

Commissioner Wescott moved, seconded by Commissioner Carlson to approve the January 5 and January 12, 2021 minutes.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

5. Confirmation of bills

• Update on 2020 operating budgets

Update on 2020 operating budgets:

- Police Department used 95% of their operating budget.
- Fire Department used 99% of their operating budget.
- EMS used 93% of their operating budget.

Commissioner Wescott moved, seconded by Commissioner Ostrowski, to approve the confirmation of the January 2021 bills.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

6. Memorandum of Understanding with IAFF Local 484 extending COVID 19 benefits

Commissioner Ostrowski moved, seconded by Commissioner Kirschling, to authorize President Wescott to sign the Memorandum of Understanding as presented.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

7. Memorandum of Understanding with Stevens Point Police Officers Organization extending COVID 19 benefits

Commissioner Moore moved, seconded by Commissioner Ostrowski, to authorize President Wescott to sign the Memorandum of Understanding as presented.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

8. Select dates to interview Police Chief Candidates

The Commission will interview police chief candidates via zoom on February 10, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

9. President's Report

Nothing to report.

**10. 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 Sworn 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:

- On January 28th Officer Radsek, in conjunction with the Salvation Army, conducted the annual "Point in Time" search for homeless individuals in our community. Search starts at 3:00 a.m. in hopes of locating individuals at risk.
- On January 27th WAOW conducted an extensive interview concerning our K9 program. Event coordinated by PIO Williams and interviews included the chief of police and both K9 units. Airing will be February 18th.

High Priority Calls:

- Officers received report of a missing and endangered 14 year old female. Juvenile was located 11 days later in Wisconsin Rapids.
- Officers responded to a drug overdose at a local hotel. Two other female subjects left the room prior to police arrival. EMS administered Narcan to a male subject who recovered. Investigation continues.
- Officers responded to a suspicious death at St. Michael's Hospital. Male had transported a female subject back from the Milwaukee area. Upon arrival in Stevens Point, the male subject was unable to wake the female. The male

eventually transported the unresponsive female to St. Michael's where it was determined she was deceased. Investigation continues as death potentially is drug related.

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

Number of Use of Force incidents 9 (9)

- January 4th – Officers were conducting room clearing at a residence where a known suspect had locked himself inside. The suspect had active arrest warrants and officers had their service weapons out prior to clearing the residence. K9 Fala also was utilized with an announcement made that the K9 would enter if the suspect did not give up. The suspect surrendered without incident or injury.
- January 8th – Officers conducted a high risk stop on a vehicle wanted in questioning reference a road rage incident where the suspect reportedly displayed a gun through the window to the other party involved. Following protocols of conducting a high risk stop, officers displayed firearms. The suspect was taken into custody without incident.
- January 9th – Officers were attempting to detain a female who was uncooperative during a harassment investigation. The female actively resisted officers' attempts to secure her and the officers were required to apply pressure to the suspect's wrists during handcuffing. No injuries.
- January 11th – During an attempt to arrest following a disturbance, a female subject actively resisted, including biting an officer. Officers required to apply pressure holds to subdue in handcuffs. During transport to the county jail, the suspect began kicking the cage and camera system in the squad and causing damage. The officer applied a hobble restraint to stop the suspect from kicking the cage. Hobble restraint secures the feet to a rope to the handcuffs, not allowing the suspect to extend their legs completely. Officer reported minor injuries due to bite and vehicle camera was damaged.
- January 13th – Officers applied pressure to the wrists and legs of a juvenile while the juvenile actively resisted officers' attempts to place him in handcuffs as he destroyed several items of property inside his own residence. The juvenile was handcuffed eventually without injury.
- January 13th – Officers were looking for suspect who had fled from a stolen vehicle. The suspect was located shortly thereafter attempting to conceal himself. Officers displayed firearms and a taser during arrest. Suspect taken into custody without incident or injury.
- January 21st – Officers were attempting to make contact with a subject who was agitated and known to resist police. Subject previously witnessed damaging items with a hockey stick, of which officers believed he was still in possession of. Upon locating, officer displayed a taser and pointed at the suspect. Suspect actively resisted officers. One officer used a compliance hold, pressure to the wrist, in order to get the subject into handcuffs. No injuries reported and the subject was taken into custody without further incident.
- January 23rd – Officers were attempting to arrest an individual on a probation warrant. The suspect refused to comply or follow officer commands. The subject had to be picked up by officers and lowered to the ground on his stomach so officers could secure the subject with handcuffs. No injuries.
- January 24th – Officers were tracking an individual wanted for auto theft. Suspect crashed the vehicle and fled on foot. Officers used K9 Barry to follow the tracks and located the subject hiding in a garage. Officers gave announcements to surrender or K9 would be released. Suspect surrendered peacefully and was arrested without incident or injury.

