



CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK

BOARD OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Return to Excellence

Hubbert Yopp
Mayor

BOARD OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of October 16, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 6:12 pm by Chairman Napoleon.

Roll Call:

Present: Chairman Napoleon, Commissioner Watkins, Commissioner Curis, Commissioner Hicks; Secretary Erica George, Sgt. Payne and Commander Charles Lackey

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of September 18, 2019, were approved.

Police Department

Commander Lackey: "We are looking to collaborate with Hamtramck. U have also reached out to Dearborn but no response. I think their system is so new that they do not want to collaborate. Now, we have the online reporting up and running. They are given a temporary number for complaints then once complaint is assigned citizens get a permanent complaint number. We have one new truck here and programmed. The Chief wants to figure out a special design for the trucks. The other two trucks we are working on."

Chairman: "The truck that is ready does not have a logo?"

Lackey: "No, we are working on the logos. I meant to bring the truck to the meeting today but it is locked up in the yard. The mobile finger print reader is now in and available for use."

Commissioner Hicks: "How many readers?"

Lackey: "We only have one. They cost four thousand dollars."

Commissioner Hicks: "How do you distribute it?"

Lackey: "It depends on the call. We just used it an hour ago. It was an overdose case and the citizen lied so we used the finger printer device. For Halloween, we have twenty to thirty officers assigned over three days. Hopefully, we get on the council for blue light. They wanted us to give more details which I think we completed successfully. There are a few citizens' complaints. The Mayor talked about the citizens' complaints coming to the Commission first. I think he wants them to come to you so the community knows and interacts with you all. Currently, we have a vehicle damaged with over one-thousand dollars' worth of repairs and the damages were not reported which can be a felony."

Chairman: "If vehicles are being inspected like they should then this should have been caught and reported."

Lackey: "We put a letter out to officers stating they had a certain time to report it and if not there will be a recommendation of termination. This allowed us to narrow it down when a police officer inspected the vehicle for her shift. In another matter, we have a reserve office in Highland Park that works in at the Detroit detention center. A lady was arrested by Detroit and notices the

Highland Park reserve officer and alleges he sexually harassed her. She does have documented mental challenges. After we investigated we found out a female officer searched her and the male officer she initially accused searched her boyfriend. So, the story did not add up.”

Commissioner Curis: “I was in a meeting with Chief Craig and he wants to have places for officers who struggle because officers are committing suicide frequently. He stated there is one suicide a month in Detroit.”

Lackey: Suicide is the lead cause. We have Employee Assistance Program (EAP) we offer to them.”

Commissioner Watkins: “What do you believe is the cause?”

Lackey: “I believe it is various issues dealing with finances, PTSD, etc. I have talked about this in psychology class and it is a number of issues. This is a priority for Chief Logan and I will mention this is a concern of the Commissioners as well.

Chairman: “Any update on the Detention Center?”

Lackey: “Our legal team were supposed to be finishing up but I was told by Wayne County it was on hold by the CEO. We still have thirty-five thousand dollars’ worth of OSHA fines that need to be attended too. Typically, OSHA will contact you but the proper person never called back so they came out and we were fined for a lot. Sgt. McMann is tasked with this matter.”

Commissioner Hicks: “Where will we get the funds?”

Lackey: “It will come from general funds.”

Chairman: “No, plead poverty.”

Lackey: “We tried to do that already. OSHA does not want to hear any more excuses. We must get this detention center fixed.”

Chairman: “We have to get this done.”

Fire Department

Sgt. Payne: “I am passing out our 2019 run totals and fire investigations for September. We are typically slower in the fall and winter. We use to do our own dispatch but now Detroit does our dispatch. Recently, we did one aide with Detroit but that is it. We do still work with Hamtramck.”

Chairman: “Does dispatch go for fire and police?”

Payne: “No, police does their own dispatch. We do have a dispatch center at the fire station. However we only have seven staff on duty so only six would go to a fire. We may need to collaborate with the police department.”

Commissioner Watkins: “Did Detroit show blatant disrespect to Highland Park fire department?”

Payne: “Yes, you could tell. Detroit would try to move us aside in our own city.”

Chairman: “That is not good. Everyone is tight on man power so it should not be that way. The only other option is seeing if the Chiefs can work it out.”

Payne: “For September, we only had three fires due to vacant single family homes.”

Commissioner Curis: “Why are they still vacant?”

Payne: “Not sure.”

Commissioner Curis: “I heard the developer never finished and the city took them back.”

Payne: “Some are occupied. The two fires off Hamilton were vacant that caught fire, which happened at the same time. Once house was obviously arson and the second home appeared to be set on fire while the fire fighters were fighting the first fire. We have done presentations to Barbara and George Washington Carver Academy schools. Our city tax rating is at a five and the

Chief is trying to get it to down in hopes to lower taxes. We have not been very successful with fire hydrate contractors but this year all hydrates were tested and working properly.”

Chairman: “Are all the fire hydrates flagged?”

Payne: “The flags were more expensive so now we have a red and white pole that glows in the dark on all fire hydrates in the city. We like the poles.”

Commissioner Hicks: “Are we all set for Halloween?”

Payne: “I can not remember the last trash fire we had during Halloween. In the past, we had many volunteers but they cut the volunteers. However, we will still have a greater presence those three days. Truthfully, the fourth of July is the new devils night with people setting fires in comparison to Halloween.”

Commissioner Curis: “Teresa Johnson called me and there were four homes left from development. One developer did not finish it so the city took it and owes money. One home was sold for one-hundred thousand dollars or more so now they need to sell three more.”

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 18, 2019, 6:00 pm, Training Room, Fire Station

cc: City Clerk