

Minutes
Police and Fire Commission Regular Meeting
Monday, July 22, 2024, 05:00 PM
Fire Station 401 N. Level St
Dodgeville, WI 53533

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

President Marie Fralick called to order the Regular Meeting of the Police and Fire Commission at 5:00 PM on Monday, July 22, 2024 at the Dodgeville Fire Station. Roll call, the following persons were Present: Marie Fralick, Mary McKinley, Tom Demuth. Absent: Mike Humke. Also present, Lt. Benjamin Conway, Chief Brandon Wilhelm and Fire Chief Brian Whitehouse.

II. CONFIRMATION AND COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETING LAW

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. **Motion** was made by Tom DeMuth to approve the Minutes of June 20, 2024 Special Meeting as written. Second by Marie Fralick. Motion passed 3-0

IV. ELECTIONS

2. Election of Commission President
3. Election of Commission Vice President
4. Election of Secretary

Motion was made by Mary McKinley to nominate and approve: for President - Marie Fralick, for Vice President - Tom DeMuth, for Secretary - Mary McKinley. Second by Tom Demuth. Motion Passed 3-0

V. REPORTS

5. Fire Department Report. The first and second Quarter report for the Dodgeville Fire Department was presented by Chief Brian Whitehouse.

Presently membership stands at 35 Members. A total of 72 calls with 15 members per call. Structure Fires were down from 11 (2023) to 6 in the first half of 2024. Gas Leaks and Search and Rescue were both up from 2023.

Activities: Recruitment is ongoing. Flyers were distributed during Farmer's Appreciation parade, 2 possible candidates. Also, Entry Level Training Class in Cobb this fall, hopefully 2-3 persons will attend.

Open House on October 12th from 11:00am -2:00pm. Bay Floors will be completed, Landscape and other station work for Open House. Fund Raiser Breakfast will be held in November, 2024. Department volunteers served beverages at summer Lands' End event.

Working to get bids for frame repair on 2007 Pierce Engine 1.

6. Police Department Report. The second Quarter Report for the Dodgeville Police Department was presented by Chief Brand Wilhelm.

Activities: Implementation of new reporting system, Central Square, which will expedite and increase officer safety. Updating and rearranging Police Department building to further use for 5-10 years. City wards have been assigned to Officers for regular review for compliance with city ordinances. Great increase in Open Record Requests requiring increased hours/time for administration. Meeting with Ordinance Committee to address outdated, vague or poorly written ordinances. Reviewing Department Policies, PFC Bylaws and the Union Contract in conjunction with City Attorney Eric Hagen and Commission.

Personnel: Lt. Benjamin Conway is reviewing training and updating the department's Field Training Officers Guide. Mandi Andrews graduated July 18th, started formal training to be completed in 6 weeks. Currently staff of eight (8) full time officers, two (2) part-time administrative personnel, a sergeant, a lieutenant, and a chief. A 2020 Study states 2.8 officers per 1000 people, that is 14 Officers for the City of Dodgeville presently employing 11 Officers.

Budget: Budget review with City Clerk scheduled. Ongoing and Existing Grants: Protective Vest Purchasing (50%), Tru-narc Drug ID device, Training and gloves (\$37,500.) Chief Jasica, Chief Jasica corrected Grant (\$10,000.), reimbursement request from WI League of Municipalities, Academy Reimbursement (Mandi Andrews) via State.

Bargaining Unit Issues: Officer Retention, Officers currenting cap out salary after 1 year with only a small longevity bonus. Other minor issues regarding department efficiency.

Training: Recertifications complete for 2023-2024, average of 72 hours per officer.

Investigations: Thefts at Walmart account for a majority of reportable crimes, violence and drug activity crimes are prioritized investigations by department, Drug Task Force focusing efforts in the Dodgeville area, assisting regional task force, Officer Cody Durni member. Lt. Benjamin Conway assuming duties related to complex or sensitive crime investigation.

Remaining Goals: Additional patrol rifles (5), replace Springfield 45 with Glocks, review and update all Department Contracts and Wellness Program, update Department Website, create an MOU with Social Services, increase Officer meetings/trainings.

VI. NEXT MEETING: Regular Meeting, October 21, 2024 at 5:00pm at the Fire Department

VII. ADJOURN

Motion by Tom DeMuth to adjourn meeting at 5:45. Second by Marie Fralick. Motion Passed 3-0

Respectfully submitted by Mary McKinley

