

WEST LAFAYETTE POLICE MERIT COMMISSION MINUTES  
July 13, 2015

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

PRESENT: Commission President Shafer, Vice President Corrigan, Commissioner Kirkpatrick and Commissioner No

ABSENT: Commissioner Troyer

ALSO PRESENT: Deputy Chief Leroux, 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 the minutes for the June meeting. Commissioner Corrigan moved that the minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Commissioner No. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

Commission President Shafer met with Sgt. Choate concerning his direction or the direction of the department relative to new officer recruiting. It is President Shafer's opinion that Sgt. Choate had some great ideas. Commission President Shafer asked Deputy Chief Leroux what his thoughts were on the recruiting of new officers. Deputy Chief Leroux said when he talked to Sgt. Choate some of the ideas were business cards, posters, and physical things that the department can put out there when there is an opportunity for interaction at presentations, speeches, and other areas of recruitment. There is an app that the department has that can be used on phones so the "younger generation" can download it receive information about the department. The app is free and is called "**my pd**". WLPD is currently using the app as a community link, another way to push out information. There is also a financial side to this recruiting and paying for business cards and posters etc. Commission President Shafer said that he talked to Eric Burns in regard to the finances of the Merit Commission. Mr. Burns said the commission is allowed to use the money in the accounts as we choose. Commission President Shafer checked with Tam Holder in regard to how much of the commission has spent during the last two years. The commission has had a budget reserve the last two years. Commission President Shafer asked the board if they would allot some money from the budget for the police department to use for recruiting and recruitment materials. Commissioner Kirkpatrick asked if we could wait until the police department requested the money and to set up a certain amount allotted for police recruiting. Commission President Shafer is concerned that if we have to wait for a request and then have a meeting to decide to do that, the time lapse would be too long.

Commission President Shafer would like to set aside money and when there is a request the money would be available to the police department. Commissioner Kirkpatrick is not comfortable with that idea, and Commission President Shafer asked her to elaborate. Commissioner Kirkpatrick said she would like a specific figure allocated. Eric Burns asked what exactly we would be spending the money on. He said that if it were on advertising, then it is clear the commission could do that. Deputy Chief Leroux explained the budget line items to the commission. Service line items, fees for other types of services, testing etc, equipment lines for merit awards, if you are talking about supplies etc, professional service, public relations. Commission President Shafer said we spent half of the money allotted for public relations and legal services we spent 80%. Eric Burns said that it could go in the public relations services. Commission President Shafer said it isn't going to be that much money...for cards that have information on it about qualifications etc. Shafer said that he would like to propose that the commission would advance some monies for the recruitment process and not have a delay. Commissioner Kirkpatrick would like to give the police department a maximum of \$500. She is comfortable with setting a maximum amount and then if the police department needs more, they could revisit that. Commission President Shafer asked for a motion, and Commissioner Kirkpatrick moved that we make \$500 available to the police department for them to buy or obtain recruitment materials. Commissioner No seconded the motion and it was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Commission President Shafer would like to have Sgt. Choate come in to the next meeting of the Commission to discuss the recruitment status.

Commission President Shafer asked for a report on the new officers. Deputy Chief Leroux said that Officer Gaeta was released on July 8<sup>th</sup>, working night shift on the Blue Nights. Probationary Officer Glick is scheduled to be released to solo patrol on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Two new officers currently in FTO and on July 27<sup>th</sup> will be going to law enforcement academy, which is 15 weeks long. Deputy Chief Leroux asked Lt. Watson to speak on Probationary Officer Glick's performance. Lt. Watson said that Officer Glick is up to par, in the plain-clothes evaluation phase of training and he fully expects him to be released the first week of August. Lt. Watson said at that time the police department won't have anyone in training because the two new officers will be at the law enforcement academy.

Deputy Chief Leroux said the two new officers went down to the Law Enforcement Academy on the 6<sup>th</sup> for their physical fitness assessment test, which you have to pass to get into the academy and they both did very well. Deputy Chief Leroux doesn't expect any problems with them at the academy.

#### CHIEF'S REPORT:

Deputy Chief Leroux apologized for not bringing the chief's report and said he would email the report to the commission tomorrow.

NEW BUSINESS:

Shafer stated that it's important to give all commissioners a heads up on activities within the department that they could attend. So far it's been a hit and miss relative to being informed as to what is going on. He realizes that the officers are very busy but if there is a retirement and he doesn't hear about until the day before there could be a problem getting the other commissioners to attend. Shafer believes that it's important for a representative of the commission to attend officer awards, as well as other events. He asked if it was possible for the commissioners to have an email account at the department. Deputy Chief Leroux said that when we send emails to officers, there's a general group that we send to, and all group and an Officer group, Leroux doesn't believe that the commissioners can be added to the officer group because those emails are for officer's eyes only. He will check into putting the commission in the all group if the Chief approves and if it's possible. Deputy Chief Leroux apologized and said that they will do better about informing the commissioners about upcoming events.

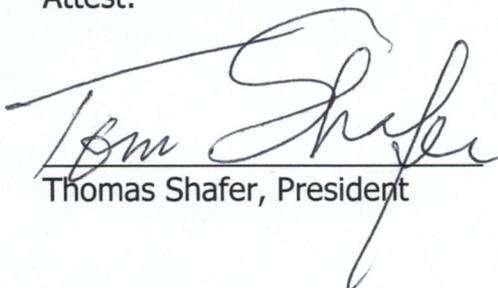
Commission President Shafer asked for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner No made that motion with Commissioner Kirkpatrick seconding it. The motion was passed with a unanimous voice vote.

The next meeting will be held on August 10, 2015 at 7:00 pm at the Morton Center.

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Dr. Song No, Secretary

Attest:



Thomas Shafer, President