



ELLSWORTH JEWELL STANHOPE POLICE DEPARTMENT

**701 Main Street
Jewell, Iowa 50130
(515) 827-5477**

Police Board Minutes April 3rd, 2025

Called meeting to order at 7:00pm at Jewell City Hall with the following members present: Mick Walker, Steve Butler, Kelly Wirtz, Mindy Hetland, Lori Yager, Jeremy Laube

Public: LaDana Sogard, Brian Phipps, William Funk, Barry Anksorus

Reviewed the minutes from March, 2025

Motion to approve minutes by Wirtz, Walker 2nd, all members were in favor of approving minutes.

Monthly report of activity

Reviewed the monthly activity to include traffic stops, notices served, arrests, etc.

Financial Report

Mayor Wirtz had a question about a line-item expense from digital ally. We are currently leasing one body camera, one in car camera, and cloud storage. This is believed to be an annual expense however I would check and get back to her at the next meeting.

Timecards

It was recommended by Mayor Wirtz to have Mayor Walker approve employee timecards since pay checks are being issued by the city of Jewell. Walker agreed to present future timecards at the meetings. Wirtz would like to have a time off request sheet moving forward.

Personnel

There was insight from the cities about hiring an additional officer. Stanhope and Jewell are in favor of hiring an additional officer. Ellsworth Mayor Yaeger, advised that they are in a contract until June, 2026 and it would depend on how Jewell proceeds with the proposed 28-E agreement that would allow Jewell to have a third vote.

28-E Agreement Discussion

It was presented to the Board by Mayor Walker, an Amendment to the 28-E that would allow the city of Jewell to have a third council member to prevent a tied vote. Currently there are six members and believes there should be seven members. He would like to see one person to be a chairman to run the board meetings and the seventh person to be the secretary and taking minutes. Currently the officers are leading the meetings and taking minutes which can be conflicting at times. Mayor Yager did not feel it was right to allow Jewell to have three votes and has concerns since the city of Jewell would have more coverage than Stanhope and Ellsworth. Members from Stanhope and Jewell advised that would not be the case, officers will patrol the towns and problematic areas regardless of who pays more. Public input from Barry Anksorus, suggested in response to the purposed 28-E amendment, the third councilman or woman from Jewell could be utilized to take minutes of the meeting and if ever a tie



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vote occurred then that person could be the tie breaker. The board members were receptive to the idea and appreciated his input.

Personnel and Record Retention

Prior to Chief Turpen ending his employment, his personnel file was missing. It was determined at the March police board meeting, that Mayor's Wirtz, Walker and Officer Morton were to meet Chief Turpen at the department to turn in his equipment on March 17th at 3:00pm. However, the evening of March 16th, the board received an email from Chief Turpen thanking Mayor Yager for assisting him turn in his equipment. Mayor's Walker and Wirtz expressed concern that they were not informed and wanted an explanation as to why they were not notified of the date change and why the personnel file was taken without the knowledge or consent of the board. Mayor Yaeger advised that on March 16th, 2025, she was contacted by Chief Turpen to assist in turning in his equipment. After taking inventory, Turpen made a copy of his personnel file for personal use and gave her the original file to hold as he was concerned someone could tamper with it. The file contains sensitive information about the employee and should not have left the department. It was also determined that Yaeger stored the file in Ellsworth City Hall and made an additional copy of the file. The board discussed that the file being taken in this manner gives the appearance of misconduct, bordering on a criminal offense. It was decided from here on out that all personnel files should be retained by the Jewell City clerk, who was appointed by the board as the custodial of employment records for the EJSPD.

Next Meeting will be held May 1, 2025, at 7:00pm

City Concerns

None at this time.

Public Comments

Ellsworth Councilman Brian Phipps advised safety of the community is highly important and prefers not to leave the police department.

Ellsworth Councilwoman LaDana Sogard advised she has concerns with their cities budget as they have a large expense with a new water tower, and that she would like to speak with the surrounding towns that have been contracting with the sheriff's office to gain their input.

Adjourn

Yager motioned to adjourn, Laube 2nd, meeting adjourned at 8:55pm, all in favor.