

City of Dodgeville, Police and Fire Commission

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 18, 2021

I. Call to Order

President Robert Kratochwill called to order the regular meeting of the Police and Fire Commission at 5:00 P.M. on Monday, October 18, 2021 at Dodgeville Fire Department.

II. Roll Call

Robert Kratochwill conducted roll call. The following persons were Present: Police Chief Dave Bauer, Fire Chief Brian Whitehouse, Marie Fralick, Mary McKinley, President Robert Kratochwill, Mike Humke and Diane Messer. Absent: John Pipal.

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mike Humke to approve the Agenda as printed and to acknowledge the meeting notice was posted as a Public Meeting on October 14, 2021. Second by Marie Fralick. Motion passed 5-0.

IV. Approval of Minutes of July 19, 2021 Regular Meeting

Motion by Mike Humke to approve the July 19, 2021 minutes as written. Seconded by Diane Messer. Motion passed 5-0

V. Reports

Dodgeville Fire Department Quarterly Report was presented by Fire Chief Brian Whitehouse.

Fire Department responded to 98 calls from Jan. 2021 through Sept. 2021. 2020 total was 109. Members per call average 14 firefighters. Membership stands at 32.

Activities

The Iowa County Emergency Services Association has initiated a county-wide recruitment. Southwest Technical College is working to have classes in the high schools for Entry Level Firefighters. Dodgeville has 2 recruits in the Entry Level class that is being hosted at the Dodgeville Fire Station. Chief Whitehouse would like to recruit 3 to 4 more members which he feels would increase members per call to 15 firefighters. Membership will be capped at 40.

Dodgeville is also exploring having people who are volunteers on a different department, but work in Dodgeville during the day, join the Dodgeville department to help bolster weekday member fire call numbers.

The bi-annual Open House, usually held in October, has been post-poned due to increase in Covid-19 activity.

Drive-thru breakfast fundraiser was a success raising about \$1,800.00.

During Fire Prevention Week the approach/venues for activities changed to accommodate safety measures during Covid-19. Students from Pre-K through 4th grade participated.

Fire Call pay stipend is being reviewed for restructure. The department is looking at a structure that rewards members for increasing their level of training/certification by leveraging a tiered stipend. Presently \$7.00 per call.

Maintenance: station concrete work on the west side of the building begins this week. This is a 2021 budgeted repair.

Police Department Quarterly Report was presented by Police Chief Dave Bauer.

Dodgeville Police Department maintains a mask mandate while indoors. The department is at full staffing with one officer out for paternity leave.

Budget of \$1.2 million is being strained by \$1,900.00 monthly increase in expenditures due to increased health insurance rate, increased automotive gasoline prices, and natural gas prices for heat.

Evidence Room project will take approximately one year. Police reports and records from the last seven (7) years are required to be retained. All sexual assault police records and reports must be retained, no time limit. The department must obtain the approval from public records before disposal procedures are implemented.

Chief Bauer discussed his potential retirement date July 2024. The Commission must determine how it will conduct interviews. Within the department, Chief Bauer has initiated the replacement procedure. As Chief, the department has a 90% clearance rate, national average is 30%. He has served the City of Dodgeville on the Police Department since July 11, 1990. His goal, "Leave the city as safe as when he started". Our gratitude for his service and leadership.

VI. Adjourn

Motion made by Mike Humke to adjourn meeting. Second by Marie Fralick. Motion passed 5-0 President Kratochwill adjourned the meeting at 5:43 PM. Next regular meeting Monday, January 17, 2022, 5:00 PM, at the Dodgeville Fire Station.

Minutes submitted by Mary McKinley