



City of Highland Park

Board of Police and Fire Commissioners

Return to Excellence

Hubbert Yopp

Mayor

BOARD OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of March 17, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm by Chairman Ryan Johnson.

Roll Call:

Present: Chairman Ryan Johnson, Commissioner RJ Watkin, Commissioner Michael Curis, Commissioner/Secretary Erica George, Chief Erik Hollowell, Deputy Chief Holcomb, Director Lackey

Absent: Commissioner Hicks

Open Remarks

Chairman: We will be submitting things to the city's attorney after a meeting last week with the Mayor and I will submit some things next week.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of January 27, 2021, were approved.

Fire Department

Chief Hollowell: We had a fire yesterday and Hamtramck responded. The building on six mile is now vacant and they will board up the first level windows and doors.

Watkins: Is this the building you had to close down?

Chief Hollowell: Yes.

Watkins: Where did the people go?

Chief Hollowell: I called Red Cross to get temporary shelter.

Watkins: Is it shut down permanently?

Chief Hollowell: I have been told this section of the building is being closed down and the other two sections are still functioning. The Mayor has me on the COVID statistics. The city has had 427 cases and 29 deaths. I was able to reduce overtime and hired two new guys.

Chairman: Are the numbers from 2020 to current?

Chief Hollowell: Jan. 1, 2020 to current. I do not have the stats for 2020. I can send Erica the statistics.

Police Department

Deputy Chief Holcomb: There was a violation that was substantiated in an investigation dealing with an arrest of a woman. The officer was called to a domestic violence run. It was an

argument. A male counterpart entered the room which should not have happened after the women locked herself in the room. We asked for a three day suspension and the acting officer was going to get a verbal. It was a violation of her fourth amendment rights. She did obtain a lawyer at this point.

Commissioner Watkins: What was the reason for her arrest?

Holcomb: There was no reason for her arrest. We did have another investigation regarding an officer's narcotics use. We are almost at the end of this investigation and the officer is suspended. We have two investigations of officers off duty regarding a chase. The chase policy appeared to be violated, I have investigated, and we will issue some type of reprimand for that matter.

Chairman: Lackey, you sent a complaint on February 19th with 185 Manchester and a vehicle was impounded on February 18th. Ms. Dorr was the citizen. I will email and have you follow up by next meeting Deputy Chief.

Holcomb: I am not aware of this complaint but I will follow up and report on it next meeting.

Commissioner Watkins: We seem to have a lot of complaints. Is this typical?

Commissioner George: We are getting to a point again where we are receiving these complaints.

Chairman: I believe once I left the commission got away from receiving complaints but we do want to review them.

Commissioner Curis: For the first complaint, we will need to see what direction Terry Ford is going in since the person has an attorney.

Holcomb: He has a copy of the whole investigation. Mr. Ford put the complaint in Chief and I hands to handle.

Commissioner Curis : This seems like a light disciplinary for only three days off.

Holcomb: The officer is a new supervisor and still on probation, which will be extended. She will also go to some training.

Chairman: Are you all doing progressive disciplinary?

Holcomb: Yes. We are working on getting people finished in the academy.

Chairman: I think in more serious cases we will see more disciplinary or different action taken.

Commissioner Curis: How much is the academy? Are these reserve officers? Are they from Highland Park?

Holcomb: The cost is \$4,000. Yes reserves and yes from HP.

Commissioner Curis: If any of the HP residents want to go tot he academy I would sponsor it.

Watkins: Age?

Holcomb: There are no age requirements. Thank you Commissioner Curis. I will let them know.

Chairman: As long as you can pass a physical then technically there are no other requirements.

Internal Affairs

Lackey: The last complaint we got was about a traffic pursuit. It was a person speeding at 106 miles per hour. Chief Holcomb will be handling this complaint. I have been in contact with the State Police about Law Enforcement Information Network (LIEN).

Commissioner Watkins: What is LIEN?

Chairman: This is a information system for the law enforcement to access.

Lackey: We had a minor arrested. This investigation I believe led to substantiated charges. Based upon this incident, this investigation was conducted by the police department's supervisor. I believe the actions of these police officers violated some laws.

Commission Affairs

Commissioner Curis: One of the interesting things that came out of our meeting last week with the Mayor and city attorney when I asked about police and fire lawsuits. He believes lawsuits were \$2,500. I think that is a remarkable number and they are fighting those lawsuits.

Chairman: We met with the Mayor and city attorney to add roles and responsibilities to the commission. The police department will be charged to put those documents together then we will review it. The goal is to expand the roles and responsibilities. We will send out correspondence to the citizens. I think this was a very productive meeting.

Commissioner Curis: We want to interact with the community in a positive manner. I would like to be apart of the block club meetings and let them know who we are.

Chairman: Yes. Be looking out for the correspondence because your input is very valuable. Erica, send the minutes over to the Mayor, city attorney and city clerk.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 21, 2021, 6:00pm, 2nd Floor Conference Room, City Hall

cc: City Clerk