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Police Department

**Board of Police and Fire Commissioners
November 2, 2021
MINUTES**

PRESENT: Commissioners Pukaite, Nuernberg, Michalski, and Szymborski

ALSO PRESENT: Police Chief Pryor, Fire Chief Bialk, Battalion Chief Ackley, Assistant City Administrator Schoenemann, Administrative Coordinator Melina Bowen

ABSENT: Commissioner Ridley

1. Call to Order, Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM.

2. Personal Appearances and Public Comment

None.

3. Approve meeting minutes of September 7, 2021

Moved by Commissioner Szymborski, seconded by Commissioner Nuernberg to approve the meeting minutes of September 7, 2021. Motion approved by voice acclamation.

4. Chief's Reports

Chief Pryor (Police)

- Ozaukee County Dispatch has been handling dispatching for third shift, 12AM-8AM, due to one employee being out on medical leave, an open position, and a resignation. The lobby remains open with a phone allowing people to contact Ozaukee Dispatch directly after hours. This process is going well and tentatively scheduled until the end of January. Conversations are being held weekly with Ozaukee County to ensure the dispatch process continues to go well. There are two applicants currently going through the interview process. The Department is trying to move as quickly as possible. Past candidates have struggled to make it through the hiring process due to difficulty in the background check, psychological testing, or have dropped themselves out of the process. Some adjustments have been made to the dispatch benefits package in the last week to try and be more competitive.
- An officer resigned, with his last day being November 1, 2021. This was an unplanned resignation. The officer decided that he no longer wished to be a police officer, which is a new trend that is being experienced by multiple departments, taking jobs in the private sector. Captain Riley has started the hiring process and is in the process of scheduling interviews and testing.
- The Department is almost through the baby FMLA with one more expected after the seven new babies have been born to the Department.

- The Department continues to be busy and have a lot of calls for service. There continues to be more significant mental health calls. The current election has also created elevated levels of calls.
- Commissioner Pukaite inquired if there have been any discussions regarding consolidated dispatch. The Department is making sure that things are being handled as safely and efficiently as possible. The Department has been working with the local technical colleges, all the electronic means possible, and participating in a mentor informational session with the high school in January to help bring interest to the dispatch and law enforcement positions.

Chief Bialk (Fire Department)

- The Fire Department was able to take some of the 2022 budget allotted to the paid on call salary, which is unspent as there is not enough people to fill the shifts, and convert it to full time personnel. There will be three full time personnel hired next year after working out the salary and benefits package. A job description will be brought to the Police and Fire commission and hope to have those positions fill early next year.
- Ozaukee County continues to do a consolidation study. It is undecided if it will be all the Ozaukee County departments or just smaller groups at this time. There continue to be meeting on the topic and will hopefully it will be decided by December.
- Call volume is up 267 calls from last year. There are times on the schedule that there are only two people on the schedule, a Battalion Chief and a Paramedic.
- Captain Pipkorn retired after 34 years on the Mequon Fire Department.

5. Review/Certify Eligibility List for Fire Department Recruits

Battalion Chief Ackley discussed the ten proposed recruits' information and qualifications with commissioners. Eight of the ten recruits have their EMS or paramedic certifications. The Join the Fire Service program is being used to help with the recruitment process.

Moved by Commissioner Michalski, seconded by Commissioner Nuernberg to approve/certify proposed Fire Department recruits. Motion approved by roll call vote (4/0).

Ayes: Michalski, Nuernberg, Pukaite, Szymborski

6. Adjourn

Moved by Commissioner Nuernberg, seconded by Commissioner Szymborski to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 AM. Motion approved by voice acclamation.

Respectfully Submitted,
Melina Bowen