



CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK

BOARD OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Return to Excellence

Hubbert Yopp
Mayor

BOARD OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of August 21, 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, Chief Coney and Commander Charles Lackey

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of July 17, 2019, were approved.

Police Department

Lackey: "Congrats to Coney as he became an ordain elder. We lost a couple of officers to resignation, involuntary separated from a reserve officer and gained a couple of officers. We have a new reserve Deputy Chief of reserve David Wilburn who replaced the other Deputy and I was promoted as well. We have two new reserve officers, a K9 reserve handler and a hospital police who also works for a private organization that have arrest powers on their property."

Commissioner Curis: "Congratulations on your promotion."

Commissioner Hicks: "What was your promotion?"

Lackey: "I was promoted to Commander. We have some facial recognition issues that blue light offers."

Chairman: "I think the blue light facial recognition is helpful."

Lackey: "I posted in the citizens Facebook about blue light that facial recognition is not built into blue light. Until it is passed or not by the Supreme Court, we will not worry about this matter.

Again, facial recognition is not built into blue light."

Chairman: "facial recognition has a lot to do with this misidentification."

Commissioner Hicks: "What is the difference with finger prints?"

Chairman: "Finger prints are specific to one person, no one has the same prints but facial recognition can deal with a lot of physical characteristics and people believe you can get things wrong."

Lackey: "We are the government who are monitoring these cameras so we have to make sure we operate within the Constitution." Facial recognition technology would be experimental so that is a part of the issue. Surveillance systems and our cameras are no different but the police department or government is monitoring it. If the system says this is the guy with three felonies we will go get this guy but what if this is not the guy we wanted. Do we want to put the citizens through this? Now, being reactive if we has a camera that caught a guy hit someone over the

head then we can put the guys face through recognition because we have a video to analyze. So, I take fault on not explain this better.”

Commissioner Hicks: “What happened with council?”

Lackey: “I went to the meeting and they said they took it off so I left. Tomorrow we will give a demonstration of blue light at 155 Manchester but this is not for the public. We are charging some to attend but the Commission will not have to pay.”

Commissioner Watkins: “How do you get invited?”

Lackey: “the non-profit organization business association is putting on this event for fifteen dollars. The intent is for businesses not citizens but I do plan to do an event for the citizens. The cost is sixty percent less expensive than green light with one day installation which can depend.”

Commissioner Curis: “Will Comcast provide services?”

Lackey: “Yes.”

Commissioner Watkins: “Do you need internet?”

Lackey: “Yes, we operate off internet services and that’s the amount you pay to make it operable with their specific modem.”

Commissioner Curis: “What is the installation cost and monthly charge of cameras?”

Lackey: “There are four different packages you can choose. A ton of people are against the blinking light but the buildings with the light are for prevention. People are saying the lights are annoying or we are targeting these areas and not Bloomfield Hills. Crime happens in all areas. Now, crime happens more in some areas then others but this is ahead of the crime because it will happen in other areas.”

Chairman: “We all have blue light on our phones as soon as we start recording incidents.”

Commissioner Curis: “Maybe we can make them flash less often because it is annoying but it is effective.”

Lackey: “I am looking at different constellation light levels. For example, the camera can know to flash less during the day, etc. In the squad cars a signal can be sent from the blue light.”

Commissioner Curis: “Will you have calls to the police similar to Detroit where if I say I am a green light property I can receive priority?”

Lackey: “I am against that because I do not see why a green light should have a priority over someone stealing versus a murder. So, blue light businesses will have an operator number to call. Also, the virtual police will happen to where police can talk to people in real time.”

Commissioner Curis: “That is better than Detroit. They cannot talk to you.”

Lackey: “Yes. I took what Detroit had and improved on it. Someone may do the same to blue light. This is an assistive tool for officers.”

Commissioner Hicks: “Will this go back to City Council?”

Lackey: “We will put it on the next agenda. I have to keep pushing my date back.”

Commissioner Watkins: “Why does Council have to approve?”

Lackey: “Anything over four thousand dollars which we are at 109k must be approved by Council. We have a grant.”

Commissioner Hicks: “Do you think Council will approve it?”

Lackey: “I am not sure.”

Commissioner Hicks: “Have you received any feedback?”

Lackey: “This is the first time an outside agency handled a lot of this.”

