



# 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 21, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 pm by Chairman Napoleon.

#### Roll Call:

**Present:** Chairman Napoleon, Commissioner Curis, Commissioner Watkins, Commissioner Hicks; Secretary Erica George, Lt. Edwards, Lt. Hollowell, Charles Lackey

#### Approval of Minutes

The minutes of January 24, 2018, were approved.

#### Police Department

Lt. Edwards: "The badges have been ordered for newly promoted supervisors. We will have an event at a later date. Also, the council did approve the body cameras. Due to the boiler going out, OSHA sited the department for infectious disease. Hepatitis A shots will be available next week."

Lackey: "Citizen complaints dropped 95%. I have one citizen complaint since January and we were getting four to five complaints a week."

Lt. Edwards: "A three year plan for full time police is being worked on with the Chief. We are looking to give increases over the three year plan since it has been an eleven year drought. Also, we will be asking for three vehicles in the budget."

Commissioner Hicks: "Any update on the sergeants retiring?"

Lt. Edwards: "Yes, both sergeants did retire. We had an event at the Chief's house. When we do the pinning ceremony I will let you all know."

Commissioner Curis: "We would like to know so we can be present."

Lt. Edwards: "The second Tuesday in August is national night out where we want to get vendors there for school uniforms, shoes, tablets, etc."

Lackey: "Currently, we have had a few suspensions and one officer taken off the road due to anger issues. He is from Dearborn and Wayne County Sheriff's Department."

Chairman: "Why did he leave or what happened?"

Lackey: "He did not make the cut for Dearborn force and we did run a background for Wayne County but it was recommended we hire him."

Chairman: "I rather get a new officer instead of taking another department's officer who presented challenges."

Lackey: "We hired four new officers out the academy. One is also an attorney and another a female who is coming from Detroit."

Commissioner Hicks: "What is the recommendation for the officer with the anger issues?"

Lackey: "He went to the doctor who recommended him to be put in a stressful situation to see how he does and we will take the doctor's recommendation from there."

Chairman: "Why did the female officer leave Detroit?"

Lackey: "She left due to a stressful situation being on disability leave and will see a doctor just like all the other new hired officers for a physical evaluation. The complaint I have is on Officer Jackson due to him being demeaning when asking this citizen questions. The citizen believes his questions were inferior. We get several complaints from cab companies on his behavior and unprofessionalism however no one records the interaction. But, body cameras will help and be able to record him. Also, Axon cameras will be in the vehicles and weapons within thirty feet."

Chairman: "Is it voice recorded and connected to the computer system?"

Lackey: "Yes, it instantly connects live."

Chairman: "We should have a written order on the cameras."

Lackey: "We have a policy in place."

Chairman: "Are we getting JAG grant funding?"

Lackey: "We always had JAG funds and now it is being used for equipment. We now work with the 30<sup>th</sup> District Courts to deal with warrants which will be on their budgets and lower the amount of warrants on file. We had 23k on file."

Chairman: "Have we done warrant recalls?"

Lackey: "The court will go through record checking of all 23k warrants on file."

Commissioner Hicks: "What is the follow up on the complaint?"

Lackey: "The officer said it did not occur and the citizen said it did so it's unsubstantiated. This is why we are working on getting a new fleet of vehicles and the new cameras will help as well. Also, we use Michigan State testing day too test vehicles before purchase."

Commissioner Hicks: "At this point, are we caught up on complaints?"

Lackey: "Yes, majority of complaints are between two traffic officers."

Commissioner Curis: "When will the cameras be in?"

Lackey: "Council approved the cameras on Monday and I ordered them Tuesday. They will be delivered in one month. Axon will install all at once in one day. Lastly, we will get a mass notification system for the citizens for emails, phone calls, etc."

Chairman: "Who will control this information?"

Lackey: "We are working on that and it will be very limited as far as access."

## **Fire Department**

Lt. Hollowell: "Currently, the chief is trying to hire five more part-time fire men. He is planning an award ceremony for recent fire building. Recently, we had the fire on Richton and a body found which we think was an eighteen to twenty year old. Also, we are doing 199 runs."

Lackey: "There is an active investigation for a fire fighter due to being in an altercation with a supervisor."

Commissioner Hicks: "Is he suspended?"

Lackey: "Yes and was in a last chance agreement. Right now he is on probation and anger management. It is up to the Chief to extend the last chance agreement."

Lt. Hollowell: "We had Lt. Jackson and Lt. Irwin promoted."

Chairman: "It seems like things are getting better and a lot of it deals with the proper resources and money."

Commissioner Hicks: "Did you email us the complaints?"

Lackey: “No, but I will email it. We had a lien operator braid an officer’s hair while working. Her excuse was her hair was whipping in the wind. The officers have been written up and they are writing a grievance. This officer is under investigation for a priority one run with a home invasion in progress. The issue was after the home invasion they sat in the truck for about one in a half hours then tried to get off early. Due to further investigation, we discover they never went to the home invasion. Chief demanded immediate action.”

Commissioner Hicks: “They are written up then what happens?” I think they should be written up for the ideal time and improper uniform.”

Lackey: “They had disciplinary action. Last thing that happened was the use of force on the Mayor’s son. That investigation is being completed based on witness statements. The original call for EMT came from Game Stop. When the officer arrived he tried to wake the Mayor’s son, Yopp, up. The officer claims Yopp told him no, which is not in the officers report. The officer stated he thought Yopp was a narcotics involved citizen which led him to use excessive force. However, these two claims are not in his report but came out in the administrative interview. The witness who was sixty feet away stated the officer ripped Yopp out the car and grabbed him by his neck. Yopp states he was grabbed by the neck, forced to the ground and told by the officer he did not care who son he was. Also, Yopp did have a small child in the car at the time.”

Chairman: “The officer had probable cause to take him out the car but the issue is how he was taken out and the use of force.”

Lackey: “I have my last witness statement on Friday then I will try to complete my report in ten days.”

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:28pm

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, April 18, 2018, 6:00pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, City Hall

cc: City Clerk