

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF FIRE & POLICE COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF BELVIDERE
HELD ON APRIL 1, 2021 IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
OF THE BELVIDERE CITY HALL**

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Hunter called this Special Meeting of the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners to Order at 6:06 PM.

ROLL CALL: All Commissioners were personally and physically present in the meeting room. No Commissioner attended by electronic or remote methods. The Police Chief Woody. Deputy Police Chief Wallace and Deputy Police Chief Gardner also attended as did the Fire Chief. No members of the general public were present.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no Public Comment presented to be discussed at this Special Meeting.

READING OF THE MINUTES: There following Minutes were presented for the Board's consideration and approval: February 19, 2020; February 27, 2020; March 10, 2020; April 15, 2020; July 7, 2020; October 20, 2020; November 4, 2020; and November 17, 2020. The Board did not consider any proposed Minutes for the February 10, 2020 Special Meeting as listed on the Agenda for tonight's Meeting because no such Board Special Meeting was ever held and that date was listed in error on the Agenda. The Board also did not consider any Minutes for the June 29, 2020, January 20, 2021 and February 23, 2021 Special Meetings as listed on the Agenda for tonight's meeting as such proposed Minutes were not distributed to the Commissioners for their review. Chair Hunter made a verbal Motion To Approve As Presented the above Minutes. Commissioner Gonzalez verbally seconded this Motion. A Roll Call Vote ensued with the following results:

Commissioner Gonzalez	Aye
Commissioner Phillips	Aye
Commissioner Hunter	Aye

Chair Hunter declared the Motion had passed and the Minutes were approved as Presented.

COMMUNICATIONS:

A. *Bills Payable.*

An Invoice #106415 for \$ 900.00 dated March 23, 2021 from C.O.P.S. And F.I.R.E. Personnel Services, Inc. for Administering a Pre-Employment Psychological Tests to Firefighter Candidates Troy Vanderbroeck and Zachary Bullard. Commissioner Gonzalez made a verbal Motion To Pay this Invoice As Presented. Commissioner Phillips verbally seconded this Motion. A Roll Call Vote ensued with the following results:

Commissioner Gonzalez	Aye
Commissioner Phillips	Aye
Commissioner Hunter	Aye

Chair Hunter declared the Motion had passed and the Invoice was approved for payment.

An Invoice #106421 for \$ 320.00 dated March 26, 2021 from the C.O.P.S. And F.I.R.E. Personnel Services, Inc. for Administering a Pre-Employment Polygraph Tests to Firefighter Candidates Kassify Mack and John Whalen. Commissioner Phillips made a verbal Motion To Pay this Invoice As Presented. Commissioner Gonzalez verbally seconded this Motion. A Roll Call Vote ensued with the following results:

Commissioner Gonzalez	Aye
Commissioner Phillips	Aye
Commissioner Hunter	Aye

Chair Hunter declared the Motion had passed and the Invoice was approved for payment.

B. Police Chief's Report. Police Chief Shane Woody made a short verbal report as follows:

(1) On March 12, 2021 Police Officer Edward Kasperovich successfully completed his Probationary Period with the Belvidere Police Department and has been granted full police authority as an officer for the Belvidere Police Department;

(2) Police Officer Anthony Jones is currently in Step V of the Department's Field Training Officer Program; and

(3) the progress of Probationary Police Officer Jonathan Lerch will be discussed in tonight's Executive Session.

C. Fire Chief Report. Fire Chief Al Hyser verbally stated that on May 6, 20021 from 11:00 o'clock A.M. until 1:00 o'clock P.M. the Fire Department will conduct a Retirement Ceremony for Fire Captain Zumbragel and for Firefighter Chuck Rotolo.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE.

NEW BUSINESS:

(A) *Police – Finalize the Initial Entry Eligibility Register.*

Police Chief Woody then distributed to the Board a proposed Initial Entry Eligibility Register. Commissioner Phillips made a verbal Motion To Approve As Presented the Initial Eligibility Register for the Office of Police Officer. Commissioner Gonzalez verbally seconded this Motion. A Roll Call Vote ensued with the following results:

Commissioner Gonzalez	Aye
Commissioner Phillips	Aye
Commissioner Hunter	Aye

Chair Hunter declared the Motion had passed and the Initial Entry Eligibility Register is hereby Approved as Presented.

