



CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK

BOARD OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Return to Excellence

Hubbert Yopp
Mayor

BOARD OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of February 27, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 6:11 pm by Chairman Napoleon.

Roll Call:

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

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of January 16, 2019, were approved.

Opening Remarks

Commissioner Watkins: "I motion to get Secretary Erica a badge."

Chairman: "I approve."

Lackey: "It can say Board of Police Commissioner Secretary."

Commissioner Watkins: "Also, what about paying the secretary?"

Chairman: "What will we need to do?"

Lackey: "The commission can write a letter to the Mayor since he appoints you."

Chairman: "How much did we charge?"

Secretary: "In the past, we charged around \$15.00 an hour for 1-5 hours a month."

Commissioner Hicks: "Yes, I use to do the invoices, give them to Commissioner Curis and then the city would make a check out to Erica."

Chairman: "We can do \$100.00 per month."

Lackey: "We could possibly make a budget for the commission."

Police Department

Chief Logan: "Joseph Gray was in police custody on March 30th and let go on April 3, 2018. He was wanted for two murders, one in Detroit and one in Highland Park. On April 3, 2018 at approximately 5:00 he ingested liquid soap. EMS was called and he was taken to Henry Ford. He was dropped off by EMS and after twenty minutes he walked out."

Chairman: "We did not send anyone with him?"

Chief: "At the time, the excuse was there was not enough personnel. Later, we found out nine personnel were on shift including Officer Dupree, who no longer works with us. We got news coverage, so the guy turned himself in the next day."

Chairman: "Is this the officer suing the city?"

Chief: "Yes, he was fired recently for this incident and says it is retaliation from the incident with the Mayor's son."

Chairman: "Did he work anywhere else and get fired?"

Chief: "Yes, he was fired from another department."

Commissioner Watkins: "Who hired him twice?"

Chief: "Highland Park I believe under two different administrations. I believe something needs to be sent to the MCOLES system of this disclosure when police officers have backgrounds and go to apply somewhere else."

Lackey: "They did recently pass a law that reports have to be sent so other departments know their past records or background."

Chief: "Right now we are about to embark on our upcoming budget. Recently, we had a pay raise. The starting pay is \$20.00 an hour and up to \$23.00 an hour, which makes us more competitive. For the last ten years, the rate was \$15.00 an hour."

Lackey: "After six months, it goes up to \$21.00 an hour then raises from there up to \$23.00 an hour. Also, we have the new Deputy Chief Tolbert. He has done a phenomenal job."

Commissioner Watkins: "What are the Deputy Chief's responsibilities?"

Lackey: "He is the chief's right hand with the entire police department. He will put things together and present it to the chief as needed."

Chairman: "He oversees a lot of the day to day operations."

Commissioner Watkins: "If a commissioner sees a police officer in trouble or doing something wrong, what should we do?"

Chairman: "You can help an officer and do what they ask for you to do. You have a duty to report any wrong doing of officers."

Commissioner Watkins: "Who is above the commissioners?"

Chairman: "Arbitration is above the commissioners. But, we cannot direct police officers in any situation. We also can make or approve policies."

Lackey: "We have eight investigations going on. We have an investigation at the fire department being reviewed by the prosecution office. All the others are administrative. Due to the changes of staff, supervisors are getting hit on things they have not done."

Commissioner Hicks: "Do we have any citizens' complaints?"

Lackey: "We received one yesterday about an arrest by one of our officers that does not appear to be a legal arrest. We have a pursuant case. The traffic violations are down but we have a traffic case that was not followed up on."

Fire Department

Sgt. Payne: "I am passing out several papers. The first page is the Knox box to be implemented on stores and apartment buildings with keys inside the box. All the fire trucks will have the keys to the Knox box."

Commissioner Hicks: "Who will get it?"

Sgt. Payne: "We are working on an ordinance for all commercial properties that is in process but it will be at the owner's expense."

Chairman: "How many keys to the building will be in the box?"

Sgt. Payne: "The main entry door keys. For example, we would not have all the unit keys of an apartment."

Commissioner Hicks: "What will something like this cost for a business?"

Sgt. Payne: "It would cost \$200-\$250.00 but I am not sure about installation. It is no maintenance."

Commissioner Watkins: "Will the city guarantee liability for the business?"

Sgt. Payne: "I am not sure about the liability. Next, is the medal or plastic flags attached to the fire hydrates with a reflective band so we can see them easily."

Commissioner Hicks: "Are all the hydrates running?"

Sgt. Payne: "Since NCA is handling our water, we have had the hydrates full."

Commissioner Hicks: "I am sure it would be a fine, right?"

Chairman: "It would be an ordinance for this right?"

Sgt. Payne: "Yes."

Lackey: "We can probably use the police ordinance."

Sgt. Payne: "The run totals we have only four fires in January. One fire was caused by grease at Burger King, which was accidental. The fire on Geneva was suspicious and at a vacant dwelling. The houses nearby this vacant building had recently caught fire so we received a tip on a possible suspect. On Tennyson, there was an electrical fire and on Glendale there were two squatters in a senior high rise. We are not sure if it was intentional or accidental but he was detained."

Chief: "Can we show the commissioners how many runs we have attended in Detroit?"

Sgt. Payne: "On the next page, we have twenty-two mutual aid runs that we responded too in Detroit."

Lackey: "They helped with the senior building."

Sgt. Payne: "Yes, it was a huge fire where Highland Park got the fire out but Detroit was very significant."

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 27, 2019, 6:00pm, 2nd Floor Conference Room, City Hall

cc: City Clerk