

Minutes

Police and Fire Commission, Regular Meeting

Monday, January 19th, 2026, 5:00 PM

City Hall Council Chambers, 410 E. Leffler St. Dodgeville, WI

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

President Tom Demuth called to order the Regular Meeting of the Police and Fire Commission at 5:15 PM on January 19th, 2026 at Dodgeville City Hall.

Roll call, the following persons were Present: Mike Humke, Tom Demuth, Ken Von Rueden. Also present: Chief Brian Whitehouse and Chief Brandon Wilhelm.

II. CONFIRMATION AND COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETING LAW

Posted Friday, January 16th, 2026.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Motion to approve the minutes from the October 20th, 2025, Police and Fire Commission Regular Meeting held at the Dodgeville Fire Department

2. Motion to approve the minutes of the December 10th, 2025, Police and Fire Commission special meeting held at the Dodgeville Police Department.

Motions made by Mike Humke. Second by Ken Von Rueden. **Passed 3-0**

IV. NEW BUSINESS

3. Dodgeville Fire Department Quarterly Report was presented by Chief Brian Whitehouse.

Chief Whitehouse presented 2025 year-end statistics related to calls and member response. 138 calls in 2025 compared to 149 in 2024. Members per call averaged 14 in 2025. Currently, one member in entry-level fire training at SWTC. Another member completed Certified Firefighter 1. Floor repair work in the bay was delayed by the contractor and is anticipated to occur this year when the weather warms. Fundraising breakfast at Dodger Bowl was a success. 3 battery-powered demolition saws were purchased with donations. Discussed frame repair work on 2007 Pierce Engine 1. Considering options at this time. A grant for \$572,000 was awarded for a fire training tower. Working to secure a site.

4. Dodgeville Police Department Quarterly Report was given by Chief Brandon Wilhelm.

Chief Wilhelm presented his 4th quarter 2025 report. Discussed a new switch being installed at the Police Department, which enhanced internet speeds. The 2025 Hybrid squad was placed into service in December. Currently working to fill an open officer position. The candidate hiring process is ongoing. 4th quarter 2025 (October through December) had 1028 calls for service compared to 1038 in 2024, a one percent decrease. Overall, there were 4217 Calls for service in 2025 compared to 3703, a 14 percent increase. Final numbers and trends to be presented at the April PFC meeting. Some 2026 goals were presented, including the continuation of digital evidence protocols and the purchase of digital evidence extraction tools and software to enhance the Department's response to cases involving digital evidence. Also spoke briefly regarding increasing Open Records requests specifically related to body camera video.

V. OLD BUSINESS

5. Review of Police and Fire Commission By-Laws and possible approval of updated by-laws.

Tabled due to the likelihood that the review would take long enough that there would no longer be a quorum available due to M. Humke needing to leave by 5:50 p.m.

VI. ANY OTHER BUSINESS INCLUDING PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VII. CLOSED SESSION

6. Consideration of adjourning to closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. sec. 19.85(1)(c), which permits convening in closed session for the consideration of employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility for the purposes relating to Police Officer hiring/interviews.

Tabled due to the likelihood that the review would take long enough that there would no longer be a quorum available due to M. Humke needing to leave by 5:50 p.m.

VII. NEXT MEETING: Special meeting to be held January 26th, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. at the Dodgeville Police Department.

VIII. ADJOURN

- 1. Motion to Adjourn** made by Ken Von Rueden at 5:50 p.m., second by Mike Humke.
Motion Passed 3-0