

City of Watseka  
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**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**JANUARY 10, 2023**  
**6:30 PM**

**PRESENT:** Aldermen Garfield, Miller, Barragree, Cahoe, Marcier, Alderwomen Musk and Rohlfs and Mayor Allhands

**GUESTS:** Police Commission board Member Nita Dubble, Resident Bill Nutter, Fire Chief Ken Baier and Police Chief Jeremy Douglas

Mayor Allhands opened the meeting at 6:30 pm. Police Commission Member Nita Dubble spoke first during public comment. She stated the Park District is putting on an active shooter class January 17<sup>th</sup> from 8-noon and/or 1-5 at the Watseka Elks. There is a \$25 fee per person and she believes this is a great class and as many people that can go should.

Resident Bill Nutter also spoke during public comment. He asked why the 4<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman open seat is not being appointed. He stated Michael Yates was appointed to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward 30 days before the election. He also stated he believes some comments were made in error about transportation of patients with the new ambulance.

Auxiliary Officer Mark Garfield stated his department had no calls for service during the month of December. At their meeting they worked on uniform and equipment inspection. Mark stated he would like to add Jacob Henneike to his roster. He will be on probation for 1 year.

**Alderman Cahoe makes a motion to recommend to the council to add Jacob Henneike to the Auxiliary Roster and Alderman Barragree seconded. Roll call carried 7-0 with Alderman Garfield abstaining.** Mark also stated the new uniforms will be black and they are also getting new black winter jackets. The new uniforms should be in in February.

Fire Chief Ken Baier stated his department had 6 fires, 9 first responder, 4 ambulance, 2MVA'S, 5 automatic alarms, 1 CO Alarm, and 3 other calls for the month of December. Training for December was forcible entry, MAYDAY tactics and drags and apparatus maintenance. The department is adding Nick Hundley to the roster. The department has bought a used ambulance from Fire Service Inc to take the place of the leased Ambulance from Riverside. This ambulance is a 2015 with 28,000 miles on it and it was from Evergreen Park. Chief Baier stated it will be 3-4 months before it is fully equipped and ready to go. This ambulance can be ALS if needed. Chief stated he ordered 5 Knox boxes for public works/water department. Chief gave everyone a summary of the calls for 2022. He stated there was a 66% increase in calls. There were 173 calls in 2021 and 288 in 2022. There is a EMT class starting in February and as of now there are 18 enrolled. Chief Baier stated the council will have an updated ordinance to Amend Title 6, Public Safety, there is just some language that need to be cleaned up. Chief also stated the department is participating in keep the Reef Red which is a fire safety through the holidays. There was some discussion about AED's and purchasing them for the new ambulance, City Hall and Public Works and the Wastewater Plant. **Alderman Cahoe makes a motion to**

**recommend to the Council to purchase 4 AED's and Alderman Garfield seconded.  
Roll call carried 8-0.**

Police Chief Jeremy Douglas stated his department had 344 calls for service in December. There were 4035 calls total for 2022 and 3795 in 2021. Chief stated Sgt Stanley's last day is January 16<sup>th</sup> and this leaves the department 1 officer short. They have 1 on the list and his agility test is next weekend and he is scheduled for the academy May 2 and will graduate August 25<sup>th</sup>. Sgt Harris is now on the afternoon shift. The Police Commission will be starting the application process all over again to get a new list. Chief stated the department has attended a series of training through Harbor House and they have 1 left to finish on Friday. Chief stated the department hosted shop with a cop and they had about 25 kids to take shopping with donated monies and McDonalds donated a meal for all. Chief reported he is still looking into mobile speed enforcement units. He is looking at grants and he has received information that schools can apply for these grants also. A new unit would cost \$7,000 to \$8,000. Chief Douglas reported he has been looking into prices for a new squad. The 2016 Charger is starting to have some mechanical problems so he contacted a couple of dealerships and he was told there is a shortage of units and in order to get a vehicle you need to order by September to get it the following September. Chief stated a new Tahoe will cost about \$42,000-\$45,000 and a new Explorer is about \$39,000-\$41,000 and he believes the Explorers are better on gas mileage. The committee is ok with Chief getting prices. Chief Douglas reported the department needs a new computer for Sgt. Harris as he is now doing the scheduling and he can keep K9 records on it. He is sharing an office with Sgt. Puleo. Chief reported he has 5 guys going to the active shooter class at the Elks. He also stated the current FOP contract is up 4/2023. Chief Douglas discussed the cameras next. He stated there are 20 cameras and to get them to the cloud the cost is \$1982 with a yearly maintenance fee off \$6174. He stated as the current system goes away they will be switched to the cloud based system. Chief stated Mr. Williams will be here over the weekend to install the car cams, the department is still waiting on the server to get it up and running.

Alderman Barragree makes a motion to adjourn at 7:04 pm and Alderman Cahoe seconded. Roll call carried 8-0.

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John Allhands, Mayor/Chairman