(B) *Police – Finalize the Promotional Eligibility Register.*

Police Chief Woody then distributed to the Board a proposed Promotional Eligibility Register. Commissioner Phillips made a verbal Motion To Approve As Presented the Promotional Eligibility Register for the Belvidere Police Department. Commissioner Gonzalez verbally seconded this Motion. A Roll Call Vote ensued with the following results:

Commissioner Gonzalez	Aye
Commissioner Phillips	Aye
Commissioner Hunter	Aye

Chair Hunter declared the Motion had passed and the Promotional Eligibility Register is hereby Approved as Presented.

(C) *Police – Review Lateral Candidates For Structured Interviews.*

Police Chief Woody then directed Police Sergeant Smaha to report to the Board on his Preliminary Background Investigation prior to any Structured Interviews of the Lateral Candidates for employment as Police Officers as required by Section 3.18(b)(iii)(aa) of the Board’s current Rules and Regulations as follows:

(1) Kyle Erickson who sent an email withdrawing from consideration because he had accepted a position with another agency (copies of that email were given to the Board)– After hearing the Police Sgt. Smaha’s report, Commissioner Phillips made a verbal Motion To Remove the name of Lateral Candidate Kyle Erickson from further consideration for appointment as a Police Officer. Commissioner Gonzalez verbally seconded this Motion. A Roll Call Vote ensued with the following results:

Commissioner Gonzalez	Aye
Commissioner Phillips	Aye
Commissioner Hunter	Aye

Chair Hunter declared the Motion had passed and Lateral Candidate Kyle Erickson is hereby removed from consideration to be appointed as a Police Officer.

(2) Brad Fleming who is no longer certified as a Police Officer in the State of Illinois - After hearing the Police Sgt. Smaha’s report, Commissioner Phillips made a verbal Motion To Remove the name of Lateral Candidate Brad Fleming from further consideration for appointment as a Police Officer. Commissioner Gonzalez verbally seconded this Motion. A Roll Call Vote ensued with the following results:

Commissioner Gonzalez	Aye
Commissioner Phillips	Aye
Commissioner Hunter	Aye

Chair Hunter declared the Motion had passed and Lateral Candidate Brad Fleming is hereby removed from consideration to be appointed as a Police Officer.

(3) Daniel Kazy-Garey - After hearing the Police Sgt. Smaha's report, Commissioner Phillips made a verbal Motion To Find that Lateral Candidate Daniel Kazy-Garey has successfully passes the required Preliminary Background Investigation and to Proceed with the required Structured Interview of Lateral Candidate Brad Fleming for possible appointment as a Police Officer. Commissioner Gonzalez verbally seconded this Motion. A Roll Call Vote ensued with the following results:

Commissioner Gonzalez	Aye
Commissioner Phillips	Aye
Commissioner Hunter	Aye

Chair Hunter declared the Motion had passed and Lateral Candidate Daniel Kazy-Garey is hereby requested to submit to the required Structured Interview for further consideration to be appointed as a Police Officer.

(4) Louis Cusinelli - After hearing the Police Sgt. Smaha's report, Commissioner Phillips made a verbal Motion To Remove the name of Lateral Candidate Louis Cusinelli from further consideration for appointment as a Police Officer. Commissioner Gonzalez verbally seconded this Motion. A Roll Call Vote ensued with the following results:

Commissioner Gonzalez	Aye
Commissioner Phillips	Aye
Commissioner Hunter	Aye

Chair Hunter declared the Motion had passed and Lateral Candidate Louis Cusinelli is hereby removed from consideration to be appointed as a Police Officer.

(5) Donald E. Stephens III - After hearing the Police Sgt. Smaha's report, Commissioner Phillips made a verbal Motion To Remove the name of Lateral Candidate Donald E. Stephens III from further consideration for appointment as a Police Officer. Commissioner Gonzalez verbally seconded this Motion. A Roll Call Vote ensued with the following results:

Commissioner Gonzalez	Aye
Commissioner Phillips	Aye
Commissioner Hunter	Aye

Chair Hunter declared the Motion had passed and Lateral Candidate Donald E. Stephens III is hereby removed from consideration to be appointed as a Police Officer.

(D) Police – Request Final Eligibility Register For Lateral Candidates.

Police Chief Woody then distributed to the Board and verbally requested that the Board approve the Final Eligibility Register for Lateral Candidates for the Office of Police Officer. Commissioner Phillips made a verbal Motion To Approve As Presented the Lateral Candidates

Final Eligibility Register. Commissioner Gonzalez verbally seconded this Motion. A Roll Call Vote ensued with the following results:

Commissioner Gonzalez	Aye
Commissioner Phillips	Aye
Commissioner Hunter	Aye

Chair Hunter declared the Motion had passed and the Lateral Candidates Final Eligibility Register is hereby Approved as Presented.

