

MINUTES
MEETING POLICE & FIRE COMMISSION
BERLIN, WISCONSIN
BERLIN CITY HALL – 2ND FLOOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS
August 04, 2021 -6:30pm

President Dan Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Present: Commissioners Dan Johnson, Ed Marks, Joanne Guden, Curt Olson, Chad Martin. Absent: None. Also present: Police Chief Engel, Assistant Chief Pulvermacher, Officer Plath, Fire Chief Paugels, Emergency manager Gary Podoll, Liaison Alderman James Lehr, City Administrator Jodie Olson, Berlin Journal Paul Wiegel, and Public appearance: None.

Under approval of minutes, Guden moved to approve the open and closed P&F Commission minutes of July 14, 2021. Marks seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

Marks moved to approve the fire department expenses. Olson seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

Fire Chief Paugels stated that there were 12 fire calls last month; most of the calls were due to the large wind storm. Paugels stated that maintenance issues are engine 66 will be getting a new pump. There is a vacuum leak on this pump, and the tower had some repairs done and is now back and in service. Paugels stated that there was training done with the new equipment. The training went well and really showed how to use the grain bin equipment in a rescue. There will also be training for new drivers coming up next week and go through November. Other training will take place for those who have already gone through driver training. Paugels stated there are upcoming events such as the car show.

Guden moved to approve the Police Department expenses as presented. Marks seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

Olson moved to approve of the new residential fire alarm. Martin seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

Under Police department I-crime fighter software purchase, Chief Engel stated that he had spoken with the DA (District Attorney) in charging for discovery. The DA stated that some agencies will charge and some will not. Those who do will have a defense attorney go direct to that agency for open records and charge them for the material. If we did this option there would need to be some type of software to be purchased for invoices to ensure accuracy. Olson stated his concern for the overall cost as well as who would monitor the content so space isn't used that doesn't need to be. He also asked if the department should wait until body cams are mandated. Chief Engel stated that if body cams are mandated and we had this software, a company such as Motorola could access the content and move it over to their servers. This would provide the ability to reduce the cost in long term as we wouldn't need to pay to access it. Marks stated that at some point we will have to migrate over to something, just unsure of when that point will be. Olson stated that he spoke with Waushara County who has this software and they really like it. They stated that it makes their jobs a lot easier and efficient, but they also have the ongoing budget for this. The cost for this software is ongoing and may need to wait until the next budget to see if it can happen. Chief Engel stated that the cost could be offset with removing unused software that is currently being paid for but rarely used. Olson made a motion to table this until the upcoming budget to see if this can be a purchase the department can make.

Police Chief Engel stated that the chart provided to the commission shows last month's calls. The chart shows that there was an increase in call volume. A large amount of time was taken by only a couple of individuals with reoccurring issues. The officers spent time with mental health services to try to get these individuals the help they need.

Under police activity updates, Chief Engel explained, two officers attended a week long course in handling informants and undercover work. One officer attended the first of a four part series of webinars on strangulation and stalking cases. Within the next upcoming month there will be a lot of training for numerous officers. With the vacancy of a police officer position, there were six applicants that applied. One was previously washed out due to the background check, another applicant accepted a different position, and two did not return a disclosure packet. That left us with two applicants remaining, and they have scheduled interviews on the 11th. The current staff still continues to develop investigative tactics and report writing. The ammunition that was purchased last year has still not come in. Green Lake County is still able to provide us loan ammunition for trainings. There continues to be a swap of shifts with the probationary officers. They continue to have good feedback on this.

Under new business: Fire department will have service pins to award.

Under old business: None.

At 7:10 p.m. Marks moved to convene into closed session pursuant to WI Stat 19.85(1)(d) considering strategy for crime detection or prevention. (Discussion on police department equipment and weapons strategy. Guden seconded the motion. A roll call vote resulted in five (5) ayes, zero (0) nays and zero (0) absent. Motion carried.

Guden moved to seat Jim Lehr, Jodie Olson and Chief Engel for the closed session discussion. Marks seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

Discussion continued in closed session.

At 7:26 p.m. Marks moved to reconvene into open session. Guden seconded the motion which carried by voice vote. No action was taken as a result of closed session discussions.

Marks moved to adjourn. Guden seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

*Submitted by Stephanie Skivers
Administrative Assistant*

Next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, September 01, 2021 at 6:30 pm at the Berlin City Hall