

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF FIRE & POLICE COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF BELVIDERE
HELD ON OCTOBER 20, 2020 IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
OF THE BELVIDERE CITY HALL**

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Gonzalez, acting as Chair *Pro Tempore* (aka "Chair Pro Tem"), called this Special Meeting of the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners to Order at 6:35 PM.

ROLL CALL: Commissioners Gonzalez and Phillips were personally and physically present in the meeting room. No Commissioner attended by electronic or remote methods. Chair Hunter was absent. Also present was Board Counsel Roberta Holzwarth.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no Public Comment presented.

READING OF THE MINUTES: No proposed Minutes of prior Meetings of the Board were distributed. By consensus, the Board decided to Postpone Consideration of these proposed Minutes until the next Board Meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS:

A. *Bills Payable.*

(1) An Invoice for \$ 195.10 from Physicians Immediate Care was presented for its Personnel Evaluation Profile ("PEP") examination of Police Officer Candidate Jonathan Lerch. Commissioner Phillips made a verbal Motion To Pay this Invoice As Presented. Commissioner Gonzalez seconded this motion. A Roll Call Vote ensued with the following results:

Commissioner Gonzalez	Aye
Commissioner Phillips	Aye

Chair *Pro Tem* Gonzalez declared the Motion had passed and the Invoice was approved for payment.

(2) An Invoice for \$ 791.70 from Swedish-American Hospital was presented for its Pre-employment Physical examination of Fire Officer Candidate Robert J. Gunsteen. Commissioner Phillips made a verbal Motion To Pay this Invoice As Presented. Commissioner Gonzalez seconded this motion. A Roll Call Vote ensued with the following results:

Commissioner Gonzalez	Aye
Commissioner Phillips	Aye

Chair *Pro Tem* Gonzalez declared the Motion had passed and the Invoice was approved for payment.

(3) An Invoice for \$ 312.90 from Swedish-American Hospital was presented for its Medical Examination of Police Officer Candidate Johnathan Lerch. Commissioner Phillips made a verbal Motion To Pay this Invoice As Presented. Commissioner Gonzalez seconded this motion. A Roll Call Vote ensued with the following results:

Commissioner Gonzalez	Aye
Commissioner Phillips	Aye

Chair *Pro Tem* Gonzalez declared the Motion had passed and the Invoice was approved for payment.

(4) An Invoice for \$ 119.00 from Radiology Consultants of Rockford was presented for its X-ray Examination of Police Officer Candidate Jonathan Lerch. Commissioner Phillips made a verbal Motion To Pay this Invoice As Presented. Commissioner Gonzalez seconded this motion. A Roll Call Vote ensued with the following results:

Commissioner Gonzalez	Aye
Commissioner Phillips	Aye

Chair *Pro Tem* Gonzalez declared the Motion had passed and the Invoice was approved for payment.

(5) An Invoice for \$ 1,923.75 from Holmstrom & Kennedy was presented for its Legal Services to the Board. Commissioner Phillips made a verbal Motion To Pay this Invoice As Presented. Commissioner Gonzalez seconded this motion. A Roll Call Vote ensued with the following results:

Commissioner Gonzalez	Aye
Commissioner Phillips	Aye

Chair *Pro Tem* Gonzalez declared the Motion had passed and the Invoice was approved for payment.

(6) An Invoice for \$ 450.00 from C.O.P.S. & F.I.R.E. Personnel Testing was presented for its Psychological Examination of Police Officer Candidate Anthony Jones. Commissioner Phillips made a verbal Motion To Pay this Invoice As Presented. Commissioner Gonzalez seconded this motion. A Roll Call Vote ensued with the following results:

Commissioner Gonzalez	Aye
Commissioner Phillips	Aye

Chair *Pro Tem* Gonzalez declared the Motion had passed and the Invoice was approved for payment.

(7) An Invoice for \$ 375.00 from the Illinois Association of Fire & Police Commissioners for the Board's Annual Membership Dues. Commissioner Phillips made a verbal Motion To Pay this Invoice As Presented. Commissioner Gonzalez seconded this motion. A Roll Call Vote ensued with the following results:

Commissioner Gonzalez	Aye
Commissioner Phillips	Aye

Chair *Pro Tem* Gonzalez declared the Motion had passed and the Invoice was approved for payment.

(8) An Invoice for \$ 1,860.00 from C.O.P.S. & F.I.R.E. Personnel Testing was presented for its Pre-employment Testing of Police Officer Candidate Jonathan Lerch. Commissioner Phillips made a verbal Motion To Pay this Invoice As Presented. Commissioner Gonzalez seconded this motion. A Roll Call Vote ensued with the following results:

Commissioner Gonzalez	Aye
Commissioner Phillips	Aye

Chair *Pro Tem* Gonzalez declared the Motion had passed and the Invoice was approved for payment.

(9) An Invoice for \$ 450.00 from C.O.P.S. & F.I.R.E. Personnel Testing was presented for its Psychological Examination of Police Officer Candidate Jonathan Lerch. Commissioner Phillips made a verbal Motion To Pay this Invoice As Presented. Commissioner Gonzalez seconded this motion. A Roll Call Vote ensued with the following results:

Commissioner Gonzalez	Aye
Commissioner Phillips	Aye

Chair *Pro Tem* Gonzalez declared the Motion had passed and the Invoice was approved for payment.

B. Police Chief's Report. Police Chief Shane Woody reported as follows:

- (1) Police Officer Kasperovich has completed 18 months of employment by the Belvidere Police Department;
- (2) Police Officer Anthony Jones is currently in Step I of the Department's Field Training Officer Program; and
- (3) Police Officer Jonathan Lerch is currently enrolled at the Suburban Law Enforcement Academy for his mandatory initial training.

C. Fire Chief Report. Because no items on the Agenda of this Meeting affected the Fire Department, Fire Chief Al Hyser was not present and thus no Report was presented.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE.

NEW BUSINESS:

(A) *Police – Discussion and action on lateral transfers for police department hiring.*

The Board then reviewed the written proposal by the Police Department to amend the Board's Rules and Regulations to allow for the hiring of experienced police officers without first completing each of the examinations required of Candidates to be hired as Police Officers. Board Counsel Roberta Holzwarth distributed a Draft adding a new Section 3.17, entitled "Section 3.17 – Police Officer Applicants – Lateral Entry Positions", to the Board's Rules and Regulations. Discussions ensued as to (a) the procedures to be utilized under this proposal (b) the relationship with the current Collective Bargaining Agreement for the City's Police Officers, (c) the experience of other municipalities with such a Lateral Hiring Program, and (d) whether a Home Rule Ordinance would be needed to be passed by the City Council and Mayor in order to grant the Board the legal authority to establish this Lateral Hiring Program (Attorney Holzwarth responded in the negative because there already exists a State Statute allowing the City to establish such a Police Officer Lateral Hiring Program). In the absence of Chair Hunter and since no Board Member had seen this written Proposed amendments before tonight's Board Meeting, by consensus further consideration and any action on the proposed amendment was postponed to a Meeting of the Board when all three Commissioners could be present. No Motion was made, no vote was held and no action was taken on this issue.

OTHER BUSINESS: None considered.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Phillips made a verbal Motion To Adjourn. Commissioner Gonzalez verbally seconded this Motion. A voice vote was held and Chair *Pro Tempore* Gonzalez declared the Motion as Passed and the Meeting as adjourned. The Meeting adjourned at about 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael J. Phillips

Michael J. Phillips
Secretary of the Board of Fire and
Police Commissioners

APPROVED by Vote of the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners on April 1, 2024

