

**POLICE & FIRE COMMISSION
POLICE DEPARTMENT OPERATIONS CENTER
118 W. FIFTH STREET
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2024
2:00 P.M.**

Call to Order: 2:00 pm by Gelhaus

Roll Call: Present - Allan Hoesly, Brad Lindner, Bob Johnson, Maggie Gelhaus.
Absent – Tim Voigt. Also present – Police Chief Mankowski, Julie Counsell and Barb Petkovsek.

Minutes of last meeting on July 24, 2023 motion by Lindner, 2nd by Hoesly to approve. All Aye.

Appearances: None

Discussion on ways to attract and retain good police officers:

Group discussion began with the Commissioners acknowledging that they have no role in police officers' salaries or benefits. However, the Commission cannot accomplish its mission to hire quality police officers due to the discrepancy between salaries in other locations and what our City currently offers. Neillsville is \$4 - \$5 below others. Being a small department, we cannot offer promotion opportunities. The young applicants appear to be more interested in salary than benefits. We cannot attract experienced officers due to low pay. Discussion covered topics such as budget, negotiated contracts, and general operations. It was acknowledged that the City would not have the police coverage it does now if Chief Mankowski himself did not provide substantial coverage. While good discussion took place, no doable solutions surfaced.

Discussion and action on Police & Fire Commission procedures and bylaws.

Gelhaus presented draft bylaws. It was the consensus that Gelhaus contact the City Attorney to request a template for small police departments.

Adjournment: Motion by Hoesly, 2nd by Lindner at 3:05 pm. All Aye.

Margaret Gelhaus, Chair