

**MINUTES**  
**MEETING POLICE & FIRE COMMISSION**  
**BERLIN, WISCONSIN**  
**BERLIN CITY HALL – 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**April 03, 2024 -7:00pm**

President Joanne Guden called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Present: Commissioners Joanne Guden, Denise Krentz, Ron Ross, and Keith Hess. Seated virtually: None. Absent: Gary Knoke. Also present: Police Chief Brian Pulvermacher, Assistant Police Chief Noah Knetzger, Fire Chief Paugels, Emergency Manager Gary Podoll, and Berlin Journal: Paul Wiegel. Public appearance: None.

Under General Public Comments, Guden stated the next two months of meetings will be held at 7pm.

Under approval of minutes, Hess moved to approve the open P&F Commission minutes of March 06, 2024. Krentz seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

Under Napa Auto Parts alarm permit, Krentz moved to approve the alarm for the business. Hess seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

Ross moved to approve the fire department expenses as presented. Krentz seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

Fire Department annual report was presented by Chief Paugels, he explained there were 14 calls for last month. There were two structure fires in one week. The department has 40 calls already this year. Maintenance issues, red power has received the parts that were backordered. Upcoming events, last month we had a parade for the youth wrestler who made it to state. Truck committee is also meeting tonight to go over the written spec. After they review the spec, it can go out for bids. Krentz asked who get bids? Podoll stated the townships will talk about the spec. The truck committee will come in front of police and fire to go over the spec. After that it will go into advertising and sent out to companies for their bids. We hope to have the bid out by mid-summer. Krentz asked how the UTV fundraiser is going. Paugels stated they received one sizable donation at \$2000. At this time the estimated total is \$20,000. Podoll stated they are looking into a grant that could give \$1000. There will also be trade-ins to help off set the cost.

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

Chief Pulvermacher stated that the chart provided to the commission shows last month's calls. The chart shows that there were 290 traffic stops, 8 drug investigations, 8 welfare checks, 1 emergency detentions, and 6 property damage crashes. The chart indicates, the enthusiasm of the two new hires for traffic stops. Additionally, the emergency detentions have fallen to normal levels.

Under police activity updates, Chief Pulvermacher explained Zacharias and Fox are doing very well on solo patrol. We still have two open patrol positions and we started a background check for one candidate but that has since stopped as he withdrew from our recruitment. One staff member finished evidence-based interview training. Two staff members will be in rescue and tactics for patrol training. One staff member will be attending firearms instructor training. We

have had our third county wide defense and arrest tactics training and have firearms and emergency vehicle operation training this month. One staff member is currently on FMLA following a medical procedure and is scheduled to be back by May. We are still in research phase of body worn cameras. Assistant Chief Knetzger and Sargent Strahan are spearheading the effort to collect information and evaluate the benefit.

Under Police Department Chief's survey and Body Warn Cameras, Pulvermacher explained after his annual WI Chief's meeting there was a survey put out. This survey covers dozens of items including demographics, size of budgets, and rate of pay. Those who reply are provided a copy of the results. The whole survey is 238 pages long with responses from 241 agencies. I selected 25 departments that were comparable to Berlin in either population, budget, or number of sworn officers. Some of the results are difficult to compare as the police unions work different hours per year based on their contracts. Some Chiefs replied with officer salary on an annual basis and others with their hourly wage. There were a few items that stood out the most which is wage that will be discussed in closed session and body warn cameras. We are one of three departments that I have selected that do not currently have body warn cameras. I asked the staff how important the cameras are to them personally. Overall, the ranking was widely varied. If I averaged them, we sit at 5.3 out of 10 leaning more toward having them. We are currently researching prices for both initial purchase and form of ongoing digital evidence storage. An annual expense will be something to keep in mind as there may be repairs, replacement and digital storage options. I expect there to be a 50/50 cost share grant coming up before the end of the year. If awarded the department would only have to come up with half the cost but that would not include the ongoing expenses. If we choose not to do anything and continue as is there may be a time in the future where we are told we must have them as we would be one of few who don't. At that time there may not be a cost share grant. Krentz asked who runs the grants? Chief stated the DOJ-Department of Justice. Guden stated this topic should be kept on the agenda so we are current with what is going on and are able to make a decision on body warn cameras.

Under old business: Body worn camera discussion.

Under new business: Election of Officers. Discussion on lockouts.

Public appearances: None.

At 7:28pm Ross moved to convene into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat §19.85(1)(d) 19.85(c) Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises (*Police Chief Survey Wage Discussion*)) Hess seconded the motion. A roll call vote resulted in four (4) ayes, zero (0) nays, and one (1) absent. Motion carried.

Hess moved to seat Chief Pulvermacher. Ross seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

Discussion continued in closed session.

At 8:15pm Krentz made a motion to convene into open session, with a second by Ross. Motion carried by voice vote.

Guden adjourned the meeting at 8:17pm.

*Submitted by Stephanie Skivers  
Administrative Assistant*

Next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, May 01, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the Berlin City Hall