

**MINUTES**  
**MEETING POLICE & FIRE COMMISSION**  
**BERLIN, WISCONSIN**  
**BERLIN CITY HALL – 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**November 06, 2024 -6:30pm**

President Joanne Guden called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Present: Commissioners Joanne Guden, Ron Ross, Gary Knoke, and Denise Krentz, and Keith Hess. Seated virtually: None. Absent: None. Also present: Police Chief Brian Pulvermacher, Emergency Manager Gary Podoll, Fire Chief Robert Paugels, liaison Stobbe, Fire truck committee members, and Berlin Journal: Paul Wiegel. Public appearance: None.

Under approval of minutes, Hess moved to approve the open and closed P&F Commission minutes of October 02, 2024. Knoke seconded the motion which carried by voice vote.

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

Under Fire Department Truck Committee bid, Captain Radke stated the entire committee went through both bids that came in. They decided to make some changes to the original bid after they looked at each truck. They decided to go with Custom Fire to build the new engine. The amended bid changed some elements to the truck at no cost or reduced cost ending with an amount of \$950,174.00. Krentz asked how all the towns received the bid and the new engine. Radke stated they are all very happy with the bid and approved. Guden asked why the Town of Warren didn't have a signature for the purchase and if they approved of the engine. Podoll stated the Town of Warren was at the September meeting and went through the bid and approved it. They didn't sign because they were not at the showing. Krentz asked how long the bid is good for. Ross stated it shows until December first. Krentz wanted to thank the committee for all their hard work and effort that went into this bid, job well done. Podoll stated he spoke with the city interim about the money that was set aside for the new engine. He stated she was able to pull a document that shows there is only \$200,000 dollars set aside. He thought it was going to be more being as it was known for years. The initial purchase will be the chassis cost which the money that is set aside now will cover. So, for the year of 2025 you will be ok but the year of 2026 you will need to come up with the rest of that money that the city would then owe. The total for Berlin's portion is \$ 466,471.77. So, with the current money set aside you still need to come up with \$266,471.77. Krentz made a motion to send the proposed new engine bid and purchase the new engine to Common Council for approval. Hess second the motion which carried by voice vote.

Under Fire Department Inspection Service Contract, Chief Paugels stated the Commission received the current contract and asked if there are any questions or concerns. Guden stated that there is no problem with the contract but that the Commission had not seen it. Podoll stated the contract has been around for awhile and it automatically renews every year. The original contract was presented to the Commission at the time it was accepted. Guden asked if it was already signed for the next upcoming year. Podoll stated that it is auto renewed so unless you want to cancel it you don't need to do anything. If you do want to cancel you have to put in a 30-day notice. Guden stated they did not know who the company was or their fees. This will continue and the new Fire Chief can look at it and keep if they so choose. Krentz asked if the rates have gone up since it was started. Podoll stated the rates have gone up a little but they are covered by the 2% dues the municipalities pay. Knoke asked who is subject to inspection. Paugels stated that

any building that is open to the public is subject to inspection. Most get two inspections a year but some could be reduced to one inspection. Krentz stated there were 15 violations this year so who checks up on those businesses that they have complied with the changes. Paugels stated that the fire Chief and department would check back in with the business. We have a 96% compliance rate and most of the violations are small such as extension cords.

Under Fire Department reporting and updates Fire Chief Paugels explained there were 120 calls for the year so far. That puts us at average at this time. Maintenance issues, the PM and pump tests were completed on the engines, they all passed. Upcoming events, last month was the pig roast. We served about 380 people which is normal and it went very well. The next upcoming event would be the Christmas parade. I would also like to say that at this time we are able to purchase the new UTV. We have enough donations to finally purchase this and we still need to sell off some items that can also help the cost of the UTV. Truck Committee, updated prior. Training, no updates.

Krentz 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 203 traffic stops, 3 drug investigations, 8 welfare checks, 2 emergency detentions, 6 domestic abuse investigations, and 7 property damage crashes. The chart indicates, traffic contacts are down. There have been several trainings going on so patrol staff was unable to initiate contact. Four of the crashes happened in parking lots. Domestic abuse cases were nearly double than average. There was an execution of a search warrant for an internet crimes case, that investigation is ongoing.

Under Police reporting and updates, Chief Pulvermacher explained we took apart in two touch-a-truck events. One was at the elementary school while the other was a tractor supply. AJ's riverside coffee hosted a coffee with a cop event. All went well with a great outreach for the community. The department participated in a county wide state firearms qualification in October. Three staff members completed basic patrol rifle training. We are currently working on shop with a hometown hero. That event will take place December 14. The holiday parade is upcoming on the 21<sup>st</sup>. We have interviewed one candidate for patrol officer. We are currently working on that background. We will be interviewing another tomorrow. We are hopeful to start a background on that candidate as well but ultimately, we only have one position to fill. The reality is that the first candidate has other backgrounds with different departments, so we are in a foot race to extend an offer first with an acceptance to either candidate. Officer Schmidt has been promoted to Detective and that will be effective on the 11<sup>th</sup> of this month.

Under old business: None.

Under new business: None.

Guden adjourned the meeting at 7:00pm.

*Submitted by Stephanie Skivers  
Administrative Assistant*

Next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, December 04, 2024 at 6:30pm at the Berlin City Hall