

Minutes
Police and Fire Commission Regular Meeting
Monday, October 21, 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 5:01 PM on Monday, October 21, 2024 at the Dodgeville Fire Station. Roll call, the following persons were Present: Marie Fralick, Mary McKinley, Tom Demuth and Mike Humke. Also present: 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 Mike Humke to approve the Minutes of July 22, 2024 Regular Meeting as written. Second by Tom Demuth. Motion passed 4-0

IV. NEW BUSINESS

2. **Discussion and possible action to approve the addition of a new Police Officer in 2025.**

Chief Wilhelm cited a 2020 US Department of Justice study which states a recommended ratio of 2.8 officers per 1000 people in a town of less than 10,000 population. In 2023 Dodgeville had a population of 5,085, recommending 14 Officers for Dodgeville Police Department. Presently, the department has eight (8) full time Officers, a Sergeant, a Lieutenant, a Chief, two (2) part-time administrative professionals. To increase our department from 11 to 12 full time personnel, Chief Wilhelm included in the 2025 budget a request for \$100,000 for an additional Officer. The City Council approved the Dodgeville Police Department 2025 Budget on October 15, 2024.

Motion was made by Mary McKinley to approve the new Officer addition in 2025 with further detail at the time the position is proposed. Second by Tom Demuth. Motion passed 4-0

3. **Dodgeville Police Department Quarterly Report**

Chief Wilhelm presented the 3rd Quarter Report as outlined.

* Central Square/Zuercher, new reporting system as of June 1, implementation continues. Training for Administrative personnel will be held Oct. 29-31. Mobile displays have been installed in squads allowing Officers to see 'Calls for Service' immediately with details, increasing efficiency and safety.

*Throughout 2024 Officers were assigned to specific City wards and have identified 70 ordinance violations. Letters were sent to various businesses/residences for compliance. Overall, most residences have alleviated their identified issues. Chief Wilhelm has been working with the Ordinance Committee to update and address multiple ordinances that require language changes. Ordinances being reviewed are for Food trucks, special-events permit, licensing pets, alcohol licenses, archery and burning. Review is ongoing.

*New purchases include: new squad rifles to upgrade and increase number for large scale incidents, Stop Sticks (Stripe-Spikes) for each of the squads, new software update for City-wide camera system (130 cameras) which allows immediate access via squad cell phones, a citizen donation for LIFE-Vacs (choking victim assistance) for each squad.

*The first 2025 Squad Car has arrived and is being upfitted, the second will arrive within a few months, additional equipment \$17,000. The department will maintain 4 squad cars. Presently the oldest will be sold. Of the four remaining, the oldest will be used by the School Resource Officer, Officer Pepper and Officer Charlie.

*All Officers attended Rescue Task Force training, assisting EMS during mass casualty incident with most attended two such trainings. Officers attended Large Scale Incident training at Health and Human Services Oct.3, 2024.

*Lt. Benjamin Conway-investigating and administrative duties. Excellent performance.

*Officer Mandi Andrews completed field training October 16, 2024. Also, great job,

*Officer Garrett Faull completed probationary period. Assisting with field training, Drone program, ERT, and SWAT for tri-county.

*GOALS: Website update, review Department Contracts including Wellness Program, Union Negotiations (retainment incentive every 5 years, wage increase, benefits, longer shift-less days.

4. Fire Department Quarterly Report

January-September Review for the Dodgeville Fire Department was presented by Chief Brian Whitehouse.

*Presently membership stands at 35 Members. A total of 107 calls with 15 members per call. New members Zack Dresslor and Nick Portzen IV started Entry Level Training at SWTC with internal training for vehicle crash rescue equipment and techniques.

*Structure Fires were down from 13 (2023) to 9 (2024). Smoke/Odor Removal (5-10) and Medical Assist (assist EMS) (3-6) were both up from 2023 to 2024.

*Iowa County Dispatch is enhancing their “auto-aid” policy to include Dodgeville water tender for structure fire and a second from another department. Timing of warning siren is being revised to 7am-7pm regular daylight time and 7am-9pm during daylight saving time.

*DFD conducted annual fire prevention training at schools and semi-annual ‘Open House’ with “firefighter” obstacle course and “house fire” props a big hit.

*Working on bids for frame repair on 2007 Pierce Engine 1. Refurbished Engine 5 serving very well with new Ultra High-Pressure System. The upgraded visibility and lighting at accident scenes has increased safety of emergency service providers.

*Community Halloween “Candy Chute” planned serving hot dogs and beverages at fire station. Community Sit-down/Drive through breakfast at the Dodger Bowl on Nov.10 for annual fundraising event.

*Tornado sirens on docket. WisCom system

V. OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business

VI. NEXT MEETING:

5. **Monday, January 20th, at 5:00 p.m. at the Dodgeville Police Department**

VII. ADJOURN

6. **Motion to Adjourn** made by Marie Fralick at 5:42pm. Second by Mike Humke. Motion Passed 4-0

Respectfully submitted by Mary McKinley