

MINUTES OF THE CHIPPEWA FALLS POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSION

A regular meeting of the Chippewa Falls Police and Fire Commission was held on Wednesday, March 13, 2023 at the Chippewa Falls Fire Department, Station 1, 1301 Chippewa Crossing Blvd., Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin

Commission members present: Greg Dachel, Todd Prill, Cindy Boggess, Chris Norseng. Commission members excused: Mike Houle
Others present: Police Chief Matt Kelm, Fire Chief Jason Thom, Fire Dept. BC Greg Bowe.

1. Chair Dachel called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.
2. Motion by Prill/Boggess to approve the minutes from the March 1, 2023 meeting. All present voting Aye, motion carried.

3. Police Department Report: Chief Kelm presented a “Law Total Incident Report, by Offenses Codes” document which reflected total incidents from 2020 thru 2023 (to date). He also spoke to current staffing issues, events the PD has attend or been a part of, and notable calls in the past year. A conditional offer of employment has been made to an individual for an open patrol officer position. Recruitment efforts are ongoing, however, as there would still be one open position. The 2023 budget has been submitted to the City and the Chief will be talking to City officials about ARPA/Bonding/Borrowing options on some of the proposed requests (which include misc upgrades, replacements, and/or new equipment). The Lieutenant promotional process has been reviewed and updated. The PD has launched a YouTube page for the City. Projects of note that are near completion include the Passport Parking Program, the Therapy dog program, the Honor Guard Team restart, The CART (Child Abduction Response Team) restart, and the 2022 Annual Report.

4. Fire Department Report: Chief Thom presented a “2022 Year end EMS & Fire Response Breakdown” report. Of note: Since there is still no one in the Fire Inspector position, BC Busse and BC Bowe continue to coordinate and oversee all required fire inspections. In light of recent retirements, previous vacant positions, and new referendum positions, the FD is currently 8 positions short. As with the PD, recruitment is ongoing. The Chief expressed his gratitude for the current staff that is handling all calls and in-house duties despite the shortage. The PFC will be scheduling a Lt promotional process, and also a possible MPO promotional process. The Chief will be talking to the City Council about beginning the process of purchasing a new fire engine. Chief Thom would also like to see the FD’s Admin. Assistant position hours increased to full-time status.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Boggess/Prill to adjourn at 6:44p.m. All present voting aye, motion carried

Submitted by: Chris Norseng, Secretary, Chippewa Falls Police and Fire Commission