



**MINUTES
POLICE COMMISSION
August 27, 2021**

1. Call to Order

President Cole called the meeting of the Police Commission to order at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Burkart announced the meeting has been posted. President Cole announced that public comment will not be taken at the meeting as community members have an opportunity to provide comments to the Village Manager via email or phone.

Present: Richard Cole, Michael O'Brien, Craig Bulluck, Jennifer Anderson, and Barney Moore (left the call at 10:03 a.m., arrived back at 10:05 a.m., and left the call at 11:11 a.m.)

Others Present: Attorney Steven Zach, Ast. Village Manager Tyler Burkart, Village Manager Rebecca Ewald, President Ann McKaig, Trustee Wesley Warren

2. Approve minutes of October 6, 2020

Mr. Cole would like to amend the minutes so it reflects Dr. Weiss instead of Mr. Weiss. Mr. O'Brien moved to approve the minutes from October 6, 2020 with President Cole's amendments. Ms. Anderson seconded the motion. Motion approved by a 4-0 vote.

3. Approve minutes of July 15, 2021 meeting

Ms. Anderson moved to approve the minutes from July 15, 2021. Mr. O'Brien seconded the motion. Motion approved by a 5-0 vote.

4. Staff Updates on Promotional Process of the Sergeant and the Hiring Process of the Police Officer

It was reported that a summary of the promotional process of the Sergeant and the hiring process of the Police Officer was included in this agenda packet since it was absent from the July 15, 2021 agenda packet.

5. Closed Session –Pursuant to section 19.85(1)(c) of the Wisconsin Statutes for the purpose of considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility.

It was clarified that the discussion would relate to individuals considered for promotion and appointment. The Captain discussion is due to the fact the Lieutenant position no longer exists due to recent changes occurred at the Village Board level. Mr. Bulluck moved to enter into closed session for the purpose of considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. Ms. Anderson seconded the motion. Motion approved by a 5-0 vote. The Commission entered closed session at 10:11 a.m.

Mr. O'Brien moved to end closed session and enter into open session. Ms. Anderson seconded the motion. Motion approved by a 5-0 vote. The Commission reconvened into open session at 10:44 a.m.

6. Reconvene into open session to potentially take action on any matter properly discuss in closed session.

Mr. Bulluck moved to promote Thomas Liebenthal to the Captain position. Mr. Moore seconded the motion. It was noted that Lt. Liebenthal is the highest-ranking officer remaining in the department and reorganization of the Police Department, which the lieutenant position no longer exists. Motion approved by a 5-0 vote.

Mr. Cole moved to appoint Thomas Liebenthal to the Interim Police Chief position until a permanent Police Chief is appointed by the Commission under 62.13 sub. 3. Mr. O'Brien seconded the motion. It was noted that Captain Liebenthal is the highest-ranking officer remaining in the department. Motion approved by a 5-0 vote.

7. Information from legal counsel on questions from the Chair

Mr. Cole inquired with Mr. Zach about informal complaint process that is reviewed by the Police Commission. It was confirmed that the Village's Police Commission is not an optional powers Commission and would need to be voted on by referendum if the community decided to pursue. It was recommended to defer to review 504 for a future meeting and review the Commission's role when it comes to complaints and charges. Commissioners should also forward questions about their role to Mr. Cole to collect and compile for Mr. Zach.

8. Discuss process for submitting written public comments

Mr. Cole announced his presence at the last Village Board meeting to begin recording Police Commission meetings. Mr. Cole expressed the need for a public comment process during Police Commission meetings. Mr. Cole shared his support for a Police Commission email to give community members an improved ability to reach out to Commissioners directly. There was also discussion about having a public comment section on the agenda and allow community members submit written comments to staff to be shared with the Commission and read into the public record at the next meeting.

Mr. Burkart shared members of the public will be allowed to provide feedback on the Police Chief recruitment RFP process at the Village Board meeting on September 8, Human Relations Commission on September 9, and a future Police Commission meeting in mid-September.

9. Discuss next meeting dates/times

There was discussion about having future meetings in the late afternoon for meetings (4:00 or 5:00 p.m.) to allow for public input. Next meeting will be in mid-September.

10. Adjournment

Ms. Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. O'Brien seconded the motion. Motion approved by a 4-0 vote. Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tyler Burkart
Assistant Village Manager