



**OFFICIAL MINUTES**  
REGULAR MEETING

**MEETING:** Police and Fire Commission  
**DATE/TIME:** Monday, November 17, 2025 at 7:30 AM  
**LOCATION:** Public Safety Building, 515 Grand Ave  
Community Room

**MEMBERS:**  
Kathy Strasser      Thomas Garver  
Cheryl Bahr        Vylius Lyskys  
Katie Rosenberg

Members Present: Thomas Garver, Katie Rosenberg, Vylius Leskys, Kathy Strasser, Cheryl Bahr  
Members Not Present:  
Members Excused:  
Present 5, Not Present 0, Excused 0

Noting the presence of a quorum, the Chairperson called the meeting to order at 07:31 AM.

- 1 **Call to order by the presiding officer.**
- 2 **Roll call.**

Roll Call indicated 5 members present.  
Members present: Commission Member Thomas Garver, Commission Member Katie Rosenberg, Commission Member Vylius Leskys, Commission Member Kathy Strasser, Commission Member Cheryl Bahr  
Members absent:  
Members excused:

- 3 **Consideration of the minutes of the preceding meeting(s).**

**Minutes of October 29, 2025**

Motion by Commissioner Garver to approve minutes from October 29, 2025 meeting, seconded by Commissioner Bahr.

- 4 **Discussion and possible action.**

- a. Potential addition of Section 5.04- *Performance Appraisal Review of Chiefs* to Article V of the PFC Manual

President Strasser opened a discussion regarding the proposed addition of Section 5.04 – *Performance Appraisal Review of Chiefs* – to Article V. The discussion centered on the section’s wording, overall direction, the roles of Commissioners, and its intended purpose.

City Attorney Anne Jacobson provided legal clarification on the proposed language and outlined the responsibilities of the Police and Fire Commission (PFC) in relation to the potential addition.

Following the discussion, it was agreed that the Commissioners will conduct further review of the proposal. The item will be re-agendized, with formal action scheduled for

the December PFC meeting.

- b. Discussion and action regarding PFC Manual changes from May 19, September 22, and October 29, 2025

President Strasser will re-agendize the proposed changes to the PFC Manual for the December meeting, where formal action on its contents will be taken.

## **5 Closed session.**

Pursuant to Section 19.85(1)(c) of the Wisconsin State Statutes considering employment of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility for the purpose of interviewing one candidate for EMS Division Chief and one candidate for Battalion Chief with Wausau Fire Department.

Motion by Commissioner Bahr to go into closed session pursuant to section 19.85(1)(c) for considering employment of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility for the purpose of interviewing one candidates for EMS division Chief and one candidate for Battalion Chief, second by Commissioner Leskys. Roll call vote 5-0. Commission went into closed session at 7:45 a.m.

## **6 Reconvene into Open Session for purpose of potential action upon consideration of Closed Session Items.**

Motion by Commissioner Rosenberg to reconvene meeting into Open Session for the purpose of acting upon consideration of closed session item, second by Commissioner Leskys.

Roll call vote 5-0. Commission went back into open session at 8:34 a.m.

Motion by Commissioner Rosenberg to appoint Matt Tormohlen to EMS Division Chief and Cody Weisman to Battalion Chief with Wausau Fire Department, second by Commissioner Leskys. Motion carried 5-0.

## **7 Presentations.**

Monthly Presentation of Police Department Operations:  
PD updates

Chief Barnes began by expressing his pride in the department's officers for their response to several significant and challenging calls for service over the past month.

He addressed the continued rise in fraud-related cases, noting that advancements in technology are creating new methods for financial fraud. This trend presents an ongoing challenge for the department to stay current with evolving technologies and to remain proactive in anticipating future developments.

Chief Barnes also discussed the department's current budget challenges. He emphasized the importance of prioritizing resources to remain within budget constraints while maintaining operational efficiency and service quality.

Additionally, Chief Barnes noted that the department is anticipating multiple retirements in the coming year. To help offset budget pressures, he plans to tentatively leave some of those positions unfilled.

Monthly Presentation of Fire Department Operations:  
FD updates

Chief Kopp began by highlighting the live training burn held on November 11, made possible by a house donated by Kolbe and Kolbe. The department successfully conducted six different live fire training scenarios during the exercise.

He shared positive news regarding the department's apprentices, noting that five out of six are now licensed paramedics. The sixth apprentice is scheduled to take the National Registry exam on November 17.

Chief Kopp also reported on the Fire Prevention Bureau's outreach efforts during October. Fire safety programs were conducted in all local schools, with line crews participating by dressing as Sparky the Fire Dog and presenting fire apparatus to students.

Commissioner Leskys inquired about the status of a potential fire training tower, which could positively impact the department's ISO rating. Chief Kopp responded that while no final plans have been made, discussions are ongoing and progressing in a forward direction.

**8 Adjournment.**

- a. Next Meeting: December 22, 2025

According to the regular PFC meeting schedule, the next meeting would be held on December 22, 2025. However, since that date falls close to the holidays, the commissioners have decided to move the December PFC meeting up by one week to December 15, 2025.



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