

Record of Meeting
Fire and Police Commission
Monday, January 29, 2024 – 5:30pm
Room: 120A

Present: Chairman Bob Pickrell, Commissioner John Hedges, Kira Tchang, Human Resources Director/Assistant Village Manager, Shatonya Johnson, Oak Park Police Chief

Also Present: Human Resources Generalist, Mary Avinger

Call to Order: Chairman Bob Pickrell called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm

Public Comment: No public comment

A brief discussion regarding former Commissioner Spivey and receiving scoring sheets for an entry level police candidate was had.

Staff Liaison Report:

Director Tchang gave a brief report that will be addressed at a future meeting regarding updates to the Illinois Human Rights Act SB18-17 which is related to not discriminating against individuals based on immigration status related to housing. The Village attorney identified in Welcoming Village ordinance there is a section that talks about conditions, benefit services, or opportunities on immigration status prohibited. The Village attorney's perspective is that the Welcoming Village ordinance is something that could be applied related to the hiring of entry level police officers and we would not necessarily need to require applicants to be citizens. No formal action is to be taken tonight because this issue was raised after the agenda was posted. At a subsequent meeting the Board of Fire and Police rules can be amended and a further discussion had at that point.

Chief Johnson stated the current staffing level including herself is 86, leaving the department with 32 vacancies. Chief Johnson spoke about the difference in number of applicants from 2019 to present. There were 43 applicants that took the written test and out of the 43 applicants 5 have been hired so far. She is excited about the possibility of being able to hire laterals soon. The discussion on lateral hires and staffing changes continued.

Approval of Minutes: Chair Pickrell spoke about the date change needed to be made to the July 11, 2023 minutes. Commissioner Hedges made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 8, 2023 and July 11, 2023 minutes as amended. Chair Pickrell seconded the motion. Ayes: All, Nays: None.

Motion to Elect a Chairperson to serve during the municipal fiscal year:

Commissioner Hedges motioned to appoint Bob Pickrell as Chairperson to serve for the municipal fiscal year. Chair Pickrell seconded the motion. Ayes: All, Nays: None.

Motion to Approve Entry Level Police Testing

Director Tchang gave a brief overview reminding the Commission last year the Board of Fire and Police Commission rules were amended to create a more continuous hiring cycle having more testing during the year. Staff is finishing out the previous cycle and is looking to start a new testing cycle on April 6, 2024 with in-person testing at OPRF high school.

Chair Pickrell made a motion to approve entry level police testing. Commissioner Hedges seconded the motion. Ayes: All, Nays: None.

Motion to Approve Police Sergeants Promotional

Director Tchang stated they are approaching the end of the sergeants list and there is a sergeant vacancy in the rank. They would like to call for the police sergeants test to take place around the end of April but the date has not been finalized. Director Tchang realized the list has actually been exhausted and no promotions can be made until this process is complete

Commissioner Hedges made a motion to approve the police sergeants promotional testing. Chair Pickrell seconded the motion. Ayes: All, Nays: None.

There was a motion to adjourn by Commissioner Hedges. Chair Pickrell seconded the motion. Ayes: All, Nays: None. The meeting adjourned at 5:59p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Avinger, Human Resources Generalist