



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 15, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:21 pm by Chairman Ryan Johnson.

Roll Call:

Present: Chairman Ryan Johnson, Commissioner Michael Curis, Commissioner Brenda Hicks, Commissioner RJ Watkins, Commissioner/Secretary Erica George, Chief Erik Hollowell, Everett Monroe Officer Zaarour

Open Remarks

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of August 18, 2021 were approved.

Fire Department

Chairman: Did you get any employees that you wanted us to recognize this meeting?

Chief Hollowell: Lt. Jeffery helps the payroll and man power shift which is impossible for one person to do. Lt. Payne is helpful with payroll which is a huge help. As of today, we have 759 confirmed cases of COVID and 37 deaths which ranks us at number 5 in the county. We are waiting for the Mayor to give me authorization for another EMS service because one company can not handle it.

Chairman: Is it just the response time of being overwhelmed?

Chief: It is being overwhelmed and staff sitting to long at some runs. I am increases to 20 from 10 for Devil's Night. We are looking to purchase a new fire truck. We are in process of putting in a bid. The average is \$600,000 to 2 million.

Chairman: Are we still operating on the same trucks from 5 plus years ago?

Chief: Many of the trucks are over 20 years old. Also, I had a guy quit on me.

Commissioner Watkins: I thought West Bloomfield donated a truck.

Chief: Yes, but we are taking 20 year old trucks trying to operate it like it's new.

Chairman: I believe another truck was donated as well.

Police Department

Chairman: Chief and Deputy Chief will not be here today due to being on the scene of a shooting. I would like to recognize Officer Zaarour. On October 15th, the department will have a movie night and food trucks which is pending the Mayor's approval. Last Friday they had their

golf outing which the Commissioners supported. We will get updates on Halloween at the next meeting.

Internal Affairs

Officer Monroe: We have a couple arbitrations coming up for officers that were previously terminated. We have received some compliance issues and tomorrow we have a meeting with Detroit Police Department. At times, we have. Issues that spill into Highland Park and we do not know about it. We received a complaint of August 24th which was sent to the police department.

Chairman: Can you share with us the reason for the complaint?

Officer Monroe: I do not have the complaint.

Commissioner Watkins: Was there a death?

Officer Monroe: There was a woman struck and she did pass at the hospital.

Chairman: I made a phone call and it took a two minute delay. Can you tell me why there was a delay in the dispatch?

Officer Monroe: The causes of holds are two people calling with your call being on a lower priority or officers on another call.

Chairman: I have got others to complain as well.

Officer Monroe: The person who receives the call and the person who dispatches are two different people.

Commissioner Watkins: Should the citizens call city hall directly?

Officer Monroe: No, because someone is not always there to take that call as they could be in the jails or assisting somewhere else.

Commissioner Affairs

Chairman: Do we have any Commission Affairs?

Commissioner Watkins: I asked about our pictures on the wall but I did not know if anyone was not ok with it.

Chairman: We voted on it and everyone was ok. The Mayor has approved it. Chief Coney has the photographer but Commissioners will have to pay for it.

Commissioner Watkins: I thought I heard some hesitancy.

Chairman: I think it will be a good thing and it is not mandatory. We would be the only Commission with our pictures posted.

Commissioner Curis: I want to commend Chief Hollowell as a constant steady professional and I want to thank you.

Commissioner Hicks: How many years do you have?

Chief Hollowell: I have 29 years.

Officer Monroe: Can you email me the date and time of the delay? I would look into it. My email is emonroe.

Chairman: I had a guy on my porch and my concern was not with our department but the response was a delay of 5 or 6 minutes.

Officer Monroe: On the technical services side, it would be good to know. That may be something you have to wait but I would like to check.

Chairman: I will get it to you.

Commissioner Curis: Do we know what streets are experiencing speeding and are we looking at putting in speed bumps.

Chairman: I know the Chief addressed this before and they have been doing an excellent job but I will ask the Chief if they have any plans on putting speed bumps.

Commissioner Watkins: What about the citizen?

Chairman: The citizen's area has been monitored and she stated last time they were getting better with cutting back on speeders and drag racing. Also, they are finding speeding signs.

Commissioner Curis: The removable speed bumps are much cheaper.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 20, 2021, 6:00pm, Zoom

cc: City Clerk