



CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK

BOARD OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Return to Excellence

Hubbert Yopp
Mayor

BOARD OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of April 18, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm by Chairman Napoleon.

Roll Call:

Present: Chairman Napoleon, Commissioner Watkins, Commissioner Hicks; Secretary Erica George, Chief Logan, Sgt. Payne, Haley, Charles Lackey

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of March 21, 2018, were approved.

Police Department

Lackey: "We got the Axon system for body and vehicle cameras. The body cameras came first and installed. The vehicle cameras will be installed at the end of the month. In the vehicle, you will have cameras in the front and rear end of the vehicle."

Chairman: "Please explain why we went with Axon."

Lackey: "Axon allowed the camera devices to be activated (all within 30 feet) when weapons are out of holsters."

Commissioner Watkins: "What makes it malfunction?"

Lackey: "Low power. All cameras are off site. You have the ability to redact which means you can do voice alteration, blur a citizen's face, etc. to protect their privacy. Now I will show you a live video from the camera system."

Chairman: "How accessible is the data?"

Lackey: "I can access it immediately. The cameras can be in buffering mode and go sixty seconds in the past."

Chairman: "Does this camera recording go straight to the courts?"

Lackey: "Yes. In the video, you see the electronic ticket. Also, the audio is superb. Each body camera has two cameras."

Chairman: "How durable? Is the casing metal or plastic?"

Lackey: "Its military equipped. You can go thirty feet in the water it will record. We have a warranty. The covering is plastic."

Commissioner Hicks: "Will there be any training? Are the police on board?"

Lackey: "I held a training on how to operate the system and I had some officers during the process I got them ready to be used."

Chairman: "How are they issued?"

Lackey: "They are assigned to officers by police names. The officers can sync their phones to the body cameras through an app then review their recordings. They can not alter anything. Also, the data of times and dates we can get a report to hold up in court."

Chairman: "If the defense challenges the recording especially with the holding site of data not being here, how do we support chain of custody?"

Lackey: "On the report I was monitoring, it tells us who operates the camera, who started the recording, etc."

Commissioner Watkins: "Can the system be hacked?"

Lackey: "Anything can be hacked but due to the security of this system it is highly unlikely. Also, recordings will never auto delete."

Commissioner Hicks: "Are officers trained to start the cameras as soon as a stop is made?"

Lackey: "Yes. Also, they can not record each other in the station unless meeting with a citizen or any other expectation of privacy. Now I will show a traffic stop at night. This officer is still in training. In this video, we must make sure all officers turn on their cameras prior to the stop which is apart of the policy that all officers received."

Commissioner Hicks: "Are you giving officers leniency if they do not turn on the cameras as according to policy?"

Lackey: "Yes, since we just got these cameras."

Chairman: "Who has access?"

Lackey: "Detective bureau and supervisors up have access to the file. The officers can review only their personal cameras. If someone who has access which is only a few to alter the video it will send an email to all those who have access stating who is altering the video."

Chief Logan: "We have a virtual academy training that police can utilize."

Lackey: "I can show you a brief introduction of the virtual trainings."

Chairman: "How long are the videos?"

Lackey: "The trainings can be two to nine hours long. Each officer has their own log in. They can log in at the station or at home."

Commissioner Hicks: "Do they get certificates?"

Lackey: "Yes, they have to pass a quiz at the end of each training."

Chief Logan: "If the commission wants the department to be trained on something specific then we can do that."

Chairman: "Is it a fee?"

Commissioner Hicks: "Do you have to have a license?"

Chief Logan: "The fee is under \$3,500. There is a fee for the computer that stores the licensing."

Lackey: "Yes, it's a small fee. We pay a fee annually."

Haley: "We would not spend our shift on a nine hour training. We could break the trainings up during our shift."

Commissioner Hicks: "Do we have any updates on the threat to schools recently?"

Chief Logan: "We had active shooter calls which was happening nationally. Right after this spring break we had a lot but many of it died down with no suspects. We met with the principals and administration."

Commissioner Hicks: "In schools, should you evacuate with an active shooter?"

Chief Logan: "You could or you could find shelter in the school and risk the shooter killing many at one time. We would assemble a SRT team but that takes time."

Commissioner Hicks: "Is the protocol to evacuate the building?"

Chief Logan: "The administration is the first person to make that call typically."

Chairman: "It is difficult to make that call because it depends on the make up of the building, where you are at and where an active shooter is located. Many of these shootings are someone familiar with the building."

Fire Department

Sgt. Payne: "I am from the Arson Team. Historically, prior to 2009 we had no arson team in Highland Park. Since 2009, it has been two of us trained by the state. Once Chief Coney came on board, we now have a police trained fire fighter instead of us having to bring the police department into complete investigation. We are also evidence trained. We wanted to get o the police academy but due to funding we have not been able too. Currently, we do have a person trained to begin completing investigation with the police department. It will eventually be four of us. Recently, we updated our cameras, lap tops, drones and tablets. We are in the process to get someone trained on the drone. It is new so we do not have a policy yet."

Chairman: "I agree it must be a policy before we use it."

Chief Logan: "You need a FAA approval."

Sgt. Payne: "We just got it but we have contacted Detroit to see what we need in our policy."

Chief Logan: "I have always said the police department needed drones so I am happy the fire department is taking lead. I think it will help our response time."

Commissioner Hicks: "What are the arson numbers?"

Sgt. Payne: "From January to now we have eighteen. I do not have what was accidental or on purpose."

Commissioner Watkins: "Any fatal fires?"

Sgt. Payne: "One right now."

Chairman: "How do we do investigation with car fires?"

Sgt. Payne: "Only if it is fatal. Anything else the insurance company will investigate."

Chairman: "How many car fires?"

Sgt. Payne: "Ten years ago we averaged twenty a month. Now only eighteen since January. Last year we had approximately thirty car fires."

Chairman: "I use to experience people not wanting to pay for extra mileage and set cars on fire especially newer cars."

Sgt. Payne: "Those are the cases we let the insurance companies investigate."

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:08pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 23, 2018, 6:00pm, 2nd Floor Conference Room, City Hall

cc: City Clerk