

WEST LAFAYETTE POLICE MERIT COMMISSION MINUTES
May 9, 2016

The West Lafayette Police Merit Commission met in regular session at the West Lafayette Morton Community Center on May 9, 2016, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Commission Vice President Corrigan, Commission Secretary Parker, Commissioner Troyer, Commissioner Rollock, and Commission Attorney Burns

ABSENT: None

Attorney Burns stated that Tom Shafer has resigned. Vice President Corrigan asked that the record show that everyone is present.

ALSO PRESENT: Chief Dombkowski and Lieutenant Choate

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice President Corrigan stated that there are two sets of minutes to approve.

Commissioner Troyer moved to accept the minutes of March 14, 2016, meeting. Secretary Parker seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.

Commissioner Troyer moved to accept the minutes of April 11, 2016, meeting. Secretary Parker seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.

RESOLUTION AMENDING THE WEST LAFAYETTE POLICE MERIT COMMISSION RULES AND REGULATIONS CONCERNING MEMBER PROMOTION

Attorney Burns confirmed for Vice President Corrigan that this resolution is in final form and can be voted on tonight. He stated that the amendments are a good clarification.

Commissioner Troyer moved to adopt the Resolution Amending the West Lafayette Police Merit Commission Rules and Regulations Concerning Member Promotion. Secretary Parker seconded the motion.

In response to a question for Commissioner Rollock, Attorney Burns stated that this should go into effect right away, as soon as it is voted on. Attorney Burns noted for the record that there are no members of the public here for public comment, though they could if they were in attendance. Attorney Burns confirmed for Vice President Corrigan that this is to go into the Rules and Regulations book. He stated that there needs to be a discussion about who is keeping and updating the book.

Commissioner Rollock noted that that had received the Rules and Regulations on a flash drive.

Commissioner Troyer stated that since Mr. Shafer has resigned prior to the vote, it needs to be noted on the document. Attorney Burns agreed that the document should show the resignation effective today.

The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Dombkowski reported that April is one of our busiest months, and the Department was up 13% in calls for service. The Grand Prix was a large part of that. He provided details of an incident of an armed robbery where the suspects were quickly apprehended, and noted it was good police work by our officers. He stated that there have been talks with the student population reiterating that they should not be walking alone at night. Chief Dombkowski stated that all of the construction, specifically on State Street and River Road, posed a bit of a challenge, but there were no issues during Grand Prix this year. He noted that we will be dealing with that for a few years until construction progress is made in that area. He reported that the Neighborhood Resource Team has also been busy with over 240 calls for service in April. Chief Dombkowski reported that there are two police officers graduating from Purdue on a program that the City Council approved four or five years ago. Captain Sparger is graduating with a bachelor's degree in history. Lieutenant Gallagher is graduating with a master's degree in technology. He stated that we are a better department for that, and other agencies have a similar program. He explained that not all classes are covered, and the classes have to be pertinent to their job description. Chief Dombkowski reported that one of newest officers, Officer Swanson, sang the national anthem at a Purdue softball game. Chief Dombkowski, Vice President Corrigan, and Lieutenant Choate discussed the current status of the four newest officers.

Vice President Corrigan asked if the Department is at maximum staffing.

Chief Dombkowski responded that there are no openings, but Nancee Hetrick is retiring on June 9. He noted that Officer Hetrick will be the longest-serving officer in our department's history, and she epitomizes what it means to be a dedicated public servant.

Vice President Corrigan asked if there are enough people on the list to fill the vacancy.

Commissioner Troyer stated that another process will be run on June 11 to add to that list and get as many names as we can.

Chief Dombkowski stated that there is one officer, Octavio Gaeta, who is an Air Force reservist who has been deployed for a period of five months.

Vice President Corrigan asked for information regarding a body that was found in the Celery Bog, and Chief Dombkowski responded that it was a suicide.

The Commission members discussed the possibility of having awards to recognize retiring officers.

Commissioner Rollock asked, regarding the increase in service calls, if it is what the Department expects every year.

Chief Dombkowski responded that we increase every year. He noted that we are doing some things that were not done in the past, including a lot of quality of life services, and being more pro-active.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Troyer stated that with the resignation of President Shafer, he motioned to nominate Vice President Corrigan to become the President of the Merit Commission. Secretary Parker seconded the motion.

Vice President Corrigan refused the nomination.

Commissioner Troyer motioned to nominate Commissioner Rollock to become the President of the Merit Commission. Vice President Corrigan seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.

President Rollock stated that another member will need to be appointed.

Chief Dombkowski stated that Deputy Chief Harris plans to ask the Board of Works to have a date approved for an election date.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Troyer motioned to adjourn the meeting, and President Rollock adjourned the meeting.



Kathy Parker, Secretary

Attest:



David Rollock, President