

WEST LAFAYETTE POLICE MERIT COMMISSION MINUTES  
January 12, 2015

The West Lafayette Police Merit Commission met in regular session in Room 211 at the Morton Center on January 12, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

PRESENT: Commission President Shafer, Commissioner No, Commissioner Corrigan, Commissioner Troyer and Commissioner Kirkpatrick.

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Dombkowski, Deputy Chief Leroux, Lt. Watson, Sgt. Choate, Eric Burns and Tom Brooks

Commission President Shafer called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commission President Shafer asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the December meeting. Commissioner Troyer made a motion for approval of the minutes of the December meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kirkpatrick. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

Commission President Shafer asked for nominations for the election of Merit Board Commissioners. Commissioner Troyer nominated Tom Shafer for President with Commissioner Corrigan seconding the motion. It was a unanimous voice vote. Commissioner Troyer nominated Commissioners No and Corrigan for the offices they currently hold with Commissioner Kirkpatrick seconding the motion with a unanimous voice vote.

Commission President Shafer asked for a motion to approve a promotional testing date of February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015 with an alternate date of February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Commissioner Kirkpatrick made that motion with Commissioner Troyer seconding it. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote. Commissioners Kirkpatrick and Corrigan will be available to attend the testing. Commission President stated that the tests/questions had been updated relative to Indiana law/statutes. Commissioner Kirkpatrick asked who updated the questions on the test and Commission President Shafer explained that it was Captain Sparger that did the research and updated the questions. It was explained that the Indiana Statutes and structure of the law changed this year and Captain Sparger was in charge of the changes to the tests. There were no department policy changes relevant to the testing so there were no changes to those questions on the test. Deputy Chief Leroux will be giving a thumb drive with the West Lafayette Police Department policy changes to the Merit Commission by the end of the week.

Commission President Shafer asked for an interview date for the promotional applicants. There was discussion about having it on February 9<sup>th</sup>, the regular commission meeting night, either before the meeting or instead of the meeting. Commissioner Kirkpatrick was concerned about the number of applicant interviews there might be and the time element. Lt. Watson said that he would expect there to be 15 applicants at the most. Commission Attorney Brooks said that there needs to be an executive session posted at least 48 hours ahead of the interview date.

Commission President Shafer asked to have Lt. Watson discuss the applicant testing that occurred on January 10<sup>th</sup>. There were 28 invited to test with 15 showing up. There were 2 lost to the physical testing so 13 applicants took the written test. There were no females or active officers. There were jail officers, a dispatcher and 1 minority that tested. Lt. Watson expects to have the test results back by Friday, Jan 16<sup>th</sup>.

Commission President Shafer wanted to have a discussion in regard to changing our promotional test questions. Do we need to change the test for 2016 or do we need to adopt a new bank of questions before that. Commissioner Kirkpatrick stated that she felt like she didn't have adequate information on the current test so she can't make a decision on that issue. She wondered how many total questions were on the test, and how many rotations the test could be used. She doesn't know how the questions are rotated in to the test. Deputy Chief Leroux also was concerned as well about the length of time the test can be used. There was discussion about having someone go through the test so that could be the decision was made to have Captain Sparger go over the test and the validity of the questions, and Capt. Marvin and Captain Sparger did so. Should it be taken out of the hands of the police department and have the commission take over the test? The department has taken out the questions that are no longer accurate and replaced them with valid questions as it pertains to Indiana Law and Statutes that have changed. Attorney Brooks asked how it was decided what questions were on the test in 2014. Commission President Shafer said that he and Captain Sparger chose the questions based on percentages. Commission President Shafer proposed having a committee formed to start looking at obtaining new tests. It was suggested to explore the psychology department at Purdue because they create tests for the entire country. Commission President asked if there was anyone on the commission that would chair the committee with Commissioner Kirkpatrick volunteering to do that.

#### CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Dombkowski said that the Narcotics Unit activated a search warrant at the 100 block of East Stadium and locating anabolic steroids and marijuana which led to the arrest of one suspect. A lot of PR work done in the month of December. Captain Sparger spoke to International Students in the Purdue Village. Purdue Police have asked the department to be more involved with this type of things. The Police

Department also sponsored "Shop with a Cop" at Walmart with 30 children participating.

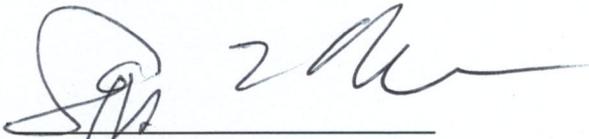
Chief Dombkowski was asked about when the Officer of the Quarter and Officer of the Year will be announced. The presentation will be at the Council Meeting on Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 for both of those awards.

NEW BUSINESS:

Attorney Brooks announced transitioning was going to start for City Attorney Burns into the Merit Commission to act as the attorney. Mr. Burns and his office will be the representative counsel for the Commission. Commissioner Kirkpatrick asked about the possibility of disciplinary action and how it would pertain to Mr. Burns and his representing the WLPD and the Merit Commission. There was discussion in regard to that issue and it was explained how that particular incident would work.

There was a motion for adjournment by Commissioner Troyer with Commissioner Kirkpatrick seconding that motion. There was unanimous voice vote.

The next meeting will be held on February 9th, 2015 at 7:00 pm at the Morton Center.

  
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Dr. Song No, Secretary

Attest:

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Thomas Shafer, President