



CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK

BOARD OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Return to Excellence

Hubbert Yopp
Mayor

BOARD OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of September 18, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 6:11 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 August 21, 2019, were approved.

Police Department

Lackey: "Lien audit today since 8am to review how we operate since 2016. Most of it was good and moving forward we will be in a good position. First new vehicle out of three will be on the road next week. Currently, it is being wired up and given a professional look. We are ordering a finger printer reader so if anyone does not have identification we can still find out who they are."

Chairman: "Is this system tied to the Secretary of State?"

Lackey: "No, the system used will work 90% of the time. If you have ever been printed for a CPL, daycare, etc. your finger print will be on there."

Commissioner Watkins: "How long has this been out? Can someone refuse?"

Lackey: "It's been out for a while. Yes, someone can refuse but if you do not have your license and operating a vehicle then you can be arrested. We are only ordering one right now. Also, we are renegotiating Axon contracts for body cameras. We did have an officer resign today."

Chairman: "Why did the officer resign?"

Lackey: "He said he could not maintain the seventy-two hours schedule. He is also a criminal defense attorney."

Commissioner Curis: "Do we have any other openings?"

Lackey: "Yes, we had openings before that. We have about ten openings."

Commissioner Watkins: "Did people resign?"

Lackey: "There were various reasons. Some resigned and others under investigation."

Chairman: "Many of these guys do something or get put on suspension."

Lackey: "The officer resigned before we started consequences. We have a reserve officer suspended because he was accused of a serious crime."

Chairman: "What was the crime?"

Lackey: "It was a felonious crime. He pulled a fire arm at a bar."

Commissioner Hicks: "Was he off duty?"

Lackey: "Yes, he said it was in self-defense but it was not reported. I expect the Chief to make a decision soon."

Commissioner Watkins: "If this happened a while ago, why has it come up now or just reported?"

Chairman: "Anytime you pull your gun you must report it. Why did the person he pulled it on not call?"

Lackey: "He was allegedly intoxicated but he did call the police the next day so this is why this matter is all being investigated and a decision to be made soon. Recently, we had a community event for the schools and I was the DJ as well as went out to schools to talk to the students. Currently, we have promoted officers for reserves and chaplains."

Chairman: "How many chaplains?"

Lackey: "We have fifteen chaplains. For chaplains the minimum requirement is ordain or some type of ministerial requirements."

Commissioner Watkins: "Do we need fifteen chaplains?"

Lackey: "As many that you have the better. They go out in the community. Any person in a type of supervisor position must take trainings within sixty days."

Commissioner Watkins: "Do they carry guns?"

Lackey: "Yes, most of the chaplains do carry guns. But, a chaplain credentials do not transfer to a reserve."

Commissioner Watkins: "Are reserves on payroll?"

Lackey: "Yes, some sit on the courts, etc."

Commissioner Curis: "Any updates on blue light?"

Lackey: "I presented to city council which went well. I have been asked about a presentation on the research in other communities. It appears council will call the next meeting I am to attend. It seems like we successfully got over this facial recognition. We had some controversy with the bikers from the citizens. Due to many streets being closed off because they had Detroit and Highland Park escorts. The community felt like the information was not publicized."

Chairman: "It can be a lot if you have one-thousand bikes."

Commissioner Hicks: "How does the community find out?"

Lackey: "The organization put this event on. I got it that Friday before so we posted it on the website and the news made an announcement."

Commissioner Hicks: "Does the organization have a calendar of events?"

Lackey: "I am not sure. I only knew when it came to me."

Commissioner Hicks: "Did you receive complaints?"

Lackey: "Yes, a few citizen complaints. The bikers came down Hamilton to Glendale then Third Street. Lastly, I was invited by Cranes and Comcast on Monday, September 30th to speak on a panel and do an article in November. They reached out because I guess they think I am an expert on this blue light technology."

Commissioner Curis: "Congratulations."

Chairman: "Congrats. Do we have any lien information concerns?"

Lackey: "record data is where we got hit."

Chairman: "How is record data handled?"

Lackey: "The Core system stores our data and reports in Lansing. Everything goes into the Talent system."

Chairman: "Do they store emails?"

