

## **POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSION**

Date/Time: Tuesday, May 16, 2017 at 8:30 a.m.  
Location: Community Room – Public Safety Building – 515 Grand Avenue, Wausau  
Members Present: W. Graef (C), C. Bahr, D. Huntimer, L. Jorstad, T. Patterson  
Member Absent:  
Others Present: Mayor Mielke, HR Vanderboom, M. Barnes, T. Kujawa, and D. DeSantis

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 at 8:33 a.m. Roll call was taken of present Police and Fire Commission members to include Graef, Huntimer, Jorstad, Bahr, and Patterson.

### **Closed Session Pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(c) of the Wisconsin State Statutes for the purpose of interviewing a candidate for Firefighter/Paramedic Inspector position.**

Motion by Commissioner Bahr to go into closed session pursuant to section 19.85(1)(c) of the WI State Statutes for the purpose of interviewing a candidate for the Firefighter/Paramedic Inspector position, second by Commissioner Huntimer.

Roll call vote 5-0. Commission went into closed session at 8:34

### **Reconvene meeting into Open Session for the purpose of acting upon consideration of Closed Session item.**

Motion by Commissioner Bahr to reconvene meeting into Open Session for the purpose of acting upon consideration of closed session item, second by Commissioner Huntimer.

Roll call vote 5-0.

Motion by Commissioner Jorstad to approve the candidate, Shahn Kariger, for the Firefighter/Paramedic Inspector position, second by Commissioner Bahr.

Motion carried 5-0.

### **Monthly Presentation of Police Department Operations.**

Captain Matt Barnes gave the update of operations of the Police Department, Chief Hardel was in Washington DC attending National Police Week activities & ceremonies.

There will be four new officers at the swear-in on Monday, May 22, 2017 at 2:00 pm. The PD plans to expedite a new recruitment for the remaining open position in order to get the new officer into the next NTC recruit school, which starts in August. Also, the PD has three new officers currently in recruit school and graduation is on Thursday, May 18, 2017. The recruit school program consists of 720 hours.

Due to Lt. Buckner's promotion to the Administrative Lieutenant position, the department was short a detective position. Anthony Reince has been selected and will seek the approval of the PFC at a future date to be determined.

Captain Barnes summarized a number of cases, including a significant human trafficking / sexual assault case, and the tragic deaths of Michael Bujanowski and an infant from an unsafe sleeping situation.

Captain Barnes discussed the increased use of fentanyl and car-fentanyl. Fentanyl is 10 times stronger than morphine and car-fentanyl is 100 times more potent than fentanyl. The drug is/can be absorbed thru the skin. Officers and Paramedics need to be extremely careful not to come in contact with the drug. The PD Command Staff discussed the use of drugs and Narcan in the community. Ultimately, drug users can get the Narcan from the Aids Resource Center for personal use.

The question was asked of Captain Barnes as to what challenges technology has placed on the department. Captain Barnes explained a recent case where juveniles broke in to a business and drove forklift trucks around the warehouse damaging other equipment and the structure itself. He explained that the PD posted the incident on Facebook and asked the community and students for help in the case. Someone came forward and gave momentum to the investigation. The PD obtained warrants for Facebook accounts and forensic analysis on cellphones. The forensic analysis software is very expensive and the training to use the software is equally expensive, but the results can lead to the evidence needed to make the arrests, as it did in this case.

Also, technology advances can put a strain on staff; take for instance, the body cameras. The body cameras are excellent for recording the situation, by capturing evidence, interviews, and are used for prosecution. However, this means the District Attorney's office must watch all the body camera footage of all the officers on the scene. Take the shooting on 3/22 for an example; there are hundreds of hours of body cameras that need to be viewed for the case. Not only is this time consuming but the DA's office computers had to be upgraded in order to use the BWC software, otherwise they were constantly buffering. Again, great technology advancement for the PD, but it is costly.

Commissioner Jorstad asked Captain Barnes about the gang activity in the area. Barnes stated that gang activity does not have the impact as it has had in the past.

Lastly, Captain Barnes discussed the VOCA (Victims of Crime Act) Grant. The grant is Federal money that is administered thru the State of WI. With this grant, the PD has hired a mental therapist. The grant funds the mental therapist and a portion of an officer. Greenheck contributed funds for the officer position. The program is doing very well and is generating a number of success stories.

In order to be held accountable for this program, the PD put an advisory committee together, this group is to hold us accountable, provide us with new ideas, and be an entity that we can report to. This committee will rate our successes and problems and give us direction on what works well. In future meetings, we'll be able to provide some success stories.

Motion by Commissioner Bahr to approve the monthly presentation of the Police Department given by Captain Barnes, second by Commissioner Patterson. Motion carried 5-0.

### **Monthly Presentation of Fire Department Operations.**

Chief Kujawa asked the commissioners if there were any questions on the monthly activity report. There were no questions.

At the last Police & Fire Commission meeting, there were some questions regarding the Fire Marshall's position. Chief Kujawa brought Inspector Dave DeSantis to the meeting to provide answers to any questions.

Commissioner Graef stated that at the last meeting it was questioned/discussed why an inspection may take multiple visits. Fire Marshall DeSantis explained that sometimes it stems from trying to track down ownership of the business. Also, when the business is not willing to work with the fire department the case is brought to the City Attorney's Office. While the case is in the City Attorney's office, Fire Marshall DeSantis continues to make visits.

Fire Marshall DeSantis stated that when a business is deemed non-compliant and ends up going to court, they typically plead not guilty, at which time the judge will work out a compromise and ultimately the business will need to become compliant.

Chief Kujawa stated that inspections are only a part of the Fire Marshall's job; he also does fire investigations, public education, and risk assessments. With the filling of the firefighter/paramedic inspector position the department will be able to complete more pre-incident plans and expand public education programs. We will also begin performing tank inspections within our response area.

Commissioner Huntimer asked what the other surrounding agencies have in the form of fire inspector. DeSantis stated that SAFER has one inspector, and other agencies don't have a designated inspector; they do use DeSantis as a resource and point of contact.

Commissioner Jorstad asked Chief Kujawa if she has met the new Chief from the Rothschild/Schofield Fire Department. Chief Kujawa said that she and some of her staff went to the open house swearing-in ceremony on Monday and did meet the Chief. Chief Kujawa stated that she'll be attending a meeting with the new Chief on Wednesday.

Commissioner Graef asked how trains containing toxic materials are monitored as they come thru the city. Fire Marshall discussed that this is basically regulated via the Department of Transportation and if there is an incident, the conductor is supposed to have a manifest. This could create a significant problem if something happens.

Motion by Commissioner Jorstad to approve the Fire Department operations report, second by Commissioner Huntimer.  
Motion carried 5-0.

**Adjourn.**

Motion made by Commissioner Huntimer to adjourn, second by Commissioner Bahr.  
Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 am.