

**CITY OF CEDARBURG
POLICE & FIRE COMMISSION
JULY 11, 2024**

**PFC20240711-1
UNAPPROVED**

A meeting of the Police & Fire Commission of the City of Cedarburg, Wisconsin, was held on Thursday, July 11, 2024, at the Cedarburg Police Department, W75 N444 Wauwatosa Road, Community Room.

President Joel Dhein called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Roll Call: Present: Joel Dhein, Stacy Tolomeo, Jim Salp, Terry Zimmerman, Mark Sette
Also Present: Police Chief Mike McNerney, Police Captain Ryan Fitting,
Fire Chief Jeff Vahsholtz

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE

President Dhein acknowledged the agenda for this meeting was posted and distributed in compliance with Wisconsin Open Meetings Law.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Jim Salp, seconded by Terry Zimmerman, to approve the May 9, 2024 Police & Fire Commission Meeting minutes. Motion carried without a negative vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Review annual certification of the Code of Ethics

The Code of Ethics was distributed to the Commission members prior to the meeting for review. Members confirmed their review and had no questions. No action was needed / taken.

Discussion and possible action on application for membership in the Cedarburg Fire Department for the following positions: Marlo “Rose” Kasper – Active EMS, Benjamin Schuster – Active Fire, Heath Obers – Active Fire, Chris Sprenger – Active Fire, Chris Bakos – Active Fire, Annette Swanson – Passive member

Chief Vahsholtz explained that all candidates have been interviewed and recommended by the CDF Personnel Committee and all have passed background investigations. He provided the following information on the above-named candidates:

Marlo “Rose” Kasper - EMS

She is a city resident and formerly went through the basic EMT school. She is interested in returning to EMS service in one of the newly created full-time positions the City will have.

A motion was made by Terry Zimmerman, seconded by Stacy Tolomeo, to approve Marlo “Rose”.

Motion carried without a negative vote.

Ben Schuster - Fire

Ben is a city resident and graduate of Nicolet High School. He recently relocated to Cedarburg and is employed in Saukville.

A motion was made by Stacy Tolomeo, seconded by Jim Salp, to approve Ben. Motion carried without a negative vote.

Heath Oberg - Fire

Heath is a resident of the Town of Cedarburg. He is currently studying business at UWM and is also working in construction.

A motion was made by Stacy Tolomeo, seconded by Jim Salp, to approve Heath. Motion carried without a negative vote.

Chris Sprenger - Fire

Chris is interested in the fire service and has a family history at CFD. His father is a former member and active passive member of the department. He still needs to pass his physical agility.

A motion was made by Mark Sette, seconded by Jim Salp, to approve Chris contingent on his passing of the physical agility. Motion carried without a negative vote.

Chris Bakos - Fire

Chris relocated to Cedarburg from the Wisconsin Dells area. He has 11 years of experience at Lake Delton Fire and has many existing certifications. Chief Vahsholtz did a background investigation and advised the Battalion Chief at Lake Delton highly recommends Chris. He resides in Grafton but is more interested in service at CFD. He still needs to complete his physical agility.

A motion was made by Terry Zimmerman, seconded by Stacy Tolomeo, to approve Chris, contingent on his passing physical agility. Motion carried without a negative vote.

Annette Schuster - Passive

Annette is currently involved in fundraising efforts at Fireman's Park and has been becoming more involved. Given her increased involvement she wants to formally join as a passive member.

A motion was made by Mark Sette, seconded by Terry Zimmermann, to approve Annette. Motion carried without a negative vote.

Discussion and possible action on approval of list of candidates for open Firefighter / Paramedic position.

There is one open position as a result of the recent referendum in the city that authorized hiring, and there will be two more positions open in January 2025. Nine applications were received. Two had no experience. One was unable to make it on the available dates for interview and put no effort into rescheduling. Six individuals were interviewed.

The panel unanimously approved 5 of the 6 interviewees. One was very good but lacked the necessary experience at this time. They felt the individual would possess the necessary skills in the future.

The Chief requested the list of candidates be valid until February 2025.

A motion was made by Terry Zimmermann, seconded by Jim Salp, to approve the list of candidates and have the list remain active until February 2025. The motion carried without a negative vote.

Discussion and possible action on promotion of Blake Karnitz to Captain.

Chief Vahsholtz provided the following information on Blake:

He began his tenure with CFD in 2010. He began fire inspection duties in 2017 and was promoted to rescue LT. in 2017. He is extremely well versed in rescue squad operations. He recently completed his bachelor's degree. He aspires to be Chief in the future and has sights set for CFD but would consider a Chief position elsewhere. He is a great contributor to the community risk reduction (CRR) program. He is aware that the promotion has no pay increase provision, and he is understanding of that. He is not interested in the position for monetary reasons.

A motion was made by Mark Sette, seconded by Stacy Tolomeo, to approve the promotion of Blake Karnitz to Captain. Motion carried without a negative vote.

Discussion and possible action on Police Department Vacancies.

The police department recently had a resignation from an officer that is moving to another agency for personal reasons which opens a vacancy. Additionally, the Common Council recently tentatively approved 2 new additional positions to help bring our police staffing needs closer to acceptable standards for our population.

A motion was made by Mark Sette, seconded by Jim Salp, to approve the new police department positions. Motion carried without a negative vote.

Discussion and possible action on revised PFC Rules.

Revised PFC rules were previously distributed to commission members. The majority of changes revolved around employment of fire department personnel. Previously, CFD members were volunteers and didn't fall under certain human resource and other city policies. The rules have been updated to reflect Fire Department Employees (non-voluntary) as well as other minor changes needed to bring things up to date. The commission members advised they have reviewed the changes and have no additional questions or revisions.

A motion was made by Jim Salp, seconded by Stacy Tolomeo, to approve the PFC Rules. Motion carried without a negative vote.

REPORT OF POLICE CHIEF AND FIRE CHIEF

Update on Police Department Projects

Police Chief McNerney advised on the following items:

- The budget for the next year is in the works and is occupying a lot of time as it does every year.
- The proposed joint building project with the fire department continues to be in the works and is progressing.
- Fundraising for K9 “Nitro” at Strawberry fest was a huge success selling out of all merchandise which raised thousands for the program.
- The bike race and Strawberry Fest were very busy but had very few incidents of significant concern.

Update on Fire Department Projects

Chief Vahsholtz advised the following:

- He mirrored Chief McNerney’s comments about the ongoing planning for the joint Police / Fire building project.
- Festival season is in full swing and significantly increases call / work volume for the department and impacts them similarly to the police department.
- They are working with the County Sheriff’s Office to implement in squad mobile computers to help keep communications between agencies fluid.

Confirm Next Meeting Date (September 12, 2024) and agenda items; and Action Thereon

President Dhein confirmed the next meeting will be held on September 12, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mark Sette, seconded by Stacy Tolomeo to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 P.M. Motion carried without a negative vote.

Mark Sette,
PFC Secretary