



Minutes

Police and Fire Commission

Monday April 21st, 2025 at 5:00 PM

Dodgeville Fire Department, Dodgeville, WI

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL at 5:00 p.m.

Present include Mike Humke, Marie Fralick, Ken Von Ruden, Brian Whitehouse (Dodgeville Fire Chief), Brandon Wilhelm (Dodgeville Police Chief)

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of Minutes from January 20, 2025, Police and Fire Commission meeting.
Motion by Humke, seconded by Von Ruden. Unanimous approval.

III. NEW BUSINESS

2. Chief Brian Whitehouse presented the 1st quarter report for the Fire Department.
 - 37 Calls for 2025 at time of report.
 - Provided update on new members Nick Portzen and Zach Dressler, who have completed their entry-level fire training.
 - Spoke about a potential fire training tower and discussed possible sites within the City of Dodgeville.
 - The new UTV slide-in unit is completed and is in service
 - The Engine 5 pump system is being repaired
 - Floor repair work is starting soon in the bay(s)
 - Elections for 2025 resulted in no changes to Officers. Unclear if an approval for Officers was necessary based on the bylaws. Humke made a motion to approve, and Von Ruden Seconded.
3. Chief Wilhelm presented the 1st quarter report for the Dodgeville Police Department.
 - Currently at 1161 calls for service. (Agenda packet printed on 04-07-2025 noted 687 Calls for service)
 - Sgt. Weier completed his probationary period along with Officer Mandi Andrews.
 - Two new squads are in the process of being upfitted. There have been long delays in the process but hoping to have both up and going by the Farmer's Appreciation Day parade.
 - Enhancing and increasing community service-related outreach. Updates will be posted in the Chronicle periodically.
 - Spoke about support for Mineral Point Police Department due to their potential to not be a 24/7 Police Department. Discussed the potential for response to Mineral Point by Dodgeville Officers in emergencies if this were to happen.

4. Chief Wilhelm presented the 2024 Annual report/Combined 2021-2024 Annual Reports (Attached in Agenda Packet). A synopsis of important material was provided:

- Discussed new staff and organizational chart.
- Staffing levels and potential increases in future staffing were discussed based on current statistics and studies.
- The importance of retention of Officers was discussed, as well as the substantial costs to replace Officers who leave the Department.
- Union Contract changes for 2025 were covered.
- Calls for service are increasing from the COVID era—2,971 Calls for Service in 2024.
- Total NIBR (National Incident Based Reporting) Offenses are trending down for the City of Dodgeville. This includes crimes/violent crimes against persons. Clearance rates remain high and much higher than the national average.
- Spoke about changes since 2021 within the department. Many of the changes discussed are noted on pages 28/29 of the annual report.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Marie Fralick reminded that the next meeting will include a review of PFC Bylaws as well as Officer elections.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

V. ADJOURN

5. Next meeting of Police and Fire Commission scheduled for July 21st, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. at Dodgeville Fire Department.
9. Motion to Adjourn made by Humke, seconded by Von Ruden. Unanimous approval. Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m. to conduct a tour of the Fire Department.