

CITY OF STEVENS POINT
POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSION
January 5, 2021

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, Alderperson Johnson, Trevor Howard, Andrew Egan, City Attorney Beveridge, Attorney Dean Dietrich, Brandi – Point Plover Metro Wire

2. **Update on COVID 19 - Police and Fire Departments**

- On January 4th the FD received notification that Portage County Health received 60 doses of the COVID vaccine. AC Gemza attended a meeting which dealt with how the vaccine would be administered. As of January 5th 15 personnel have been vaccinated and the rest will be vaccinated on January 6th. At that point 58% of the Fire Department will be vaccinated.
- COVID cases in Portage County are up about 27.
- The State of Wisconsin website is back to black, which means the virus is considered wide spread.
- Expecting a larger spike in virus cases due to the Christmas season.
- Agreed to move forward with COVID testing which is done at the ADRC.

3. **Update on training officer position – Fire Department**

At the request of Chief Finn, the Stevens Point Common Council approved the creation of a training officer position within the Fire Department. Trevor Howard is the current training officer and he began in this position on September 8, 2020. Trevor began employment at the Fire Department in April of 2010. He is originally from Menomonee, Wisconsin where he was a firefighter for five years before moving to Stevens Point.

4. **Presentation by training officer – Fire Department**

The roles and responsibilities of the training officer:

- **Wisconsin State Legislature SPS 330 laws that govern Fire Departments in the United States.**

Although Trevor Howard is the training officer he also serves as the Department's health and safety officer as described in SPS 330.03. The health and safety officer has the authority and responsibility to recommend corrections of violations of safety and health in the Fire Department and also on fire scenes. In this position he is able to alter, suspend, or terminate activities at the emergency scene when those activities are determined to be unsafe or an imminent hazard.

In the past, there has been an occupational and health committee which has fallen to the way side. This committee will be reinstated and Trevor will be the chair of this committee.

- **National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) – a set of standards set forth as best practice for fire Departments to follow.**

NFPA refers to guidelines for best practices to follow within the Fire Department. The mission of the NFPA is to provide consensus, code and standards, research, training and education.

- **National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians – governs licenses as EMS providers at the National Level.**
- **Wisconsin Department of Health Services – governs EMS licenses at the State level.**

Trevor also discussed his position as training officer as it relates to fire training, Technical Rescue and EMS training at the Fire Department.

5. Approval of minutes

Commissioner Moore moved, seconded by Commissioner Kirschling to approve the December 2, December 10 and December 11, 2020 minutes.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

6. Confirmation of bills

Commissioner Wescott moved, seconded by Commissioner Carlson, to approve the confirmation of the December 2020 bills.

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

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 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:

- The Department has purchased a Drone for use by our Investigation Bureau and SWAT. Detective Drossel successfully completed training for Drone Flight Certification.
- The Investigation Bureau concluded a joint investigation with Plover Police Department that resulted in homicide charges stemming from a fatal drug overdose in the city earlier in the year.
- Investigators concluded a search of a vehicle impounded following a vehicle pursuit involving patrol personnel. Officers discovered an extraordinary amount of evidence that indicated the apprehended suspects were involved in several mail thefts across the state and counterfeit checks. Investigation turned over to the US Postal Inspector.
- The Police Department is pleased to inform the commission that Officer Joe Clark has been issued the Department's Life Saving Award Ribbon from an incident that transpired on November 27th. Officer Clark was dispatched to a call of a female subject having difficulty breathing which transitioned to a pulseless non-breathing subject. Upon arrival Officer Clark began CPR procedures. Upon EMT arrival, Officer Clark continued chest compressions while medical personnel set up equipment to take over lifesaving duties. On December 16th the patient's sister contacted the Police Department to inform that the patient had recovered and was on her way home. She was thankful for all that Officer Clark had done and wished to have him recognized for his performance.

Patrol High Priority Calls:

- Patrol responded to a local hotel on report of a drug overdose. A 25 year old male overdosed on heroin. Friends that were with the male subject administered NARCAN and left prior to officer arrival. The male was transported to St. Michael's.
- Patrol conducted a traffic stop on Frontenac Avenue. Upon stopping, the driver fled on foot. After a short foot chase, the suspect was apprehended and arrested for 3rd offense OWI, Operating after revocation, bail jumping and resisting arrest. Seven other passengers in the vehicle, all with negative law enforcement ideology.
- Patrol observed a vehicle traveling northbound on 2nd Street North at a high rate of speed. Vehicle failed to stop for patrol and a pursuit initiated. Portage County Sheriff Deputies assisted by deploying spike strips north of the city. Deployment was successful and two subjects were arrested on numerous charges.

