

## **DRAFT**

### **POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSION**

Date/Time: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 at 8:30 a.m.  
Location: Conference Room, Public Safety Building, 515 Grand Avenue, Wausau  
Members Present: W. Graef, D. Huntimer, L. Jorstad, T. Patterson  
Member Absent: C. Bahr (C)  
Others Present: J. Hardel, M. Hite, A. Jacobson, T. Kujawa

In accordance with Chapter 19, Wisconsin State Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted at Wausau City Hall and the Public Safety Building, and emailed to the Wausau Daily Herald and City Pages in the proper manner.

#### **Call to Order/Roll Call.**

The Police and Fire Commission meeting was called to order. Roll call was taken of present Police and Fire Commission members to include Huntimer, Jorstad, Graef, and Patterson.

#### **Approval of the minutes of 03/17/2015 meeting.**

Motion made by Graef to approve the minutes of the 03/17/2015 meeting. Second by Jorstad. Motion passes 4-0.

#### **Police Department Operations.**

- Council President Receives Threatening Letter with Powder. Romey Wagner received threatening letter in the mail with powder. Wagner brought the letter to the Police department. The Police and Fire departments handled the situation with the letter, and the Police department is investigating the incident. Jorstad asked if Federal agencies are involved since the letter went through the mail. Hardel said yes.
- SIU Chase Results in Crash. SIU team was witnessed a drug buy; SUI was going to make a traffic stop but the vehicle fled, resulting in a high speed chase that ended at the 1500 block of North 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue when the vehicle crashed. The occupants of the vehicle were arrested.
- Traffic Stop Results in Car Crash Fatality. Officer Bedish made a traffic stop at 1<sup>st</sup> Ave & W. Bridge St. The passenger got out of the vehicle immediately and didn't comply with the officer's commands. The driver of the vehicle took off; Bedish remained with the passenger and called for back-up to assist with the fleeing vehicle. The vehicle ended up crashing into a tree on the 1100 block of 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue and the driver died from crash related injuries. (Video from squad car was played for commission.)
- Recruitment Update. Two individuals are still in process and another written test is being administered on 4/27 to the pool of candidates collected since the last test.
- SRO Selection Process. Kevin Cornell was selected for the open School Resource Officer assignment, which is a partnership between the Wausau Police Department and the Wausau School District.
- SIU Selection Process. Lisa Rennie and Nate Porath were selected for the Special Investigation Unit.
- Unfilled Positions. Hardel went over the list of employees who have left and will be leaving. Low staffing means more overtime for the department. Three of the new hires are still in FTO training and are not able to be utilized as regular staff at this time.
- Body Cameras. Several different cameras are being tried out by the department. Hardel said that the data storage is the most expensive part of the having body cameras. The department is looking for funding to help with the cost.
- Women's Community Award. Detective Nathan Cihlar will receive an award next month for 2015 outstanding achievement in supporting sexual assault victims.

- Wisconsin Association of Homicide Investigators. Lieutenant Bill Kolb, Detective Jennifer Holz, and Detective Cord Buckner will receive a “Meritorious Service Award” for their work on the death investigation of Stephanie Low next week.

Huntimer commended Hardel on the Wausau Police Department’s *Informer* newsletter. Hardel said he is pleased with Todd Baeten and Ben Bliven for the content that they put on the department’s Facebook page. Hardel also mentioned that the department will have an annual awards banquet beginning in January. Hardel said he feels it is important to let the community know what the department is doing and also to commend the employees for their work.

Motion made by Jorstad to approve the Police Department Operations report. Second by Graef. Motion passes 4-0.

**Fire Department Operations.**

- Americanism Award through the VFW. Nick Gehring received this award which is given to individuals for their professionalism and outstanding work ethic.
- Hazmat Incidents. Kujawa said though hazmat incidents are uncommon, the department is aggressive with training and able to handle incidents that happen. Graef asked about potential for hazmat incidents with crude oil, if they could occur here. Kujawa said that a spill/crash could happen here or anywhere with railroad tracks, and that the fire crews have all gone through training provided by Canadian National Railroad.
- Rescue Task Force (RTF). Ted Tautges is going to training in May specific for this training. The goal is to have all firefighters and police officers trained to work together for any incident that may require the RTF.
- Medical Director Resignation. Dr. Alex Sommers has resigned position and Dr. Mark Mirick will be new medical director as of June 1<sup>st</sup>. Mirick was at Aspirus and went to NTC where he does training.
- Implementation of Rapid Sequence Intubation Protocol for EMS. Training for this has been completed. This has been implemented. The procedure allows for medics to paralyze a patient to get an airway going.

The department’s new engine has arrived and staff is training on it. Kujawa handed out department reports to all commissioners. Huntimer asked how the new staff organization is going. Kujawa said that everyone is working very well together and working well in their new position.

Motion made by Graef to approve the Fire Department Operations report. Second by Patterson. Motion passes 4-0.

**New Business for Placement on the next Agenda.**

Hite will give Just Cause training for the commission members. The commissioners would like a K9 demonstration.

**Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting** – May 19, 2015.

**Adjourn.** Motion made by Graef to adjourn. Second by Patterson. Motion passes 4-0.