

**MEETING POLICE & FIRE COMMISSION  
BERLIN, WISCONSIN  
BERLIN CITY HALL – 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
FEBRUARY 7, 2018 – 6:30 PM**

Vice-President Marks called the meeting to order. Present: Commissioners Guden, Pionke, and Eckstein (4). Absent: Lindahl (1). Also present were Chief Plantz, Capt. Block, Emergency Services Director Gary Podoll, Fire Chief Paugels, and Ald Secora.

Letter of Commendation read by VP Commissioner Marks along with Chief Plantz, and Sheriff Podoll to Officer Chad Krause and GLC Deputy Matt VandeKolk who had a lifesaving event on January 7, 2018 with Gene Hangartner who then handed the award pins to the officers. The officer's family then secured the pins to their uniforms. Mrs. Hangartner then spoke and thanked the officers for saving Gene's life.

ES Director Gary Podoll, Fire Chief Paugels, and Comm Ed Marks presented a 5 year service pin to Ryan Legler and congratulated him for his years of service.

Addition of new members to BFD: Taylor Wallace stated he was born & raised in Berlin and honored to be a part of the Fire Department. He is currently enrolled at FVTC for criminal justice. Aaron Hilgart stated he works for the Berlin Street Dept and is honored to be on the Fire Dept and able to help people. Gary Podoll stated it is great to have younger people on the department and that are available for the daytime calls. Motion by Guden to accept Taylor Wallace and Aaron Hilgart as new members of the BFD, seconded by Eckstein, carried by voice vote.

Motion by Guden to approve the open session minutes for the January 3, 2018 meeting as presented with no additions or corrections, seconded by Pionke and carried by voice vote.

Podoll stated there had been quite a few calls and reviewed the 2017 Fire Department report with number of calls at 128 total, with 89 fire calls, 28 rescue calls, and 11 mutual aid calls. A copy of the 2017 report was also given to the Towns. Motion by Pionke to approve and file the Fire Department Report and vouchers for payment, seconded by Eckstein, and carried by voice vote.

Chief Plantz stated that New Years had been uneventful. January was busier than 2017 (222 calls) compared to 2018 at 259 calls for service. Officer Noah Knetzger is at the end of his field training and he has done exceptional. With the pending retirement of Sgt. Tim Jones there was a Sergeants promotion process which Cpl. Kurczek will be tentatively promoted to Sergeant upon Sgt. Jones' retirement. The department has received 20 applications for the new officer position. With Cpl. Kurczek moving to the Sergeant position, the Corporal promotion process is coming up. Pionke inquired about the taser contract which Chief Plantz stated it was payment for 2018 for the 5 year replacement plan. Reimbursement for the cost of blood draws and use of narcan was also brought up which Capt. Block stated we are reimbursed for the blood draws and the narcan will be billed by EMS to the patient and our narcan replaced. Motion by Eckstein to approve the police department report and vouchers for payment, seconded by Guden, carried by voice vote.

2017 BPD Budget resolution: Chief asked if anyone had questions and stated that the overtime was over budget but could have been worse with the shortage of an officer. Capt. Block did a great job working with the officers, covering shifts along with Chief, and working the schedule out. Chief gave tremendous thanks to all employees for their support and commitment throughout 2017, as well as, the support of the PFC Commissioners. Motion by Guden to approve the 2017 Berlin PD budget resolution and forward to Common Council, seconded by Pionke, carried by voice vote.

Chief Plantz stated he had reviewed the alarm permit for Fortifi Bank Operations Center at 764 Broadway and it meets all the criteria. Motion by Guden to approve the alarm permit, seconded by Eckstein, carried by voice vote.

Hiring update: Capt. Block stated we have received 20 applications so far with 17 of those being qualified. Several of the applicants are very good candidates along with one that had previously been in our top 3.

Chief Plantz reviewed the 2017 BPD Annual report stating that there were ups and downs in 2017 with manpower down and still training new officers. The National Night Out was the highlight of the year with all the activities and involvements of all the departments. The nuisance abatement worked well with many not having to go to the citation stage and only one having gone to trial. Scott Strahan was promoted to Sergeant and with Sgt. Jones retiring the department over the last several years has lost 120 years of officer experience. All category numbers in the annual report were up except parking tickets. Law incidents were up with OWI, drugs, Juvenile problems, transports, bail jumping, citizen assists, and control substances all showing increased numbers. Public nuisances were at 65 for the first year. Citation numbers were also up with Click It or Ticket in August of 2017 and Oper MV without insurance along with Oper after Suspension/revocation were also up. Traffic warnings, parking tickets, stolen property were reviewed. The officer's activities summary was also reviewed with Chief stating that having the park bathrooms locked at night and creating the park expulsion program has helped with negative park activity. The training reports are created by the new ACISS program which is mandated by the state and also reviewed the 2017 highlights. Motion by Guden to approve the BPD 2017 annual report with copies to common council, seconded by Eckstein and carried by voice vote.

Old Business – Hiring process update

New Business: None

Public Appearances: None

Motion to Adjourn by Pionke, seconded by Eckstein and carried by voice vote.

*Submitted by Vicki Murphy*

Next scheduled regular meeting Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at 6:30 PM at the Berlin City Hall