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Board of Fire Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: September 16, 2022

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Location: Fire Department Headquarters

OCT 21 2022

Holyoke City Clerk's
Holyoke, MA

APPROVED

Meeting called by:	Chairman Lopez	Note taker: D. Glenn
Type of meeting:	Regular Monthly	Timekeeper: D. Glenn
Facilitator:	Chief Kadlewicz	
Attendees:	Nelson Lopez, Jeffrey Trask, George Mettey	
Absent:		
Staff in Attendance:	Chief John Kadlewicz and Dale Glenn	

Also: Leopold Szydowski, Nelson Belvin, Elizabeth Spafford, Angel Ruiz, Robert Weller and Jake Thibeault, Lt. Raymond Ortiz

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

The Board of Fire Commissioners interveiwed (4) candidates for (2) open Fire Alarm Operator positions within the Department. Each candidate was asked the same questions and given the same opportunities.

#2 adgenda item – Minutes: the Board of Fire Commissioners reviewed the minutes from their August 30, 2022

#3 agenda item - Fire Chief's Report:

- Injured on Duty/Light Duty
- Personal Sick Leave/Administrative Leave
- Overtime expenditures

#4 Old Business – Interviews for (2) Open Positions of Fire Alarm Operator

- All candidates were asked the same questions and afforded the opportunity to ask questions/make statements of their own.

#5 New Business – Grievance #22084 - Fire Alarm Operator Dennis Gobeil brought before the Board of Fire Commissioners this grievance stating there was a violation of, but not limited to, CBA Article 17 para 17.02 prevailing rights and past practice. Mr. Gobeil was asked if he preferred open or closed session and he chose open. Commissioner Lopez allowed Mr. Gobeil to address the Board. Mr. Gobeil stated that in the promotional process for Assistant Superintendent of Fire Alarms the Board of Fire Commissioners did not follow past practice promoting the most senior employee within that division. Commissioner Lopez asked if there was documented proof this is a past practice and Mr. Gobeil did not supply any documentation or other proof on his claim. The Board of Fire Commissioners stated that just because something is/was a past practice does not mean that it should be continued. In this case the provisional promotion of the assistant superintendent of fire alarms was not proven to be a past practice.

Motions

Motions: Commissioner Lopez entertained a motion to accept the minutes from August 30, 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 conditionally offer employment to Angel Ruiz and Elizabeth Spafford for the (2) open Fire Alarm Operator positions. Commissioner Mettey made the motion and was 2nd by Commissioner Trask; motion carried. Roll Call Vote Commissioner Lopez yes, Commissioner Trask yes, Commissioner Mettey yes. All members voted unanimously.

Commissioner Lopez entertained a motion to deny Grievance #22084 and uphold the decision of the Board of Fire Commissioners originally made in the promotion of the Assistant Superintendent of Fire Alarms. Commissioner Mettey made the motion and was 2nd by Commissioner Trask; motion carried. Roll Call Vote Commissioner Lopez yes, Commissioner Trask yes, Commissioner Mettey yes. All members voted unanimously.

Commissioner Lopez entertained a motion to adjourn, Commissioner Mettey made the motion and was 2nd by Commissioner Trask; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.