(E) Police – Request Permission To Conduct Backgrounds on 5 Entry Level Candidates.

Police Chief Woody then verbally requested that the Board authorize the Police Department to conduct as required by the Board’s Rules and regulations the Background Investigations for the next highest-rated, as-yet-unhired Entry Level Candidates for the Office of Police Officer. Commissioner Phillips made a verbal Motion To Authorize the Police Department to conduct the required Background Investigations on the next 5 Entry Level Candidates. Commissioner Hunter verbally seconded this Motion. A Roll Call Vote ensued with the following results:

Commissioner Gonzalez	Aye
Commissioner Phillips	Aye
Commissioner Hunter	Aye

Chair Hunter declared the Motion had passed and the Police Department is hereby authorized to conduct the required Background Investigations on the next 5 Entry Level Candidates for the Office of Police Officer.

(F) Police - Request Permission To Conduct Backgrounds on Lateral Candidates.

Police Chief Woody then verbally requested that the Board authorize the Police Department to conduct as required by the Board’s Rules and regulations the Background Investigations for the Lateral Candidates for the Office of Police Officer. Commissioner Phillips made a verbal Motion To Authorize the Police Department to conduct the required Background Investigations on the next 5 Entry Level Candidates. Commissioner Gonzalez verbally seconded this Motion. A Roll Call Vote ensued with the following results:

Commissioner Gonzalez	Aye
Commissioner Phillips	Aye
Commissioner Hunter	Aye

Chair Hunter declared the Motion had passed and the Police Department is hereby authorized to conduct the required Background Investigations on the Lateral Candidates for the Office of Police Officer.

At the request of Police Chief Woody because Item (N) under New Business is the last Agenda Item involving the Police Department, Commissioner Phillips made a Motion for the Board to amend its Agenda by next considering Item (N) under New Business. Commissioner Gonzalez verbally seconded this Motion. A Roll Call Vote ensued with the following results:

Commissioner Gonzalez	Aye
Commissioner Phillips	Aye
Commissioner Hunter	Aye

Chair Hunter declared the Motion had passed and the Board's Agenda is hereby amended to allow the Board to next consider Item (N) under new business on the Agenda.

(N) Executive Session to consider the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of a specific employee pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

Commissioner Phillips made a verbal Motion To Go Into Executive Session pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act for the reasons as stated on the Agenda for tonight's Meeting. Commissioner Gonzalez verbally seconded this Motion. A Roll Call Vote ensued with the following results:

Commissioner Gonzalez	Aye
Commissioner Phillips	Aye
Commissioner Hunter	Aye

Chair Hunter declared the Motion had passed and the Board will now enter into Executive Session for the stated purpose. At that time, 6:31 P.M. by the Clock on the wall, the Board entered into Executive Session after excusing all non-Police Command Staff and all non-Board members from the meeting room. Open Session resumed at 6:50 P.M. by the Clock on the Wall.

Commissioner Phillips made a verbal Motion To Approve the Police Chief Woody's decision to terminate the employment of Probationary Police Officer Jonathan Lerch. Commissioner Gonzalez verbally seconded this Motion. A Roll Call Vote ensued with the following results:

Commissioner Gonzalez	Aye
Commissioner Phillips	Aye
Commissioner Hunter	Aye

Chair Hunter declared the Motion had passed and the employment of Jonathan Lerch as a Police Officer for the City of Belvidere is hereby terminated effective immediately.

(G) Fire – Review Medical and Psychological Exams for Entry Level Firefighter Candidate Troy Vanderbroek.

Fire Chief Hyser then distributed to the Board written reports concerning the Medical and Psychological Examinations taken by Firefighter Candidate Troy Vanderbroek. Commissioner Phillips then made a verbal Motion To Find That Firefighter Candidate Troy Vanderbroek has successfully completed the required Medical and Psychological Examinations for the Office of Firefighter for the City of Belvidere. Commissioner Hunter verbally seconded this Motion. A Roll Call Vote ensued with the following results:

Commissioner Gonzalez	Aye
Commissioner Phillips	Aye
Commissioner Hunter	Aye

Chair Hunter declared the Motion had passed and Firefighter Candidate Troy Vanderbroek has successfully completed the required Medical and Psychological Examinations for the Office of Firefighter for the City of Belvidere.

(H) Fire - Request Appointment of Troy Vanderbroek, if applicable.