Mental health related incidents:**Officers responded to the following:**

- 35 welfare checks
- Four emergency Chapter 51 commitments
- Nine voluntary commitments
- One alcohol commitment

K-9 Unit

- Fifteen K9 deployments including:
 - Seven traffic stops
 - Eight building searches
 - Six other agency assists
 - Two successful track apprehensions

Staffing:

- Officer Cody Stankowski remains in the Field Training process and progressing on schedule. Anticipated solo patrol on February 7th.
- The department has extended conditional offers of employment to Cole O'Neil and Josh McLouth. Targeted starting date of February 22nd
- School resource officer Kris Marchel began his new position this month at Ben Franklin Junior High. He replaced Officer Matt Drossel who transitioned into the Investigation Bureau.

Training:

- 2021 firearms schedule has been completed. Six range instructions have been scheduled which will include cold weather shoot, room clearing with shield, vehicle contacts, orientation for new handguns, state qualification, low light shoot and retirement shoot/qualification.
- Department 2020 fall in-service has been rescheduled for April 2021. Topics of learning will include:
 - Four hour state mandated bi-annual emergency vehicle operation and contacts (EVOC)
 - One hour legal update District Attorney's office
 - One hour presentation by Mark Young on inclusivity/diversity/equality
 - Two hours de-escalation/intervention training – Lt. Brooks/Lt. Johnson

Auxiliary Unit:

- No events for January.
- Monthly meeting was held January 21st. This was the first in person meeting since March 2020.
- Events are planned for February which will utilize auxiliary personnel.

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

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

11. Fire Chief's Report/EMS report

St. Michael's 24/7 Cardiac Catheterization Lab Opens: On January 26th St. Michael's Hospital will offer emergency cardiac catheterizations. This procedure being offered in our community will reduce the times that the ambulance must leave the county so patients can receive the emergency cardiac catheterization procedure.

De-escalation training: Special thanks to off duty SPPD Officer Kristi Ahrens and Kathy Hartman from NAMI of Portage/Wood Counties. They both came to Stevens Point Fire Department to train personnel on de-escalation techniques for patients with mental illness.

Difficult Airway Training: Firefighter Shane Westphal, with help from Training Officer Trevor Howard and Medical Director Michael Clark, conducted a difficult airway training for all three crews. The training had different airway stations.

- Surgical airway using swine trachea donated by Peoples Meat Market.
- Using suction to clear a vomitus airway for intubation.
- Oxygenation technique station. Thank you to MSTC for loaning us the use of their oxylator.

Handtevy train the trainer: The Stevens Point Fire Department hosted a small train the trainer class for our new pediatric resuscitation system that combines customization, consultation, education and organization. This program will assist all of Portage County EMS to respond and treat any pediatric call rapidly and accurately with ease. SPFD will have four instructors to keep personnel and other services current with pediatric care standards. The Handtevy program lead is FF/Paramedic Ben Molnar with support from training officer Trevor Howard. The other instructors are FF/Paramedic Jason Pettis and FF/Paramedic Ross Oestreich.

Significant events:

- MABAS request from Rudolph Fire Department at 4614 Clover Road – box alarm
- MSTC MOU on our training site
- Metro Fire calls (2)
- Structure fires (3)
- Vehicle fires (1)
- Brush, grass, wildland fires (0)
- Cooking fire contained (1)
- Overheated cooking (0)
- Other fires (3)
- Rescue (4)
- EMS assist calls (41)
- False alarm responses (7)
- Hazardous materials responses (8)
- Other responses (2)
- Total fire losses (\$250.00)
- Total Property saved (\$1,409,550)
- Total responses (70)
- Training: Basic elevator operations; FDNY Rescue Company 1 & 2; Forcible entry training. Total training hours: 302.5.
- Fire inspections: Certificate of occupancy (0); fire alarm inspections (0); general fire inspection (26); general/liquor license inspection (0); re-inspection/liquor license inspection (0); re-inspection (1); sprinkler system (0); complaint inspection (0); special event permit (0); ANSUL/Hood inspections (1); self-certification (0); tent inspection (0); consultation (0); re-inspection certificate of occupancy (0)
Total inspections: 28
- Public Activities: No public activities due to COVID 19.

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

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

12. **Consideration of motion to adjourn into closed session pursuant to Section 19.85 (1) (c) and (f) of the Wisconsin Statutes for the purpose of considering employment or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the Commission has jurisdiction and preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems which if discussed in public would likely have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person involved in such problems including discussion regarding scheduling of disciplinary hearing before the Commission, and discussion of administrative review of fire department operations.**

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

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

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.