

*Sycamore Fire and Police Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2009*

ROLL CALL

Chairman Petersen called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m. Present at the meeting were Commissioner Samantha Dailey, Commissioner Teresa Jacobson, Police Chief Don Thomas, Assistant Fire Chief Mark Kessler, and City Attorney Kevin Buick.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion

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

Vote

All Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried 3 - 0.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion

Chairman Jacobson moved to approve the minutes from the August 3, 2009 regular meeting, as written, and Commissioner Dailey seconded the motion.

Vote

All of the Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried 3 – 0.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Update on the Application Process for Police Officers

Recording Secretary Tritle reported that the candidates' requests for preference reports were due by 5:00 p.m. today and that she had already received requests from six of the ten candidates. She also indicated that she had received several telephone calls from candidates who are certified Police Officers inquiring as to why they did not receive preference points for their certification. Mr. Buick explained that, while the Sycamore Rules and Regulations do not allow for preference points for certified Police Officers, State statute allows them preference in the hiring process in certain circumstances. Ms. Tritle said that she will compile the final list tomorrow morning and will send it to the Commissioners to review before sending a copy to the candidates. The final list will also be posted in the Police Department.

Chief Thomas informed the Commissioners that there will be two positions to fill: a replacement for Christie Haas and a replacement for David Haas, who informed the Chief that he will be retiring effective October 9, 2009. Ms. Tritle said she will send a letter to Mr. Haas from the Commission to acknowledge his retirement and to thank him for his years of service to the Sycamore Police Department.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of the Bills

Chairman Petersen reported that three bills were received – one for \$29.89 for copy paper, one from I/O Solutions for \$1,965.02 for administering the Police Officers' written examination, and one from the law firm of Klein, Stoddard, Buck, Waller, and Lewis for \$200.00 for legal services.

Motion

Commissioner Dailey moved to approve the payment of the three bills totaling \$2,194.91 and Commissioner Jacobson seconded the motion.

Vote

All of the Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried 3 – 0.

B. Discussion on the Expiration Date of C-PAT Certification for Firefighter Candidates

Recording Secretary Tritle reported that she had received an inquiry from the next candidate on the Firefighter Eligibility List as to whether or not the Sycamore Fire and Police Commissioners impose a time limit concerning a candidate's C-PAT examination certification. Since there was no direction on this in the Rules and Regulations, Ms. Tritle referred this question to the Fire Chief, who submitted a written recommendation to the Commissioners that "all candidates must present a valid C-PAT that has been certified within 12 months of the test date. The test will remain valid for the 24-month life of the list. If, during the medical portion of the hiring process, the Fire Department physician questions a candidate's fitness for duty, the Sycamore Fire Department will require the candidate to take a C-PAT at our [the Department's] expense".

The Commissioners all concurred with Chief Riddle's recommendation.

C. Discussion on New Illinois Employment Laws Affecting Police and Fire Candidates

City Attorney Buick informed that Commissioners that there are two new labor laws affecting the Police and Fire hiring process:

1. Public Act 96-0083 changes the definition of active duty for military preference points to include time spent by an applicant in military training and service schools. Mr. Buick explained that Sections 8, 9, and 14 of the Rules and Regulations control the granting of preference points based upon State statute, so no amendment to the Rules and Regulations will be needed.
2. Public Acts 96-0472 expands the maximum age for the hiring of Police Officer candidates who exceed age 35 by the number of years the applicants served on military duty, up to 10 years. Mr. Buick explained that Section 7 of the Rules and Regulations will need to be amended to include specific language relating to the maximum age of a Police Officer candidate. He told the Commissioners he will have an amendment ready for approval at their December meeting.

D. Fire Chief

Assistant Fire Chief Kessler had no report.

E. Police Chief

Chief Thomas reported that he has one of his staff members conducting a poll of every Police Department in the State of Illinois to see if they administer the power test as a part of the hiring process. So far most of the Departments that have been contacted have confirmed that they do administer the test and that none of them have had any lawsuits filed as a result of it. He said that he will report the results of the poll to the Commissioners at their meeting in December. Mr. Buick cautioned the Commissioners that the IML attorney's position on using the power test as a part of the hiring process could violate the ADA and a candidate's civil rights, since the power test employs separate norms based upon age and gender.

CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Petersen reported that there were no personnel matters that needed to be discussed in closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Dailey and was seconded by Commissioner Jacobson.

Vote

All of the Commissioners voted aye. Motion carried 3 – 0

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Minutes accepted by:

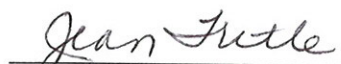


Jeff Petersen, Chairman

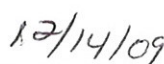


Date

Attest:



Jean Tritle, Recording Secretary



Date