

WEST LAFAYETTE POLICE MERIT COMMISSION MINUTES

March 12, 2012

The West Lafayette Police Merit Commission met in regular session in the Lower Level Conference Room of City Hall on March 12, 2012 at 7:00 pm.

Commission President Corrigan called the meeting to order and presided.

PRESENT: Commissioners Corrigan, Troyer, and Shafer.

ABSENT: Commissioners Kirkpatrick and No.

ALSO PRESENT: Commission Attorney Brooks, Police Chief Dombkowski, Deputy Chief Leroux, and Lieutenant Watson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Troyer asked for approval of the minutes of the February 13, 2012 regular meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Shafer. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote. Commissioner Shafer asked for approval of the minutes of the February 20, 2012 executive session meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Troyer. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

New Hiring Process Update:

Commission President Corrigan proposed that the hiring process be continued. There are currently five people to be considered for employment interviews by the Merit Commission. A special meeting on March 26th, 2012 at 6:30 has been set to conduct interviews. The meeting will be in the West Lafayette Police Department's conference room. Commission Attorney Brooks will prepare notice of the meeting and Deputy Chief Leroux will notify Diane Foster, Human Resources, of such meeting. Discussion was made in reference to assisting Diane Foster in coming up with a solution to potential applicants emailing and phoning her in regard to their status of employment.

Deputy Chief Leroux said that in February, the police department requested a name from the Commission and the Commission provided the name of applicant Aaron Thompson. By Commission rule, the Police Department went back and re-performed physical agility testing on Aaron Thompson and refreshed his background from the time it was completed previously until current. Aaron Thompson successfully completed both of those phases. The West Lafayette Police Department is requesting that Aaron Thompson be considered for employment with our agency. Commission Attorney

Brooks requested a motion for conditional employment of Aaron Thompson. There were questions in regard to PERF. Aaron Thompson has already been through the police academy and is currently in PERF as he is currently a Delphi police officer. PERF actually has the final "say so" as to whether or not the applicant gets accepted to become an officer with our agency.

Commissioner Troyer moved for the motion to approve for conditional employment, and Commissioner Shafer seconded that motion. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Shafer had questions in regard to the interview process and questions. Commissioner Shafer asked the Merit Board to start looking for a set of questions that are routine for all candidates for interviews. Commissioner Shafer would like a procedure for interviewing of potential police officers. It was discussed that a future time the Merit Board would have a meeting to discuss that procedure.

Rule Changes were passed out by Commission Attorney Brooks. The rule changes are in regard to: Rule 38 of Rules of Conduct; taking out the words "land line" as far as phone service is concerned and the other rule is under the Awards Section; in reference to the Merit Awards bar, Deputy Chief Leroux would like to take out the size specifications for the recognition bar as it is no longer available for purchase in that specific size. The Merit Commission will vote on the new rules at next month's meeting.

The Awards Committee has met and voted to send a request to the Merit Commission to award a silver merit award per recommendation from the Police Department, to Officer Dunscomb. Lt. Vanvactor wrote a citation for recommendation on Officer Dunscomb's behalf, for his actions during a fire in which he pulled a person out of the fire possibly jeopardizing himself in the process. Chief Dombkowski felt that his actions met the criteria for the Silver Merit Award. Commissioner Troyer moved that the motion be approved. Commissioner Shafer seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed by a voice vote. The award will be presented before the Merit Board Meeting on April 9th at 6:30pm in the City Council Chambers. Commission Attorney Brooks will prepare the notice.

Chief's Report:

Merit Commission President Corrigan inquired as to the disciplinary action of an officer. Officer Ridge was given a two day suspension.

Chief Dombkowski reported that there was a decrease in calls for service due to mild weather.

The drug drop off program is quite successful and the Police Department is planning to continue it each month. There have been an approximately 100 to 150 people each month dropping off prescription drugs and over the counter drugs since its inception.

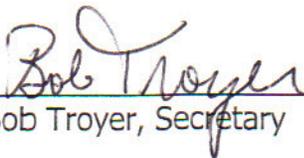
The West Lafayette Police Department participated in a Winter Carnival in which officers fingerprinted children and gave safety talks as well. Chief Dombkowski also participated in the "Polar Plunge" which benefits The Special Olympics.

Chief Dombkowski presented pictures to Commission Shafer of his swearing in ceremony.

There was some realignment in the police department. Captain Leroux was appointed to Deputy Chief. Captain Dan Marvin has been appointed to being Captain of Special Services. Captain Francis is currently on loan to the West Lafayette Fire Department.

Commission President Corrigan brought up the issue of payment for the current recording secretary of the Merit Commission. It was decided that Commission President Corrigan would talk with Clerk-Treasure Rhodes in regards to that issue.

Commissioner Troyer moved that the meeting be adjourned and Commissioner Kirkpatrick seconded it. It was passed by a unanimous voice vote.



Bob Troyer, Secretary

Attest:



Don Corrigan, President