Commissioner Phillips then made a verbal Motion To Appoint Troy Vanderbroek to the Office of Probationary Firefighter for the City of Belvidere. Commissioner Gonzalez verbally seconded this Motion. A Roll Call Vote ensued with the following results:

Commissioner Gonzalez	Aye
Commissioner Phillips	Aye
Commissioner Hunter	Aye

Chair Hunter declared the Motion had passed and Troy Vanderbroek is hereby appointed as a Probationary Firefighter for the City of Belvidere.

(I) Fire – Review Medical and Psychological Exams for Entry Level Firefighter Candidate Zachary Bullard.

Fire Chief Hyser then distributed to the Board written reports concerning the Medical and Psychological Examinations taken by Firefighter Candidate Zachary Bullard. Commissioner Phillips then made a verbal Motion To Find That Firefighter Candidate Zachary Bullard has successfully completed the required Medical and Psychological Examinations for the Office of Firefighter for the City of Belvidere. Commissioner Gonzalez verbally seconded this Motion. A Roll Call Vote ensued with the following results:

Commissioner Gonzalez	Aye
Commissioner Phillips	Aye
Commissioner Hunter	Aye

Chair Hunter declared the Motion had passed and Firefighter Candidate Zachary Bullard has successfully completed the required Medical and Psychological Examinations for the Office of Firefighter for the City of Belvidere.

(J) Fire - Request Appointment of Zachary Bullard, if applicable.

Commissioner Phillips then made a verbal Motion To Appoint Zachary Bullard to the Office of Probationary Firefighter for the City of Belvidere. Commissioner Hunter verbally seconded this Motion. A Roll Call Vote ensued with the following results:

Commissioner Gonzalez	Aye
Commissioner Phillips	Aye
Commissioner Hunter	Aye

Chair Hunter declared the Motion had passed and Zachary Bullard is hereby appointed as a Probationary Firefighter for the City of Belvidere.

(K) Fire - Request Review and Certification of the Initial Promotional Candidate Register.

Fire Chief Hyser then distributed to the Board a proposed Initial Promotional Candidate Register. Commissioner Phillips made a verbal Motion To Approve As Presented the Initial Promotional Eligibility Register for the Belvidere Fire Department. Commissioner Gonzalez verbally seconded this Motion. A Roll Call Vote ensued with the following results:

Commissioner Gonzalez	Aye
Commissioner Phillips	Aye
Commissioner Hunter	Aye

Chair Hunter declared the Motion had passed and the Initial Promotional Eligibility Register for the Fire Department is hereby Approved as Presented.

(L) Fire - Apply Military Preference Points for Eligible Fire Department Veterans.

Fire Chief Hyser then distributed to the Board a proposed application of Military Experience Preference Points for the Candidates for Promotion. Commissioner Phillips made a verbal Motion To Approve As Presented the Application of Military Experience reference Points for those Candidates on the Initial Promotional Register. Commissioner Hunter verbally seconded this Motion. A Roll Call Vote ensued with the following results:

Commissioner Gonzalez	Aye
Commissioner Phillips	Aye
Commissioner Hunter	Aye

Chair Hunter declared the Motion had passed and the Military Experience Preference Points are hereby applied to those Candidates on the Initial Promotional Eligibility Register for the Fire Department.

(M) Fire – Request Application Of Military Preference Points for Lt. Cunningham and Certify Final Promotion Eligibility Register for Fire Captains and Fire Lieutenants.

Fire Chief Hyser discussed with the Board the Application of Military Preference Points as requested by Fire Lieutenant Chad Cunningham. After some discussion, the Board took no action on this request.

Fire Chief Hyser then distributed a proposed Final Promotional Eligibility Register for Fire Captains and Fire Lieutenants and verbally requested the Board to approve the same. Commissioner Phillips made a verbal Motion To Approve As Presented the Final Promotional Eligibility Register for Fire Captains and Fire Lieutenants. Commissioner Gonzalez verbally seconded this Motion. A Roll Call Vote ensued with the following results:

Commissioner Gonzalez	Aye
Commissioner Phillips	Aye
Commissioner Hunter	Aye

Chair Hunter declared the Motion had passed and the Final Promotional Eligibility Register for the Fire Department is Approved as Presented.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The next Board Meeting will be the Regular Quarterly Meeting to be held at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 in the City Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Hunter made a verbal Motion To Adjourn. Commissioner Gonzalez verbally seconded this Motion. A voice vote was held and Chair Hunter declared the Motion as Passed and the Meeting as adjourned. The Meeting adjourned at about 7:40 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael J. Phillips

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