

CITY OF WEYAUWEGA
POLICE, FIRE & AMBULANCE COMMITTEE MEETING PROCEEDINGS
September 12, 2023

The Police, Fire & Ambulance Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Dewey Stelzner at the Weyauwega Municipal Building Council Chambers at 6:48 pm immediately following the adjournment of the Finance Committee meeting. Roll call was taken. Members Present: Dewey Stelzner, Bruce Goetsch, and Shani Appleby. Also present: Mayor Rich Luedke, City Clerk Rebecca Loehrke, City Treasurer Trina Herbst-Gutche, Chief Brandon Leschke, Chris Gunderson, Andy Schmidt, John Hanke, Richard Rupno, Sam Berry, Erik Jensen, Tracy Jensen, Jonathan Mogilka & Ben Coenen with Gold Cross Ambulance Service and Chief Tom Cullen and Dan Nehring with the Weyauwega Area Fire Department.

Motion Goetsch, second Appleby, to approve the Police, Fire & Ambulance Committee meeting minutes from August 8, 2023. Motion carried with all "ayes".

Citizen Appearances: Tracy Jensen asked about the Fire Department Expansion Project. Chief Cullen will report on it during the Fire Department update.

Updates from Gold Cross Ambulance and Weyauwega Area Fire Department: Jonathan Mogilka with Gold Cross reported that things are going good in the area. Report times are running at average times. Staffing is being normalized in the area. Stelzner asked about lift assists. Gold Cross does not charge additional for lift assists. It is a service they currently provide. Was decided to do quarterly updates to the committee with information on calls, types and trends of calls.

Chief Tom Cullen gave an update for the Fire Department. For 2023 year to date they are at 122 calls which is an increase of 38 calls more than all of 2022. There is a trend of calls increasing over the years. Lift assists increased significantly from 5 in 2022 to 36 so far for 2023. 20 of the 36 calls came for the same individual. The Chief reached out to the County to get support for the individual so will hopefully see less calls. Chief Cullen also gave an update on the building project. It will be going on the ballot in the spring as an advisory referendum. The Fire Department wants to see what the residents feel. They have been trying to get the word out to residents in the Fire District. Have flyers made and are going out to community events. If the advisory referendum is approved, engineering and final design will take place in the fall of 2024 with bids over the winter and construction starting in spring of 2025. Chief Cullen only wants to come to meetings on a as needed basis. Committee members attend the Fire District meeting and gets updates there.

Police Department Update: Chief Leschke reported on his monthly update that was included in the meeting packet:

- 233 calls for service in August with an increase in the seriousness of the calls. Mental Health calls continue to increase.
- Worked the Weyauwega Car Show
- Chief attended the Wisconsin Police Leadership Foundation Training. He received information on a gun detection software program for schools that he will share

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information with the School District. It is a pricey program but have grant money available.

- Staff attended active shorter training.
- Provided security at the fair. No real high priority calls for service.
- Had a joint meeting with the School District and Health and Human Services to prepare for the 2023-2024 school year. Will have meetings going forward to make sure no child is slipping thru the cracks.
- The Full-Time Officer position was offered to Tha Vong Vue. He accepted the offer and will hopefully be starting on September 25th.
- Officer Bachaus is working through the FTO process. Hope to have her on her own some time next month.
- Officer Keberlein had an anniversary date of 08-02-2017 and Officer Rode had an anniversary date of 08-19-2020.
- Officer Rode welcomed a new son into his family.
- Waiting on an installation date from General Communications for the new Dodge Charger. The decals have been installed.
- The Flock Camera system ran into issues with utility lines being hit twice as it was being installed. The Chief has offered alternative locations for the camera so just waiting to see where it goes.

Discussion and Possible Action on paying all three committee members to attend Fire District meetings: Mayor Luedke feels it is good to send all three committee members to the Fire District meetings to stay informed especially now with the discussion of the building expansion. *Motion Stelzner, second Goetsch, to pay all three of the Police/Fire/Ambulance Committee members to attend the Fire District Meetings effective as of the September Council Meeting. Motion carried with all "ayes".*

Discussion and Possible Action on Golf Cart Usage: Continuation of discussion from last month. Chief Leschke did say that Fremont allows but was not able to verify any of their regulations. Also found some information from Pulaski which does allow golf carts. In Pulaski they are only allowed to be used during certain times and on certain street. The vehicle needs to be street legal and only ran from April 1st to October 31st. If the committee wants to allow golf cart usage the Chief strongly encourages to follow the ordinances that Pulaski has in place. Will table for now to get more information. If allowed it wouldn't go into effect till April of 2024.

Discussion on speed limit on Cty AA: The speed limit on AA was brought up for discussion by Goetsch. Currently it is 55 mph and he would like to see it 45 mph from Manor Drive to the east. Chief Leschke does not have anything to support reducing the speed limit, no accidents and no calls. If the road get redone could look at the addition of a bike lane. No action at this time.

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Set next meeting date/time: The next committee meeting will be held on October 10th immediately following the Finance Committee meeting.

Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law: None

Motion Goetsch, second Appleby, to adjourn at 7:28 pm. Motion carried with all "ayes".

Recommendation to Council:

1. Recommend to pay all three Police/Fire/Ambulance Committee members to attend the Fire District Meetings effective as of the September Council Meeting.

Rebecca Loehrke
City Clerk