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Board of Fire Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: May 19, 2022

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Location: Fire Department Headquarters

JUN 24 2022

Meeting called by:	Chairman Lopez	Note taker: D. Glenn	Holyoke City Clerk's Holyoke, MA APPROVED
Type of meeting:	Regular Monthly	Timekeeper: D. Glenn	
Facilitator:	Chief Przekopowski		
Attendees:	Nelson Lopez, Jeffrey Trask, George Mettey		
Absent:			
Staff in Attendance:	Chief Jeffrey Przekopowski, 1 st Deputy Chief John Kadlewicz and Dale Glenn		

Also: City Attorney Kathleen Degnan, Personnel Director Kelly Curran, William Alicea, Ethan Ledoux, Jason Sanchez

A. Opening of Meeting	Chairman Lopez	Time: 5:00 p.m.
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Discussion: #1 on the agenda Commissioner Lopez opened the meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners with a verbal roll call of those present along with a prayer by Commissioner Mettey.

#2 agenda item – Minutes: the Board of Fire Commissioners reviewed the minutes from their April 21, 2022 meeting

#3 agenda item - Fire Chief's Report:

- Injured on Duty/Light Duty
- Personal Sick Leave/Impending Retirement
- Overtime expenditures
- Budget Hearings to begin in June
- Firefighter Memorial
- Requests the Board of Fire Commissioners to act on promotional lists for the following:

1 Deputy Fire Chief, 1 Fire Captain and 2 Fire Lieutenants (all candidates to provide resume, cover letter and 2 letters of recommendation)

#4 Old Business – None

#5 New Business – Grievance and Personnel

#6 Executive Session – Personnel

Grievance #22034 Fire Captain Ethan Ledoux

Fire Captain Ethan Ledoux along with Union President William Alicea filed a Grievance with Fire Chief Jeff Przekopowski for violation of miscalculation of Captain Ledoux's time off stating these benefits were afforded to past and present members in similar circumstances. Mr. Ledoux addressed the Board stated he worked for the City of Chicopee in a civil service position of labor service and at the Northampton Fire Department. Mr. Ledoux is requesting the Board grant his complete Civil Service time and allow for him to receive contractual benefits.

City Attorney Kathleen Degnan Stated to the Board that she had reached out to Civil Service for a determination of Mr. Ledoux's inquiry and came back with a determination, subsequently sending Mr. Ledoux a response letter indicating exactly what his time service afforded him. With respect to Mr. Ledoux's request for additional vacation time civil service statute does not apply to wages and benefits such as vacation and longevity. Mr. Ledoux's time in service becomes attached for layoff purposes only. The current collective bargaining agreement does not cover this type of situation and therefore, Mr. Ledoux is not entitled to any extra vacation time and/or benefits.

The Board of Fire Commissioners decided to request City Solicitor Attorney Degnan to research this issue further with obtaining names from Union President Alicea of those individuals that received this benefit in the past. The Board will resume this hearing at their next board meeting to be held on June 16, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

D Open Meeting Continued

Probationary Firefighter Jason Sanchez:

Probationary Firefighter Jason Sanchez failed his Firefighter I/II Certification at the Massachusetts Firefighting Academy and is before the Board of Fire Commissioners for a discussion. Mr. Sanchez explained to the Board of Fire Commissioners that he has a learning disability and while trying to pass the Academy the tests and studying became more and more difficult. He claims to have reached out to the Educational Director at the Academy for assistance but was informed it was too late. Mr. Sanchez is asking the Board to grant him another chance to complete the academy and obtain his Firefighter I/II Certification. Fire Chief Przekopowski, Union President William Alicea as well as other members of the Department spoke on his behalf stating Mr. Sanchez is a hard worker and cares about his position within the Holyoke Fire Department.

- Motions: Commissioner Lopez entertained a motion to accept the minutes from April 21, 2022, Commissioner Mettey made the motion and was 2nd by Commissioner Trask; motion carried
- Commissioner Lopez entertained a motion to accept the Fire Chief's report, Commissioner Mettey made the motion and was 2nd by Commissioner Trask; motion carried.
- Commissioner Lopez entertained a motion to act on the promotional lists for Deputy Fire Chief, Fire Captain and Fire Lieutenant, Commissioner Trask made the motion and was 2nd by Commissioner Mettey; motion carried.
- Commissioner Lopez entertained the motion to suspend Grievance Hearing 22034 until their next Board meeting to be held on June 16, 2022, Commissioner Trask made the motion and was 2nd by Commissioner Mettey; motion carried.
- Commissioner Lopez entertained a motion to move into Executive Session, Commissioner Mettey made the motion and was 2nd by Commissioner Trask; motion carried. Moved into Executive Session at 5:41 p.m.

D Open Meeting	Chairman Lopez	Time: 5:49 p.m.
<p>Attending: Nelson Lopez, Jeffrey Trask, George Mettey</p>		
<p>Also William Alicea, Jason Sanchez, Kirk Krause, Michael Rohan, Chris D'Angelo, Edwin Rodriguez Facilitator: Chief Przekopowski 1st DC Kadlewicz Note taker: D. Glenn</p>		
<p>Discussion: The Board of Fire Commissioners decided to grant Mr. Jason Sanchez's request for a second (2nd) opportunity to complete and pass his Firefighter I/II Certification at the Mass Firefighter Academy. There are stipulations and an agreement with the Union Local 1693 that this matter will not be constitute past practice and that the board will hear matters case by case.</p>		
<p>Motions: Commissioner Lopez entertained a motion to grant Probationary Firefighter Jason Sanchez a 2nd opportunity to complete and pass his Firefighter I/II Certification at the Mass Firefighter Academy with stipulations outlined in his agreement letter, Commissioner Trask made the motion and was 2nd by Commissioner Mettey; motion granted. Roll call vote Commissioner Lopez yes, Commissioner Trask yes and Commissioner Mettey yes</p> <p>Commissioner Lopez entertained a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Trask made the motion and was 2nd by Commissioner Mettey; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.</p>		
<p>Determination of Next Meeting Date</p>	<p>June 16, 2022</p>	<p>Time: 5:00 p.m.</p>