

**CITY OF CEDARBURG
POLICE & FIRE COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 14, 2024**

**PFC20241114-1
UNAPPROVED**

A regular meeting of the Police & Fire Commission of the City of Cedarburg, Wisconsin, was held on Thursday, November 14, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. 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, Jim Salp, Terry Zimmerman, Mark Sette

Excused: Stacy Tolomeo

Also Present: Police Chief Mike Mc Nerney, Police Captain Joe Kell, Fire Chief
Jeff Vahsholtz

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE

Joel 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 minutes of the September 12, 2024, October 16, 2024, October 17, 2024, and October 21, 2024 Police & Fire Commission Meeting minutes. Motion carried without a negative vote with Stacy Tolomeo excused.

NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE CEDARBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

Chief Vahsholtz advised the Cedarburg Fire Department (CFD) Personnel Committee approved and recommended all candidates and provided the following comments about them:

Becky Helmlinger-Passive

Becky is the wife of John Helmlinger and they have a long family history of involvement with the Fire Department. Becky has been volunteering at Maxwell St. Days for years and was encouraged to seek passive membership based on her involvement over the years. She has a strong financial background that will continue to be a great asset.

A motion was made by Terry Zimmerman, seconded by Jim Salp, to approve Becky Helmlinger for passive membership in CFD. Motion carried without a negative vote with Stacy Tolomeo excused.

Clare Witte – Passive

Clare has been involved in and helping with the Fire Department for over 10 years. She is a Cedarburg High School (CHS) graduate and longtime resident. She has a strong accounting background, and she will be a great addition to the department.

A motion was made by Jim Salp, seconded by Terry Zimmerman, to approve Clare Witte. Motion carried without a negative vote with Stacy Tolomeo excused.

Michael Mitchell – Active EMS

Michael is a Cedarburg resident as of 2023. He works remotely from home. He has a strong military background. His physical agility test is scheduled for 11/18.

A motion was made by Terry Zimmerman, seconded by Jim Salp, to approve Michael Mitchell for Active EMS contingent on his successful completion of testing. Motion carried without a negative vote with Stacy Tolomeo excused.

Garrett Taleck – Active EMS

Garrett is a Cedarburg resident. He's a licensed EMT employed by Curtis Ambulance in Milwaukee. He's also interested in getting his Firefighter 1 certification. His physical agility is scheduled later in the month.

A motion was made by Jim Salp, seconded by Terry Zimmerman, to approve Garrett Taleck for Active EMS contingent on his successful completion of testing. Motion carried without a negative vote with Stacy Tolomeo excused.

Roman Poss – Active Fire

Roman is a Cedarburg resident and CHS graduate. He has a background in environmental sciences. He was recruited by Jason Peterson who is a full-time member of the Department. He is interested in taking Firefighter 1 in the spring. His physical agility and medical exam are pending.

A motion was made by Terry Zimmerman, seconded by Jim Salp, to approve Roman Poss for Active Fire contingent on successful completion of all testing. Motion carried without a negative vote with Stacy Tolomeo excused.

Terry Zimmerman complimented the Chief for once again bringing several good candidates to the commission for service to the Fire Department.

REPORTS OF POLICE AND FIRE CHIEF

UPDATE ON POLICE DEPARTMENT PROJECTS

Police Chief McNerney

The Chief advised he has been largely tied up with the new officer hirings as the process is in depth and requires a lot of time.

The Chief advised he is also working on re-vamping the awards system / process including some new categories to highlight officer achievements.

The Chief also advised that no shave November / December is in progress where officers contribute to charity and are allowed to deviate from grooming standards during the period.

UPDATE ON FIRE DEPARTMENT PROJECTS

Fire Chief Vahsholtz

The Fire Chief advised he has started the paperwork process for licensing the Cedarburg paramedic program. This is an involved endeavor with many state mandated requirements to be met to be in compliance with guidelines. The Chief advised his goal is to have all requirements met to be able to submit to the state in the 1st quarter of 2025. Once application is filed with the state, they have 90 days to approve. Once the state has approved our program, we will no longer need to be in contract for paramedic services with Southern Ozaukee.

The Chief also advised that there was some confusion with the oversight / intercept agreement with Southern Ozaukee. Both entities missed the fact that the fee schedules were different, so it caused confusion and billing issues. They have yet to bill us for 2024 intercepts as they work through figuring it all out. They have now moved to flat fee schedule which will be much cleaner and easier moving forward. That fee schedule now needs to be approved by the different entities involved. The Chief doesn't expect any roadblocks, but the process must be worked through. As we bring more full-time members on along with our independent paramedic program, we should have fewer intercept requests moving forward.

The Chief advised he and the Police Chief continue to work with and meet with architects and consultants regarding the new police / fire station building. The City Council has approved \$19,000 for continued studies on the feasibility of utilizing existing buildings & infrastructure vs. new facilities.

CONFIRM NEXT MEETING (JANUARY 9, 2025) AND AGENDA ITEMS AND ACTION THEREON

President Dhein confirmed the next meeting of the Police and Fire Commission will be on January 9, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. at the Cedarburg Police Department.

Fire Chief Vahsholtz left the meeting at this time.

ADJOURNMENT TO CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by Jim Salp, seconded by Terry Zimmerman, to adjourn to closed session at 7:34

p.m. pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(c) to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility, more specifically, to discuss extending an Offer of Employment to three (3) candidates for the Cedarburg Police Department. Motion carried without a negative vote with Stacy Tolomeo excused.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION

The Commission reconvened to open session at 8:51 P.M. after a successful motion to reconvene.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON EXTENDING AN OFFER OF EMPLOYMENT TO THREE CANDIDATES FOR THE CEDARBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT.

A motion was made by Jim Salp, seconded by Terry Zimmerman, to extend offers of employment for the position of Police Officer to candidates 1. Tony Jones, 2. Samantha Allen, & 3. Tyler Keys (in that order) and to have candidate Benjamin Bitzan remain on the eligibility list in the event one of the first 3 candidates is unable to accept the offer of employment. Motion carried without a negative vote with Stacy Tolomeo excused.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Terry Zimmerman, seconded by Jim Salp, to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m. Motion carried without a negative vote with Stacy Tolomeo excused.

Mark Sette
PFC Secretary