

# **MICHIGAN CITY POLICE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES July 15, 2010**

The Police Civil Service Commission of Michigan City, Indiana, held its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, July 15, 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 5:35 p.m.

## **ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

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

Also present: Chief of Operations Mark Swistek, Chief of Services John Kintzele, Attorney Pam Krause, Corporal Sean Steele, Council Liaison Pat Boy, and several officers receiving awards.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Pliske moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on June 24, 2010, be accepted as submitted, second by Commissioner Palmer. **Motion carried 3-0.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

## **PROBATIONARY OFFICER REPORTS**

Corporal Sean Steele reported:

- ◆ The following five (5) probationary officers successfully graduated from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy on July 9<sup>th</sup>.
  1. Probationary Officer Jason Cracknell is finishing Phase 2 of the FTO Program on Shift 3.
  2. Probationary Officer Michael King is finishing Phase 2 of the FTO program on Shift 3.
  3. Probationary Officer Michael McLemore is finishing Phase 2 of the FTO program on Shift
  4. Probationary Officer Michael Petri is finishing Phase 2 of the FTO program on Shift 2.
  5. Probationary Officer Jacob Ray is finishing Phase 2 of the FTO program with traffic division.

The following three (3) Probationary Officers are in week #3 of their training at the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy and will graduate on 10/01/2010.

- ◆ Probationary Officer Matthew Cottrill
- ◆ Probationary Officer Michael Oberle
- ◆ Probationary Officer Ryan Ayres

## **POLYGRAPH REPORTS**

Commissioner Palmer stated that seven (7) applicant polygraphs will be reviewed at the end of the meeting today.

## **BACKGROUND INVESTIGATION**

There are no applicants in the background phase.

### PHYSICAL/PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING

There are no applicants scheduled for physical/psychological testing.

### PERF

Asst. Chief Mark Swistek advised the Commission that at the July 8, 2010 Local Pension Board meeting they approved the application and it was sent to the Indiana State PERF Pension Board awaiting for their approval which should be in the next 2-3 weeks.

### PAST PERFORMANCE REPORTS 01-01-10 TO 06-30-10

Asst. Chief Swistek stated the Board of Commanders would be meeting on July 21, 2010 having their first Organizational Meeting advising they have a second meeting scheduled for the first week in August addressing the Past Performance reports. Chief Swistek advised the Commission that the reports would be presented to them for their review before September 1, 2010.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- Copies of letters from Mayor Oberlie and Chief Ben Neitzel to Sergeant Mark Krauklis congratulating him for completing 25 years of service with the Michigan City Police Department.
- Copies of letters from Chief Ben Neitzel to Officer Kay Pliske congratulating her for completing 10 years of service with the Michigan City Police Department.
- Copies of letters from Mayor Oberlie and Chief Ben Neitzel to Probationary Officers Jason Cracknell, Michael King, Michael McLemore, Michael Petrie and Jacob Ray congratulating them upon their graduation from the Police Academy in Plainfield, Indiana on July 9th.
- Letter from Captain Thomas Howe tendering his retirement from the Michigan City Police Department having served over thirty-one years effective with the close of business on July 17, 2010.
- Letter from applicant Justin Dent.
- Claims submitted for payment totaling \$1,500.00.

Motion was made by Commissioner Pliske and seconded by Commissioner Palmer to accept the letter of retirement from Captain Thomas Howe having served over thirty-one years with the Michigan City Police Department effective with the close of business on July 17, 2010. **Motion carried 3-0.**

On motion of Commission Pliske and seconded by Commissioner Palmer, claims in the amount of \$1,500.00 should be paid. **Motion carried 3-0**

### DISCUSSION ON APPLICANT TESTING

Commissioner Palmer **TABLED** the discussion at this time.

### QUARTERLY AWARDS PRESENTATION

Asst. Chief John Kintzele presented the following awards:

The Michigan City Police Department presented Officer Greg Radiger and Officer Doug Samuelson a Letter of Commendation for outstanding service while on duty April 9, 2010, from Chief Ben Neitzel.

