

WEST LAFAYETTE POLICE MERIT COMMISSION MINUTES
April 13, 2015

The West Lafayette Police Merit Commission met in regular session in Room 211 at the Morton Center on April 13, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

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

ABSENT: Commission Kirkpatrick

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Dombkowski, Lt. Watson and Attorney Eric Burns

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commission President Shafer called the meeting to order. Commission President Shafer asked for a motion to approve both sets of minutes for March. Commissioner Troyer moved that the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Corrigan. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

We have two officers that the Commission needs to interview for promotions on April 25th at 1:45pm.

New hire testing will be Saturday, April 18th at 9:00 at the West Lafayette High School track. Commission President Shafer asked Lt. Watson to discuss the number of applicants coming to test. Lt Watson said that there were 34 applicants invited and at this time 5 have emailed and will not be attending. Lt. Watson says that he expects about half of the applicants to show up for the testing.

Commission President Shafer asked for a report on the recent hires as far as the FTO program. Chief Dombkowski said that we currently have two in the FTO program. One is progressing a little faster than the other, and he expects one will be out of the FTO program soon, and the other will probably take the most part of the summer. Both graduated the academy on March 13th, with Officer Gaeta graduating as Valedictorian of the class of 126. This was the largest class of military veterans as well as college graduates. Chief Dombkowski and Lt. Watson spoke of how proud the police department is of Officer Gaeta's accomplishment. Officer Glick is about halfway through rotation two. Officer Gaeta's almost through with rotation one and will be advancing to rotation two next week. It's going to be a busy time with the two recent graduates and the two recent hires for the FTO program. The two new applicants will be going to PERF on Friday and hopefully ready to start by mid-May.

Chief Dombkowski spoke to Officer Gaeta recently and he plans on moving into the city of West Lafayette and has already started the process of purchasing a house, which will then qualify him for the feeder program in which he will have a take home car. He will be the second new hire to qualify for that program which will mean having more visibility in neighborhoods of officers. There are a couple more current officers that have their homes for sale and are planning on doing the same and qualifying for the program.

Commission President Shafer asked Chief Dombkowski to speak about future departmental promotions and new hires. Chief Dombkowski said that he has indications from two ranking officers with intent to retire this year, probably before mid-summer. He says that there are two more ranking officers that intend to retire in 2016 so we will start to see some changes in the department. Between 1995 and 1998, the department lost a significant number of officers due to retirement and he sees that happening again before long. He commented that that will keep the department younger and fresher. It is Chief Dombkowski's opinion that is why the promotional interviews and the certified list are very important for this process. Commission President Shafer asked about the certified list and the turnaround time of the list. Mr. Burns said that it should be available the next day. Commissioner No asked if the retirements were voluntary and Chief Dombkowski said that they were. He explained the equation for the retirement process regarding age and years of service.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

There were 2500 calls for service for the month of March. The police department participated in the OPO program. We were given 100 hours in March which netted 13 OWI arrests. Grand Prix will be in two weeks, there will be OPO and a check point which he invited the commission to participate and observe. The addition of Bike Patrol coordinating with Purdue Police Department during the week at lunch hour in the Village.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commission President Shafer asked Chief Dombkowski to speak about the dispatch center changing location. Chief Dombkowski said they will be changing location because of a mandatory reband, upgrade of equipment called Project 25 across the state, and because all the equipment has to be replaced and is being replaced with 911 funds, we saw the opportunity with recent events of annexation and some large profile events on the campus where we weren't communicating as we should, we started talks with Purdue about combining dispatch centers. Because of the location of our dispatch, it has been decided that it would be more beneficial to combine dispatch with Purdue dispatch. It will be located at the Purdue Police Department. The move will be done sometime in July hopefully.

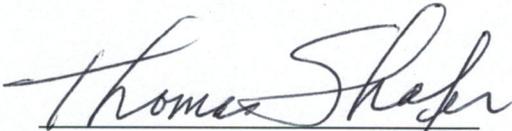
Commission President Shafer asked Commissioner Corrigan if any progress had been made on the committee put together to determine whether or not there should be new questions for testing. Commissioner Corrigan said that there had not been a meeting yet to discuss that subject.

Commission President Shafer asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Troyer made that motion with Commissioner No seconding it. The motion was passed with a unanimous voice vote.

The next meeting will be held on May 11th, 2015 at 7:00 pm at the Morton Center.

Dr. Song No, Secretary

Attest:



Thomas Shafer, President