WEST LAFAYETTE POLICE MERIT COMMISSION
MINUTES
January 14, 2008

The West Lafayette Police Merit Commission met in regular session at City Hall Lower Level Conference Room on January 14, 2008 at 7:30 pm

Police Merit Commission Vice President Leverenz called the meeting to order and presided.

The Pledge of Allegiance was repeated.

PRESENT: Commissioners Don Corrigan, Larry Leverenz, Robert Troyer, Jill Suitor, and Jon Hoggatt.

ALSO PRESENT: Commission Counsel Brooks, Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes, Police Chief Dombkowski, Former Commissioner Weber, Former Commissioner Polles, City Council President Hunt, City Council Member Keen, one member of the Police Department, and four members of the public. No members of the media were present.

APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL

Commissioner Corrigan moved "to appoint Tom Brooks as Commission Counsel." Commissioner Troyer seconded the motion. Tom Brooks was appointed as Commission Counsel by a unanimous decision.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A. Commissioner Corrigan nominated Commission Leverenz to be President. Commissioner Troyer seconded the nomination. Commissioner Leverenz was elected as President by a unanimous vote.

B. Commissioner Hoggatt nominated Commissioner Corrigan to be Vice President. Commissioner Troyer seconded the nomination. Commissioner Corrigan was elected as Vice President by a unanimous vote.

C. Commissioner Suitor nominated Commissioner Hoggatt to be Secretary. Commissioner Troyer seconded the nomination. Commissioner Hoggatt was elected as Secretary by a unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commission President Leverenz moved "to approve the minutes of December 10, 2007, Executive Session December 12, 2007, and Executive Session December 13, 2007." The motion was adopted.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Commission President Leverenz led a discussion on the promotion exams. Commissioner Corrigan reported that Dr. LeBreton would have the exam materials ready for the February 23, 2008 Sergeant's Exam. Chief Dombkowski reported that there could be as many as 12

officers report to take the exam. Chief Dombkowski stated that the exam date was not yet posted, but would be shortly. It was discussed that the deadline to sign up for the exam would be Friday, February 15, 2008. Commissioner Suitor asked if there was a limit to the number of officers who could be promoted. Chief Dombkowski stated that the number of promotions was based upon need, and he anticipated one opening for Sergeant and one opening for Lieutenant soon. Commission President Leverenz requested one or more commissioners to proctor the exam and availability would be determined at the next meeting. Commissioner Corrigan reported that he would ask Dr. LeBreton to speak to the commission about the exam format at the next regular meeting.

B. Commission President Leverenz asked Commission Counsel Brooks to speak about the role of commissioners. Commission Counsel Brooks reported that merit laws in Indiana provided for the formation of fire and police merit commissions to conduct hiring, firing, promotion, demotion/discipline of officers not in a policy making position. Counsel Brooks stated that the commission must follow open door laws and that three members constitute a quorum.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Commission President Leverenz appointed Commissioner Corrigan to the awards board.

B. Commission President Leverenz led a discussion on commissioner stipends and suggested a $500.00 a year stipend, paid quarterly. Clerk-Treasurer Rhodes reported that the commission budget needed to be re-shaped to pay for the work by Dr. LeBreton and colleagues and she would work with Commission President Leverenz to incorporate stipends into the budget. Commissioner Corrigan moved "that commissioners receive a $500.00 a year stipend, paid quarterly." Commissioner Suitor seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed.

C. Police Chief Dombkowski provided a request for a lieutenant promotion and stated that when the position was filled he anticipated a need for a sergeant promotion. Commissioner Corrigan reported that the commission needs to conduct interviews for the Lieutenant position.

D. Police Chief Dombkowski provided a written report of the current state of the department and stated that there would be a department-wide meeting on January 16, 2008. Chief Dombkowski reported that a probationary officer may be called for duty by the Army Reserves and requested that the commission investigate precedence and provide a recommendation as to how to proceed with the probationary period of the officer.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Larry Leverenz
President

Jon Hoggatt
Secretary

WEST LAFAYETTE POLICE MERIT COMMISSION
Meeting Agenda, January 14, 2008
7:30 P.M., Lower Level Conference Room, City Hall

Opening

Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call
Election of Officers
- Pres:
- VP:
- Sec:

Approval of Counsel
Approval of Minutes for Meeting, December 10, 2007
Approval of Minutes for Executive Session, December 12, 2007
Approval of Minutes for Executive Session, December 13, 2007

Old Business

Promotion Exam:
- Update on contract
  - Dr. James LeBreton,
  - Industrial Psychology Department
  - Purdue University
- Update on exams (Sgt. & Lt.)
  - Sgt exam: Feb 23
  - Lt exam:

New Business

Chief's Report:

Items from the Floor

Public Comments

Announcements

February meeting will be followed by a tour of the Police Department.

Adjournment