The Michigan City Police Department presented Officer Michael Sliwa and Sgt. Jeff Loniewski a Letter of Commendation for outstanding service while on duty May 5, 2010, from Chief Ben Neitzel.

The Michigan City Police Department presented Officer Justin Frever and Assistant Chief Mark Swistek a Letter of Commendation for outstanding service while on duty May 11, 2010, from Chief Ben Neitzel.

Asst. Chief Mark Swistek presented the following awards:

The Michigan City Police Department presented Officer Kelley Kennedy and Officer Bret Darrell a Letter of Commendation for outstanding service while on duty May 12, 2010, from Chief Ben Neitzel.

The Michigan City Police Department presented Officer Ronald Skibins an EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AWARD for exceptional service while on duty March 20, 2010, from Chief Ben Neitzel.

Asst. Chief Swistek commented on the awards that were given stating they were each dangerous situations and that the taser gun that is utilized as a tool in the law enforcement trade is very valuable to each police officer in law enforcement. Asst Chief Swistek advised that each police officer has been trained in the use of taser and the use of their fire arms stating he is proud to say that the Michigan City Police Department is one of the most professional law enforcement agencies in Northwest Indiana thanking the officers for their commitment to the department and the community that they serve.

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

Asst. Chief Kintzele reported:

- ◆ Congratulated the Officers that received the awards.

Asst. Chief Swistek reported:

- ◆ Addressed the Commission regarding the retirement of Chief Neitzel stating the he is a close friend, a mentor and leader within the department.
- ◆ Congratulated Captain Thomas Howe of thirty-one (31) years of service, inviting everyone to his luncheon being held July 16, 2010
- ◆ Read the final speech of Chief Ben Neitzel,(Chief Neitzel was unable to attend the Commission meeting) inviting everyone to attend his retirement party being held on Friday, July 30, 2010, 5:00 p.m. at Krueger Memorial Hall. Chief Swistek stated that Chief Neitzel has been serving the public for thirty-two (32) years, six (6) years being Chief and that he will be missed.

#### **COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS**

- ◆ Commissioner Palmer thanked Asst. Chief Kintzele for his cooperation and everything he has done during the last six years for the Commission and is looking forward to working with him as he leads the department in a different capacity.
- ◆ Commissioner Palmer also thanked Asst. Chief Swistek for everything he has done in the past six years and is looking forward to his leadership skills. He stated that Chief Neitzel has left everything in order and has groomed him well and was a great mentor for him to take over.
- ◆ Commissioner Howse congratulated the officers that received the awards thanking them for their dedication and hard work. She stated how proud she was of the young officers that have joined the department since she has been on the Commission and how far they have come in their careers.
- ◆ Commissioner Howse commented on Chief Neitzel addressing the accomplishments he has done for the Commission and the Michigan City Police Department. She thanked Asst Chief's Swistek and Kintzele for their knowledge, patience, dedication and hard work they have done for the Police Commission Board and is looking forward to working with them in the future.
- ◆ Commissioner Pliske commented on Chief Neitzel's accomplishments as a Chief, Officer, and close friend. He stated how proud he was to be a Police Commissioner being able to work with Asst. Chief Kintzele and Swistek, and the men and women of the Michigan City Police Department.

#### **ATTORNEY COMMENTS**

There were no comments from the Attorney.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Pat Boy congratulated the award winners stating that Chief Neitzel will be missed and welcomed Chief Swistek to his new position.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no comments by the public

The next regular meeting is scheduled for THURSDAY, August 12, 2010 at 5:30 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting recessed at 6:03 p.m. on motion by Commissioner Pliske and seconded by Commissioner Howse, **Motion carried 3-0.**

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John Pliske, Secretary

ATTEST:

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Michael D. Palmer, President

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Deloise Howse, Vice-President