Chairman: “I will tell you if they table this three times in a row then I would be concerned.”

Commissioner Hicks: “And it depends how the ‘here say’ is getting back to them.”

Lackey: "We will move forward with IPro. We will update the body cameras with sound detections which will start automatically recording. It has two microphones and GPS, which we will use our JAG funds. Sgt. McMann took over the responsibilities that Deputy Chief Tolbert was doing and our narcotics guy resigned."

Chairman: "How many detectives in the department?"

Lackey: "We have three."

Chairman: "Will he be replaced?"

Lackey: "We did have an investigation. The Sargent does dual duties. Dupree was reinstated. He is reinstated with his ranks. He was judged based on an arbitration decision."

Commissioner Watkins: "I thought we made a decision on him in the past?"

Chairman: "As a commission we can recommend but everything goes through arbitration. When police fire somebody they have to be held at a certain standard. Erica, any follow up with your pay?"

Erica: "No, I think you should follow up with the Mayor."

Fire Department

Coney: "Bloomfield Township gave us a second truck worth about 20k and fully equipped. All we need to do is put our name on it and a radio. The department gathered funds online to donate this truck to us. This is a great donation that we are very thankful for receiving. I plan to get a plaque with all the firefighter's signatures and go out there. Again, this truck had 106k miles with no leaks."

Chairman: "Did you have a mechanic check it?"

Coney: "Yes, we are using the company RnR, I believe that is their name. The first test will be a pump test."

Commissioner Curis: "What is the year of the truck?"

Coney: "It is a 2005. They were currently using it but they donated to us and they raised enough to get a new truck."

Commissioner Curis: "How will you give them the plaque?"

Coney: "I will go down there with some dignitaries."

Commissioner Curis: "That is great because no one gives nothing for free. Especially in respects to their citizens."

Coney: "Exactly. That is why they did not want to make it public yet. This is something significant with everything on it including cameras. Also, we just hired two new fire fighters."

Chairman: "What is the charge to go to fire fighter academy?"

Coney: "It is under 2k. We were trying to host the classes here but we are not public safety so it would be difficult."

Commissioner Curis: "Why are we not public safety?"

Coney: "We use to be one but the city did not see how a fire fighter could put on a police officer's uniform."

Chairman: "I do not think big cities like Detroit could be public safety with the number of calls they receive for service. Even if some small communities get to many calls for service that makes it difficult."

Coney: "We use to have to be prepared with our uniforms in the car. For example, Oak park is a public safety."

Chairman: "Oak Park does not get many police calls."

Commissioner Hicks: "If you have more staff would you be able to do it?"

Chairman: It depends.

Coney: "Ms. Shu has a camp this Saturday on Avalon Street, which we will be participating. I am trying to pass this ordinance for every resident to put fire extinguishers in their homes. Fires normally start in the kitchen or kids playing with matches. I believe it might alleviate some of these problems."

Chairman: "Would this be mandatory?"

Coney: "Yes, if we past this ordinance."

Chairman: "Will it be financially feasible?"

Coney: "Home Depot fire extinguishers are under \$10.00. Not everyone knows how to put out fires such as putting flour on grease fires."

Commissioner Hicks: "How will it be enforced?"

Coney: "We would have to discuss fines."

Commissioner Curis: "Who would not want it?"

Coney: "Council was asking why we need it. One person said he is right because I had a home catch fire next to me and it is still abandoned."

Chairman: "Can it be a quarterly usage where citizens come to a meeting?"

Coney: "Yes. In October, it is fire prevention week. Also, before Christmas due to lights, etc. but people have to participate. But, the paper I passed out was our team's affirmation. I want everyone to know we are all a team which I made everyone sign it. We all have the same responsibilities."

Chairman: "You will have a problem with the union."

Coney: "They saw it and did not have a problem."

Commissioner Hicks: "It is general so I do not see why it would be a problem. How do you get them to stick to this and are there any consequences?"

Coney: "I would remind them of this letter."

Lackey: "We would enforce this since they all signed it."

Commissioner Watkins: "Would City Council approve this letter?"

Coney: "No, they do not have to approve it."

Chairman: "If anything, we would approve it."

Commissioner Curis: "I move to approve it."

Commissioner Hicks: "We approve it and it is on the minutes."

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 16, 2019, 6:00 pm, Training Room, Fire Station

cc: City Clerk