

WEST LAFAYETTE POLICE MERIT COMMISSION MINUTES  
June 8, 2015

The West Lafayette Police Merit Commission met in regular session in Room 211 at the Morton Center on June 8, 2015 at 7:00 pm.

PRESENT: Commission President Shafer, Vice President Corrigan, and Commissioner Kirkpatrick.

ABSENT: Commissioner No and Commissioner Troyer

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Dombkowski, Sgt. Choate and Attorney Zach Williams.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Commission President Shafer passed out a spreadsheet showing the last 3 years of promotional testing and based on the percentages staying fairly consistent, his suggestion is that the commission use the same bank of questions for another year. There was discussion in regard to this with Commissioner Kirkpatrick having questions about the spreadsheet, which she will discuss with Human Resource Director Foster at a later date. Commissioner Corrigan suggested that everyone review Article 5 – Promotional Testing – to really understand the issues.

Commission President Shafer wanted to have a conversation about the recent applicants that passed the physical and written testing, but did not pass the interview process.

Chief Dombkowski had information about the new hires. There were two officers that are due to be sworn in on Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at the Council meeting. The officers are Quentin Phelps, 26 year old Purdue grad, and Uriah Heath Crawford who also worked at Purdue. They are scheduled to attend the Police Academy in July and will be there for 15 weeks. Chief Dombkowski said that he will have a need for officers on the candidate due to the retirement of one to two more officers.

Sgt. Choate explained that he spoke with several of the officers that interviewed the candidates from the recent testing process and it was unanimous that the five

candidates interviewed were not up to WLPD standards and that is why they were not passed on.

There was much discussion about how to get individuals to sign up for the testing process and recruitment of potential quality officers for WLPD. Chief Dombkowski explained that every surrounding department is having the same issues with recruiting of quality potential officers. Sgt. Choate discussed the potential of Lt. Gallagher reaching out to the department heads at Purdue for potential candidates. Lt. Gallagher is in charge of the Intern program Commissioner Kirkpatrick is very interested in having the people in the intern program be a potential candidate for becoming an officers. Much discussion in regard to that issue. Sgt. Choate discussed how all over the country there is a huge lack of people interested in becoming a police officer for a variety of reasons. Many departments are experiencing a lack of interest in finding people that want to become officers.

Chief Dombkowski discussed the two new programs that WLPD is offering its officers, one is the take home car if you live in the city and the other program is the education potential. Chief Dombkowski said these are unique to West Lafayette and that we should do a better job of promoting those programs. Lt. Watson, Lt Harris and Sgt. Choate have all been discussing new areas of recruitment and Commission President Shafer would like to be in that discussion when it occurs next.

There is definitely a need to get more people on the hiring list as there are currently no names on the list. The Commission has approved that the police department can schedule the hiring process when they see fit. Chief Dombkowski discussed that the possibility of him "calling" for 2 names before summer is over from the hiring list.

#### CHIEF'S REPORT:

Calls for service for the month of were up, 2500 calls. Patrol Officers made two arrests for burglaries in the West Lafayette area, which will probably clear more burglary cases in the Lafayette and Tippecanoe County area.

WLPD and WLFD and TCPD had training in May for the use of Narcan which aids when there is a heroin overdose. The officers will carry the Narcan in their vehicles/persons as will the WLFD and use it when it deems necessary.

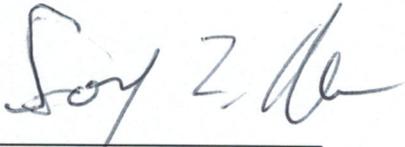
Twenty two citizens graduated from the Citizen Police Academy which was held at WLPD and lasted 10 weeks. The program was well received and WLPD will probably hold at least one more class in the year 2016. Sgt. Cindy Marion facilitated this program. Sgt. Marion will be retiring this June as a police officer and be accepting a new position as a civilian with the police department as an Evidence Manager and also as Programs Director for WLPD.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business to discuss.

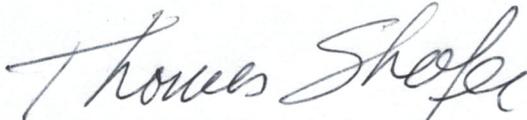
Commission President Shafer asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Kirkpatrick made that motion with Commissioner Corrigan seconding it. The motion was passed with a unanimous voice vote.

The next meeting will be held on July 13, 2015 at 7:00 pm at the Morton Center.



Dr. Song No, Secretary

Attest:



Thomas Shafer, President