

AGENDA
POLICE & FIRE COMMISSION
Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.
Jackson Municipal Complex
Village Board Room
N168 W19851 Main Street
Jackson, WI 53037

1. Call to order and roll call.
2. Approval of the minutes of the September 13, 2021 Police & Fire Commission meeting.
3. Fire Chief Department Report
4. Closed session Pursuant to Wisconsin Statute §19.85(1)(c) Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governing body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility for the purpose of interviewing Police Officer applicants.
5. Reconvene into open session with possible action.
6. Certify an eligibility list of Police Officer candidates.
7. Adjourn.

Persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations for attendance at the meeting should contact the Village Hall at least one (1) business day prior to the meeting.

Members of the Village Board may attend the above meeting. Pursuant to State ex rel Badke V. Greendale Village Board, 173 Wis. 2d 553, 494 N.W.2d 408 (1993) such attendance may be considered a meeting of the Common Council. This notice is given so that members of the Village Board may attend the meeting without violating the open meeting law.

DRAFT MINUTES

POLICE & FIRE COMMISSION

Monday September 13, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Jackson Village Hall

N168 W20733 Main Street

Jackson, WI 53037

1. Call to order and roll call.

President Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Members present: Mark Phillips, Jim Meyers, Lee Zacharyasz, Douglas Alfke, Jill Washburn

Members Absent: None

Staff present: Chief Ryan Vossekuil, and Chief Aaron Swaney

2. Approval of the minutes of the June 15, 2020 Police & Fire Commission meeting.

Motion to approve by Douglas Alfke, second by Lee Zacharyasz

Roll Call Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

3. Closed session Pursuant to Wisconsin Statute §19.85(1)(c) Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governing body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility for the purpose of interviewing Police Officer applicants.

Motion to convene into closed session at 6:03PM, by Jim Meyers, Second by Mark Phillips

Roll Call Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

4. Reconvene into open session with possible action.

Motion to re-convene open session at 6:36 PM, by Mark Phillips, second by Jim Meyers.

Roll Call Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

5. Certify an eligibility list of Police Officer candidates.

Motion to certify Police Officer candidate list, by Lee Zacharyasz, second by Douglas Alfke.

Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

6. Adjourn.

Motion to adjourn by Jim Meyers, second by Lee Zacharyasz.

Roll Call Vote: 5 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Meyers, Police & Fire Commission.

2021 UPDATE

Police and Fire Commission Members,

This letter is to provide you with a brief update of the Jackson Fire Department. This will include the number of medical calls, fire calls, inspections, training, and fire prevention events. There is no doubt that our call volume is increasing this year. This Year to date we have 774 medical calls with 810 patients. We have responded to 190 fire calls. Of these calls, 28 of them were structure fires, 7 electrical fires, 4 industrial fires, 3 cooking fires, 4 other fires, 7 grass fires, 32 motor vehicle accidents with injuries, 21 CO or gas leaks, 12 smoke in building, 17 commercial fire alarms, 3 vehicle fires, 4 water leaks or problems, and many more. Some of the major incidents including, a recent fire at Kerry ingredients, a large barn fire, a large garage fire, an explosion due to a propane gas leak, assisting neighbor departments in large fires, a multi apartment building, and an attached garage in the town of Polk.

Our paramedic program has been doing very well. Our average response time has decreased from 12 minutes to 3 minutes. We have not waived from paramedic coverage in our 1.5 years. We have helped our neighboring communities with care as well. Two major accidents including the Hwy 41 pile up where our paramedics took over EMS operations and saved a lot of people from dying. The other major accident occurred on PV and Z, which involved our paramedic taking charge and organizing ambulance and helicopters to take two of the critical children to the hospital. We have provided a higher level of care to many in our community, and they all seem to be very grateful. Many lives have been saved by increasing our level of care.

Inspections have greatly benefitted from having our three full time FF/paramedic/Inspectors on the department. To date, we have inspected 640 businesses in our community. We are finding that the inspections are more thorough, and we are getting more results of companies fixing problems that have been found. The excuse of “we have been doing this for 50 years” does not work anymore. We are creating a safer community for everyone.

