

# **MICHIGAN CITY POLICE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 12, 2010**

The Police Civil Service Commission of Michigan City, Indiana, held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2010, in the Council Chambers at City Hall, located at 100 E. Michigan Blvd., Michigan City, Indiana.

## **DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

A quorum was present to conduct business.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Michael Palmer called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

## **ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

Present: Commissioners Deloise Howse, John Pliske and Michael Palmer.

Also present: Chief of Police Ben Neitzel, Chief of Services John Kintzele, Captain Mark Harris and Corporal Sean Steele as well as several members of the Police Department and their families.

Commissioner Palmer requested to suspend the agenda temporarily to have an awards ceremony. There being no objections Chief Neitzel presented the following awards:

Officer Skibins – Life Saving Award	Officer Froehlke – Letter of Commendation
Lt. Brinkman – Exceptional Service Award	Officer Matzke – Letter of Commendation
Cpl. Bush – Letter of Commendation	Officer Schutz – Letter of Commendation
Officer Bunton – Letter of Commendation	Officer Washluske – Letter of Commendation
Officer Urbanczyk – Letter of Commendation	

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Howse moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on November 10, 2009, Executive Session held on November 19, 2009, Special Meeting held on November 19, 2009, Special Meeting held November 30, 2009, and the regular meeting held on December 8, 2009 be accepted as submitted, second by Commissioner Pliske. **Motion carried 3-0.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

## **PROBATIONARY OFFICER REPORTS**

Corporal Sean Steele reported:

- ◆ Probationary Officer Kenneth Eguia has completed Phase 1 of the FTO Program and will begin Phase 2 of the FTO Program on shift 3, January 24, 2010. His FTO will be Officer Holloway.
- ◆ The six new probationary police officers; Jason Cracknell, Michael King, Kyle Mason, Michael McLemore, Michael Petrie, and Jacob Ray will complete their initial training with the Division of Professional Standards January 22nd and will begin Phase 1 of the FTO Program on January 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **POLYGRAPH REPORTS**

Commissioner Palmer stated there are five (5) polygraph reports that will be reviewed during the recess of the meeting. President Palmer advised there were five (5) remaining applicants on the eligibility list.

## **BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS**

The department has one completed background investigation for the Commissioners to review during the recess of the meeting.

### PHYSICAL/PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING

Commissioner Palmer advised two applicants are scheduled for their physical and psychological testing. Chief Neitzel advised the Police Pension Board would be meeting on January 13, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. to review their reports.

### RULES AND REGULATION CHANGES

Commissioner Palmer asked to remove from the TABLE the changes to the Rules and Regulations. Hearing no objection Commissioner Palmer addressed the Commissioners stating that input from the FOP, Administration and the Commissioners have been incorporated in the changes and asked that they be adopted as presented. (NOTE: Changes are attached to these minutes).

Commissioner Pliske made a motion to adopt the changes to Rule and Regulation No. 2, second by Commissioner Howse and approved. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Howse made a motion to adopt the changes to Rules and Regulation No. 6, second by Commissioner Pliske and approved. **Motion carried 3-0.**

### APPLICANT TESTING

Commissioner Palmer reported on the applicant's testing being held on Saturday, January 23, 2010 at the Fire/Police Training Center and at the Northwest Athletic Club advising there are 49 registered applicants to be tested. He stated that 50 is the maximum that will be allowed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- Memo from Asst. Chief Swistek regarding an extended leave of absence for an officer.
- Copies of letters from the Administration awarding Sergeant Robert Drake, Officer Thomas Jackson, and Sergeant David Legros their 20 year pin on December 18, 2009.
- Copies of letters from the Administration awarding Corporal Timothy Baker and Corporal Gregory Miller their 15 year pin on January 9, 2010.
- Letter from Chief Neitzel recommending Officer Steven Wiegel Jr. be removed from probationary status and upgraded to First Class Patrolman effective December 15, 2009.
- Claims to be paid totaling \$850.00.

