

*Sycamore Fire and Police Commission
Special Meeting Minutes*

November 19, 2009

ROLL CALL

Chairman Petersen called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. Present at the meeting were: Commissioner Samantha Dailey, Commissioner Teresa Jacobson, Police Chief Don Thomas and City Attorney Kevin Buick. Fire Chief Bill Riddle was absent from the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion

Commissioner Dailey moved to approve the agenda, as written, and Commissioner Jacobson seconded the motion.

Vote

All Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried 3 - 0.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Review of the Hiring Process to date for New Police Officers

Chairman Petersen reported that the Commission had received 2 letters from City Manager Bill Nicklas. The first letter, dated October 19, 2009, authorized the Commissioners to hire a new Police Officer to replace Officer Christie Haas. The second letter, dated November 11, 2009, authorized the Commissioners to hire a second Police Officer to replace Officer Dave Haas.

Chief Thomas informed the Commissioners that a conditional offer of employment was sent to Adam Watson, the first candidate on the Eligibility List, after the first letter was received from the City Manager. Mr. Watson had completed his polygraph, psychological, and background examinations. Chief Thomas said that he would review the results of these exams in closed session.

After the second letter was received from the City Manager, a conditional offer of employment was sent to the second candidate on the Eligibility List, Jonathan Miller. Chief Thomas reported that Candidate Miller had recently accepted a job with the DeKalb County Sheriff's Department and had already undergone and passed the polygraph and psychological examinations as a part of their hiring process. Mr. Miller told Chief Thomas that he would like to accept a position with Sycamore Police Department instead. Chief Thomas spoke with Sheriff Scott, who agreed to release the results of Mr. Miller's polygraph and psychological exams to the Sycamore Fire and Police Commissioners if they would agree to reimburse the County for the cost of the two exams. Chief Thomas recommended the Commissioners accept the results of these exams and that they reimburse the County for the cost. City Attorney Kevin Buick stated that the Commissioners should also make a determination as to whether or not the candidate will need to undergo a final oral interview with the Board. Chief Thomas did not feel that this would be necessary for Candidate Miller. The Commissioners concurred.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion

Commissioner Dailey moved that the Commissioners go into closed session to discuss personnel issues. Commissioner Jacobson seconded the motion.

Vote

All Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried 3 - 0.

Closed session began at 1:20 p.m.

Motion

Commissioner Jacobson moved that the Commissioners return to open session and Commissioner Dailey seconded the motion.

Vote

All Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried 3 - 0.

Open session reconvened at 2:04 p.m.

Chief Thomas recommended that the Commissioners eliminate Adam Watson as a candidate for the position of Police Officer with the Sycamore Police Department due to his failure to pass the psychological and background examinations.

Motion

Commissioner Dailey moved to reject Police Officer candidate Adam Watson due to his failure to pass the psychological and background examinations and Commissioner Jacobson seconded the motion.

Vote

All Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried 3 - 0.

Chief Thomas recommended that a conditional offer of employment be sent to Travis Tolsma, the third candidate on the Eligibility List.

Motion

Commissioner Jacobson moved that the Commissioners extend a conditional offer of employment to Police Officer candidate Travis Tolsma and Commissioner Dailey seconded the motion.

Vote

All Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried 3 - 0.

Chief Thomas recommended the Commissioners accept the results of the polygraph and psychological exams administered by the County for Police Candidate Jonathan Miller and that they reimburse the County for the cost of the two exams.

Motion

Commissioner Jacobson moved that the Commissioners accept the results of the polygraph and psychological exams given to Police Candidate Jonathan Miller by the DeKalb County Sheriff's Office and that they approve the reimbursement of the costs of the two exams to the County. Commissioner Dailey seconded the motion.

Vote

All Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried 3 - 0.

Chief Thomas informed the Commissioners that he currently has two Police Officers out on extended medical leave; one may decide not to return to work and the other may decide to retire by May 1, 2010. Therefore, the Commissioners may be looking at hiring replacements for these two officers next year. He added that the next two candidates on the Eligibility List are certified Police Officers.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

Commissioner Dailey moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:10 p.m. and Commissioner Jacobson seconded the motion.

Vote

All Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried 3 - 0.

Minutes accepted by:

Jeff Petersen 12/14/09
Jeff Petersen, Chairman Date

Attest:

Jean Tritle 12/14/09
Jean Tritle, Recording Secretary Date