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

Number of Use of Force incidents 6 (52)

- December 7 – Officers searched a residence for a wanted suspect. Suspect located hiding in a closet. Officers pointed their firearm at the suspect and another officer pointed a Taser at the suspect while issuing orders for the suspect to exit the closet. Suspect taken into custody without incident or injury.
- December 9 - Officer had pursued suspect vehicle through Stevens Point to the north end of town. Portage County deputy was able to successfully deploy road spikes on the vehicle. The vehicle came to a stop soon after and officers pointed their firearms at the suspects during high risk traffic stop and ordered suspects out of the vehicle. Both suspects taken into custody without incident or injury.
- December 10 – Officers were preparing to arrest an individual for domestic battery. The individual was agitated and refusing to cooperate with law enforcement. Officers removed their OC spray and Taser and advised suspect both would be deployed if he continued to resist. The subject then cooperated and was taken into custody without further incident or injury.
- December 14 – Officers were speaking with an intoxicated individual who was trespassing at the library. The individual was uncooperative, swearing and unwilling to listen to the officers' directions. Suspect suddenly got off the table he was sitting on and walked quickly to the officers, with clenched fists, in a threatening manner. The officer pushed on the suspect's shoulder to create space and the suspect initially fell to the ground, mostly likely due to intoxication level. Officer applied pressure back to the subject's shoulder and held him to the ground and applied handcuffs. No injuries.
- December 21 – Officers were attempting to make contact with a subject who had made threats to shoot family members. Officers surrounded the residence and made verbal contact with the subject. Subject exited the residence without further incident and officers took him into custody. Officers did have duty weapons pointed at the suspect until taken into custody. No injury and no weapons located.
- December 22 – Officers attempted to arrest an individual for theft. The suspect, who was intoxicated, refused to listen to commands and demanded officers to shoot him. Subject actively resisted officers and he was directed to the ground. Suspect continued to resist and not comply with orders, holding his hands under his body. Officer verbalized and displayed the use of a Taser. Suspect refused to comply so the Taser was deployed but initially unsuccessful. A second "drive stun" conducted which was successful in gaining compliance. Suspect arrested and handcuffed with no injuries to him or the officers.

Mental health related incidents:

Officers responded to the following:

- 33 welfare checks
- Two emergency Chapter 51 commitments
- Nine voluntary commitments
- Three alcohol commitments

K-9 Unit

- Nine K9 deployments including:
 - Four traffic stops
 - Five building searches
 - Three other agency assists.

Staffing:

- Officer Cody Stankowski remains in the Field Training process and progressing on schedule.
- The Department is conducting background investigations on five applicants for one current opening and one anticipated officer opening.

Training:

- Sergeant Jeremiah Ballew has completed his K9 recertification training from Vohne Liche Kennels in the State of Indiana. We are happy to have him and K9 Barry back on patrol.
- Lt. Williams, Lt. Mueller, Officer Radsek and Officer Schultz successfully completed online training, provided by the State of Wisconsin, concerning recertification process of the Departments Preliminary Breath Test (PBT) machines.

Auxiliary Unit:

- No events for December.

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

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

8. Fire Chief's Report/EMS report

Training:

- The entire Department completed Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) refresher. COVID 19 Vaccine Presentation from UWSP Professor Dr. Dresang. This presentation gave our paramedics education on the vaccine and how it works along with the science behind it.

Salvation Army: SPFD personnel volunteered their time to participate in the "public safety red kettle challenge." Our efforts raised \$2,779.61 over six hours.

Significant Events:

- I-39 accident with multiple motor vehicles
- Metro Fire calls (2)
- Structure fires (1)
- Vehicle fires (1)
- Brush, grass, wildland fires (2)
- Cooking fire contained (0)
- Overheated cooking (3)
- Other fires (1)
- Rescue (5)
- EMS assist calls (40)
- False alarm responses (13)
- Hazardous materials responses (9)
- Other responses (2)

- Total fire losses (\$6,000)
- Total Property saved (\$1,085,700)
- Total responses (77)
- Training: Elevator operations; Forcible Entry; Department Policy Review. Total training hours: 355.25.
- Fire inspections: Certificate of occupancy (1); fire alarm inspections (0); general fire inspection (3); general/liquor license inspection (0); re-inspection/liquor license inspection (0); re-inspection (0); sprinkler system (0); complaint inspection (4); special event permit (0); ANSUL/Hood inspections (0); self-certification (0); tent inspection (0); consultation (50); re-inspection certificate of occupancy (1)
Total inspections: 59
- Public Activities: Public Education Announcement on Christmas Tree Safety reached 13,756 people this holiday season.

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

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

- 9. Consideration of motion to adjourn into closed session pursuant to Section 19.85 (1) (c), (e), (f) and (g) for the purpose of considering the employment of any public employee over which the commission has jurisdiction, conducting other public business which for competitive reasons requires a closed session, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems which, if discussed in public, would likely have an adverse effect upon the reputation of persons involved in such problems and conferring with legal counsel who is rendering advice regarding strategy to be adopted by the commission with respect to potential litigation the commission may become involved in, including discussion regarding candidates for Police Chief position, discussion of procedures for disciplinary hearing before the Commission and discussion of concerns regarding staffing in the Fire Department.**

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

Ayes, all; nays, none. Motion carried.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.