On motion of Commissioner Howse, seconded by Commissioner Pliske, claims in the amount of \$850.00 should be paid. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Pliske made a motion that Probationary Officer Steven Wiegel Jr. Be removed from probationary status and upgraded to First Class Patrolman, effective December 15, 2009, second by Commissioner Howse. **Motion 3-0.**

Commissioner Palmer advised the Supervisor Evaluation Form No. 3 was submitted for Corporal Ken Drake, Lt. Cary Brinkman, and Sergeant Dave Legros.

Commissioner Palmer announced the 2010 Promotional Exam would be held on Thursday, November 4, 2010. Commissioner Palmer asked Chief Neitzel to post the exam date at the station advising the officers of this date.

Chief Neitzel requested a letter from the Commission listing officers passing the 2010 promotional exam and meeting the new requirements for the rank of Master Patrolman. He stated that their is language changes in their new contract effective January 1, 2010 which is different from the previous contract for the Master Patrolman rank.

### COMMENTS FROM CHIEF NEITZEL

Chief Neitzel reported:

- ◆ Commented on the awards given out advising these were from the last three months, stating that these awards expose the great work that is done by the men and women of the police department.
- ◆ Advised there is an overall reduction in crime during 2009, stating this was the first year in his career with zero homicides for the entire calendar year.

#### **ASST. CHIEF COMMENTS**

Asst. Chief Kintzele reported:

- ◆ Asked the Commission to advise him when the promotional exam study guide and the list of the latest edition of the books being used for the exam is ready to be disbursed to the Officers.
- ◆ Commented on nationwide statistics regarding crime reduction in 2009.
- ◆ Stated he is looking forward to working with the new probationary police officers.
- ◆ Stated also looking forward to working with the Commissioners in 2010.

#### **COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

Commissioner Pliske stated he was glad to see Chief Neitzel back to work and thanked the Michigan City Police Department for a job well done in 2009.

Commissioner Palmer commented on the snow removed and what a great job the police department did helping keep things in order.

#### **ATTORNEY COMMENTS**

There were no comments from the Attorney.

#### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

There were no comments from the Council

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no comments by the Public

The next regular meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting recessed at 10:31 a.m. on motion of Commissioner Pliske and seconded by Commissioner Howse. Motion Carried 3-0.

The meeting reconvened in the Police Commission office at 10:45 am.

The following polygraphs were reviewed:

On motion of Commissioner Howse and seconded by Commissioner Pliske, applicant Nathan Krumrie is no longer being considered for a position since he failed to show up for his polygraph. **Motion carried 3-0.**

On motion of Commissioner Howse and seconded by Commissioner Pliske, applicant Michael Clark is no longer being considered for a position. **Motion carried 3-0.**

On motion of Commissioner Howse and seconded by Commissioner Pliske, applicant Timothy Foltz is no longer being considered for a position. **Motion carried 3-0.**

On motion of Commissioner Howse and seconded by Commissioner Pliske, applicant Casey Robinson is no longer being considered for a position. **Motion carried 3-0.**

On motion of Commissioner Howse and seconded by Commissioner Pliske, applicant Ryan Ayres is to be scheduled for a background investigation **Motion carried 3-0.**

The following background investigation was reviewed:

On motion of Commissioner Howse and seconded by Commissioner Pliske, applicant Michael Oberle is to be given an offer to hire. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Hearing Results:

The Commissioners deliberated and issued their findings and conclusions from the hearing that was held on October 22, 2009. It was also discussed that a Letter of Reprimand from the Commissioners would be issued as a result of the findings and conclusions. Commissioner Howse motioned to accept the findings and conclusions and issue a Letter of Reprimand to Officer Douglas Samuelson. Commissioner Pliske seconded the motion. **Motion carried 3-0.** The Commissioners will sign all the documents once they have been typed up.

There being no further business the re-convened meeting adjourned at 10:50 am on motion by Commissioner Howse and seconded by Commissioner Pliske, **Motion carried 3-0.**

---

John Pliske, Secretary

ATTEST:

---

Michael D. Palmer, President

---

Deloise Howse, Vice-President