Lackey: "Yes. All emails are stored and backed up by Google."

Chairman: "Do we contract with Google?"

Lackey: "Yes."

Commissioner Curis: "With the body cameras do you think it is cutting down citizen complaints?"

Lackey: "I do not get many conduct or behavior complaints as I did before. The common complaints are "the officer stole my money" from citizens. We had a complaint where a guy was drunk and second time pulled over under the influence. We found out the driver just left the casino and lost money. I handle most complaints that are separated."

Commissioner Watkins: "Do you still get citizen complaints to be reviewed by Commissioners?"

Lackey: "I thought last year we discussed you wanted the conclusion of citizen complaints but I can give you the complaints."

Commissioner Curis: "How many complaints received?"

Lackey: "We had thirty-four in six months."

Chairman: "That is a lot."

Lackey: "We had structure changes. Before D.C. Tolbert came there was a different structure. Once D.C. Tolbert came he had structure so officers were getting suspended. We want to make sure complaints are tracked by a system for both Police and Fire. The system we are looking at is thirteen thousand dollars."

Commissioner Curis: "You are a Commander?"

Lackey: "I am a reserve Commander. There is somebody above me, the Reserve Deputy Chief. I out rank everyone in reserve besides the Reserve Deputy Chief."

Commissioner Watkins: "If marijuana comes to Highland Park will officers be ready to handle it? Especially since money does not go into the banks and sits in the stores."

Chairman: "I think security depends on the site and would not affect officers."

Commissioner Curis: "Citizens voted against marijuana dispensaries?"

Lackey: "The citizens voted on a more specific issue where a citizen moved into the city and pushed the issue on the ballot so he can open a store. So, it was not a vote against all dispensaries just the one."

Fire Department

Sgt. Payne: "For the month of August, we are no longer responding to Detroit. We were all in agreement to back out. Detroit and Highland Park had disagreements where Highland Park did not agree with the treatment from Detroit Fire Department. We sat there in Detroit as backup which was not the original agreement."

Commissioner Curis: "What were the average runs in Detroit? How does this effect funds?"

Sgt. Payne: "A little more than half of our calls were in Detroit. I believe we were getting paid in the beginning. With Gov. Synder in office they wanted to merge services so things changed. If we did get paid, Detroit would get more pay since they are larger then pay us. Basically for Detroit to come in and take over."

Commissioner Curis: "Grosse Point shares a Chief."

Chairman: "In Inkster, we did this with surrounding areas. The money would pay for some of their leadership."

Sgt. Payne: "Still problems with dispatch. Detroit is still dispatching Detroit fire fighters without our permission. We do have some dispatch relationships with Detroit but not a lot. For August we had four fires in Highland Park. One with kids setting clothes on fire and two dope houses or squatting. We had one vacant home fire bombed. Runs are down since we do not make runs in Detroit."

Commissioner Affairs

Commissioner Curis: "We need the Mayor to figure out about Erica."

Chairman: "I will reach out to him."

Commissioner Hicks: "Did he ever acknowledge the letter?"

Chairman: "No, I was trying to give him time to respond so I will follow up. I think two months is enough time. And, I know he has been busy with day to day matters and the elections."

Commissioner Curis: "I want Erica to be appointed as a Commissioner as well."

Chairman: "I will ask him and maybe he can run it by his legal team. And I will notify you all. I have never seen that anywhere else but I have no problem as long as it is no legal issue."

Commissioner Watkins: "Can you discuss our roles again?"

Chairman: "We look at Policies. Policies are suppose to come before is regarding discipline as well as operation changes in the manual, etc. They can appeal to arbitration. We are not sworn police officer so we can not go out in public and try to discipline an officer. And we can review, discuss and make suggestions on citizens' complaints that is not a legal matter."

Commissioner Watkins: "Detroit's commissioners are elected, correct?"

Chairman: "Yes. Seven or eight years ago it was voted on in Detroit. The Chief of Detroit is not even fully appointed by the Mayor. In regards to voting the Chief and the Mayor could ask commissioners to appoint the Chief. Detroit tried to take politics out."

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 20, 2019, 6:00 pm, Training Room, Fire Station

cc: City Clerk