

BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSION

December 1, 2021

8:30 a.m. – Peoria, Illinois

MEETING WAS HELD ELECTRONICALLY - ZOOM

ROLL CALL

The Board of Fire & Police Commission meeting was called to order by Chairperson Lynn Pearson.

Commissioner's present: Lynn Pearson, Tom Burke, William Watkins, John Williams, and Leonard Unes

Commission's Absent: William Spears

Others present: Affirmative Employment Specialist Debra Bush, Police Chief Eric Echevarria, Police Captain Michael Clark, Fire Chief James Bachman, and Dr. Dawn Harris Jeffries, President & CEO, Tri-County Urban League

Lynn Pearson wished everyone a Happy Holiday!

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Leonard Unes motioned to receive and file the minutes of Regular Meeting November 3, 2021 as presented; seconded by Tom Burke; all approved 5-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

A. **Recognition Day Letters** – Police Officers Matheson Wood and Charles Bruess and Police Detective John Rodgers

B. **Request to Promote** – Permanent Promotions of Police Sergeant Brock Lavin to the Rank of Police Lieutenant and Police Officer Steven Melton to Police Sergeant Effective Sunday, October 31, 2021

Tom Burke motioned to receive, and file communication A and B as presented; seconded by William Watkins; all approved 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Timeline and Recruiting Efforts

Police Chief Eric Echevarria stated that they were still doing research with direct contacts to HBCU's, colleges, universities that have criminal justice majors and other recruiting efforts.

Police Captain Clark stated that they are currently five candidates in the Police Academy that are set to graduate on December 16, 2021.

Police Captain Clark stated that those candidates will go through three weeks of Rookie School and then they will be put in the PTO program the beginning of next year.

Police Captain Clark stated that they are in the process of getting the 10 candidates locked in for the January class. There are eight new candidates from the new list and two that were from the previous list that are being processed.

Police Captain Clark stated that the background investigations have been started on the candidates and they will need to be completed by December 15, 2021 in order to turn in the names to the Police Training Institute.

Fire Chief Bachman stated that the CPAT process started yesterday, and they had nine people come to the orientation.

Fire Chief Bachman stated that the CPAT test is set up for candidates to practice. The open gyms start on December 7 and will continue until January 20, 2022, with the holidays off.

Fire Chief Bachman stated that there were four Firefighter candidates left on the previous list and that they have been approved to hire the first two candidates on January 7, 2022. The other two will be left on the list until they hire again.

Fire Chief Bachman stated that East Peoria and Pekin are interested in putting candidates in their training, which would be about 10 candidates, which is a larger than normal.

Fire Chief Bachman stated that they have reached out to Local and are trying to re-establish the Recruitment Committee before the holidays.

Debra Bush stated that the billboards for Fire should be going up within the next week. They will be on Sheridan, Western and another one further down on Sheridan plus the digital billboard on Knoxville. The poster is also up at Northwoods Mall.

Dr. Jeffries from the Peoria Urban League stated that they were trying to do the League as the Lab as a pre-apprenticeship in partnerships with others in the community.

Fire Chief Bachman stated that Tony Cummings used to work with the Fire program at Woodruff and would be a good contact for Dr. Jeffries once the program is up and running.

Police Chief Echevarria stated that they were looking to do a women law enforcement career fair and maybe that would be something they could partner with the Urban League.

ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

William Watkins moved to adjourn to Executive Session under 2c (1) of the Open Meetings Acts, seconded by Tom Burke; all approved 5-0.

RECONVENE TO REGULAR SESSION

NEW BUSINESS

Lynn Pearson stated that while in Executive Session they reviewed the minutes of Executive Session November 3, 2021 and they are okay to be released.

Tom Burke moved to approve the Executive Session Minutes of November 3, 2021 that are okay to be released, seconded by William Watkins; all approved 5-0.

Lynn Pearson stated that while in executive session they reviewed the following Police Recruit polygraphs:

P21-011	P21-016	P21-021
P21-012	P21-017	P21-022
P21-013	P21-018	P21-023
P21-014	P21-019	P21-024
P21-015	P21-020	P21-025

Lynn Pearson stated that Police Recruit candidate P21-024 will have their conditional offer of employment withdrawn due to admissions.

William Watkins moved to have the offer of employment for candidate P21-024 withdrawn due to admissions; seconded by Tom Burke; all approved 5-0.

Lynn Pearson stated that the other Police Recruit candidates will continue in the process.

Lynn Pearson stated that while in executive session they reviewed the following Police Recruit psychological examinations:

P21-011	P21-016	P21-021
P21-012	P21-017	P21-022
P21-013	P21-018	P21-023
P21-014	P21-019	P21-025
P21-015	P21-020	

Lynn Pearson stated that Police Recruit candidate P21-023 will have their offer of employment withdrawn due to being found unqualified on the psychological examination.

William Watkins moved to have the offer of employment for Police Recruit candidate P21-023 due to being found unqualified on the psychological examination; seconded by Tom Burke; all approved 5-0.

ADJOURN MEETING

There being no further business, Tom Burke moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by William Watkins; all approved 5-0.

Submitted by: Debra D. Bush
Affirmative Employment Specialist

APPROVED:

Lynn Pearson, Chairperson

John Williams, Member

Thomas Burke, Vice Chairperson

William Watkins, Member

Leonard Unes, Secretary