Staffing has been at its best level of my 6 years on the department. We are staffed with 5 fulltime, 6 parttime, and 38 Paid on call members. Eight of these members are Paramedic-level and we currently have 3 finishing up the paramedic class. We also have 5 nurses that add to our team. Throughout Wisconsin, both combination and volunteer departments are struggling with staffing issues. We have put a lot of energy into recruiting young, new members to join the department. Most of all, we are educating them to the highest level possible.

Fire Prevention 2021 was a ‘come-back’ event for the Jackson Fire Department. Due to the pandemic of 2020, we were unable to hold an Open House last year at the fire station, as we do

every year. This year's Open House was extra special in that it was held at the new Jackson Fire Station, located within the new Jackson Municipal Complex!

We began planning for this year's fire prevention week back in February, by soliciting the local area Jackson businesses, to request their assistance in providing funding for fire prevention materials. In response, there were 37 local businesses that donated a total of **\$5,100!** This allowed the JFD to provide educational children's activity booklets, pamphlets, fire helmets, "Sparky" bags, as well as an abundance of other fire prevention materials to be handed out to the elementary school children within our community. These local businesses were honorably mentioned on the JFD Facebook page, as well as at our 2021 Open House.

This year, we traveled to seven Jackson area elementary schools, to educate more than **560 children** about the importance of fire safety. Many teachers have told us how the students (and the teachers) look forward to us coming to their school each year to talk with them on a smaller, more personal level, about fire prevention, as well as answering questions the children may have. They also love to see our fire engine and ambulance up close and see the various equipment used by the firefighters and EMTs!

This year's fire prevention month concluded with our Fire Prevention Open House on October 20th. This is always a community-favorite event, when the JFD opens its doors and welcomes the public to come in and view our trucks, play fire prevention games, visit with "Sparky" the fire dog, tour all the different fire vehicles, have snacks and refreshments, and visit with the firefighters. In addition, this year the public was able to come and tour the new fire station and view what they helped to accomplish and to understand how this building will allow JFD to better serve the Jackson community.

Jackson Fire Department holds in-house training nearly every Monday night from 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm. The schedule rotates between fire training, emergency medical services (EMS) training, and pump operator training. So far, in 2021, we have hosted 33 fire trainings on topics including ice rescue, live fire training, search and rescue, rural water operations, ladders, ventilation and many more. On the EMS side, 11 trainings have occurred. Several of these trainings involve bringing in outside speakers from hospitals to train us on various topics. In addition to all the continuing education completed in-house, 23 members have attended a local technical college to further their certification level. Classes such as Firefighter 1, Firefighter 2, Motor Pump Operator, Officer 1, Officer 2, Emergency Services Instructor, EMT, and Advanced EMT are just some of the certifications that were completed. These classes are a semester long and range from 60 hours to nearly 200 hours depending on the class. Jackson Fire Department members so far in 2021 have dedicated over 4,300 hours to training.

Last, we conclude with our new fire station. We spent over 5 years planning every detail of this building. I currently have over 3000 emails pertaining to the new building. Our committee of 4 include Chief Aaron Swaney, Captain Jim Huyser, Battalion Chief John Lamm, and Captain Jason Gonzalez. We built this department for 50 years. It allows us to expand with fulltime personnel

and have living quarters available to house them. It allows us to house more emergency vehicles and provide faster capabilities with our response. Technology was incorporated into the facility that allows us to do our job easier and more efficiently on every level. I can not express how thankful we are to have this facility and the department members to fill it.

In summary, our call volume has increased drastically over the last 6 years. We are on track for over a thousand calls this year. The paramedics that we've hired, are providing higher level of care to our citizens and making a difference in our community. Inspections are more thorough with better results. Our staffing is in great shape. Our fire prevention is back on track, and we have raised a great deal of money to fund this program. Our training is above most. Our paramedics are training our EMT's to a higher level. We are offering a lot of technical schooling to our members to progress and be promoted in the future. We are bringing classes to the new facility to help educate our members. We have the best facility to provide our citizens a top-level service for years to come.

Aaron A. Swaney

Fire Chief, BS

Jackson Fire Department

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