



Police & Fire Commission
Meeting Minutes for January 17, 2024
5 PM at the Ladysmith Fire Hall

Chairperson Cora Schultz, Jennifer Pearson, John Pohlman III, Dan Gudis, Mike Closs, Chief of Police Kevin Julien, Fire Chief Kyle Gibbs, Council Liaison Nathan Johnson, Mayor Robert Grotzinger, Terry Wedwick, Dave Zimmer.

1. Meeting was called to order at 5:01pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Motion the minutes of the November 15, 2023 meeting made by M. Closs seconded by J. Pearson. Motion carried
4. Motion to approve the evenings agenda made by D. Gudis; seconded by M. Closs. Motion carried.
5. Motion to approve last month invoices motion made by M. Closs; seconded by J. Pohlman III. Motion carried.
6. Appearances by the public: None

FIRE DEPARTMENT

7. Fire Chief Kyle Gibbs reported that the department as at 10 calls to date. Chief advised that the approximate cost of the new fire truck will be \$631,000. He advised that the old truck has approximately 30-35 years of service. Chief advised that the chose to go with a foam system with an approximate cost of \$40,000 more. Chief advised that it will take approximately 2 years to get the completed truck and hoping that some of the cost will be covered with grants along with the money already allocated. Chief advised that they got a quote on LED lighting for the fire hall which is approximately \$6000. This work will be done by Blaze Electric and that some of the cost will be paid in rebates. Chief advised that the electric bill should be cut in half. We will have to dispose of the lights. Chief advised that the rural contact will have to be looked at soon as it will be expiring in June. Chief advised that the Ladysmith Family Restaurant fundraiser will be January 30th from 6:00am-9:00pm. Chief advised that Doug Pavlik will be stepping down as Captain and Secretary. Jay Wanner has taken over those rolls. Argo was taken for service to Awaken Marine.
8. Discussion and possible action on pay increase for fire department personnel from \$17/Hr. to \$19/Hr to start in 2024 motion made by M. Closs; seconded by J. Pohlman III to increase wage to \$19. Motion carried.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

9. Chief presented Officer Fisher with a 30-year service award.
10. Chief Kevin Julien advised that Officer Lihrman's last day with department will be April 19th with actual last day worked of March 22, 2024. Chief advised that he is working on completely updating the LPD policy manual and thinks it will be year long project. Chief advised that Shop with a Cop was held in December and went well. Chief advised that he has completed the 2024 schedule. Chief advised that he attended the school board meeting regarding the SRO position. They are currently looking to hire a new superintendent so at this point it is still 3 hours a day.

11. Discussion and possible action for Officer Ruff to join Barron/Rusk ERT as negotiator. Motion made for Officer Ruff to join ERT by J. Pearson; seconded by M. Closs. Motion carried.
12. Discussion and action on posting of upcoming vacant police officer position. Motion made to post vacancy by J. Pohlman III; seconded by M. Closs. Motion carried.
13. Action to go into closed session under authority granted in S.S. 19.85(1)(c) to consider employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. To wit: Sergeant Wage, Officer Resignation letter. Motion made by M. Closs; seconded by D. Gudis. Roll call Gudis-yes, Schultz-yes, Closs-yes, Pohlman III-yes. Motion carried. To increase SGT. Increase from .50 to \$1.00 an hour.
14. Next meeting date February 21, 2024 at 5:00p.m.
15. Motion to adjourn meeting at 5:59 made by D. Gudis; seconded by J. Pohlman III. Motion carried.