

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF
THE BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSIONERS OF
THE CITY OF NORTH CHICAGO**

August 7, 2014

Held in the West Conference Room of the City of North Chicago,
1850 Lewis Avenue, North Chicago, Illinois

1. Chairwoman Dicker called the meeting to order at 9:03 A.M.
2. Roll call identified the following Commissioners present:
Chairwoman Velma Dicker
Commissioner Vanderbilt Blanchard

Roll call identified the following Commissioner absent:
Secretary Shawna Huley

Other persons present included:

Attorney Brian O'Connor of the law firm of Ottosen-Britz, Ltd.

North Chicago Police Officer Carl Sturt, Treasurer, North Chicago F.O.P. Lodge 31 [arrived during roll call]

Richard Wilson, Deputy Chief of Police [arrived 9:06 A.M.]

Alicia Ayala, law clerk with the law firm of Ottosen-Britz, Ltd. [arrived 9:08 A.M.]

Motion by Chairwoman Dicker, seconded by Commissioner Blanchard, to appoint Commissioner Blanchard as Secretary pro tem. There being no discussion, a roll call vote was taken on the motion with the following results: Yes – 2 (Dicker, Blanchard), No – 0, Abstain – 0, Absent – 1 (Huley). Motion approved.

3. Chairwoman Dicker opened the meeting for Public Comment. No public comment was offered.
4. Approval of minutes.
 - a. Discussion regarding the open session minutes from the July 10, 2014, regular meeting noted one change to Item 5(b) [Old Business – Discussion on Commission files] to amend the minutes by adding the note that Commissioners Dicker and Blanchard offered to assist in and with the process of organizing and gathering the Commission's files at the police sub-station. Attorney O'Connor made the pen and ink correction. A motion was made by Chairwoman Dicker, seconded by Commissioner Blanchard, to approve the open session minutes from the July 10, 2014, regular meeting as amended. There being no further discussion, a roll call vote was taken on the motion with the following results: Yes – 2 (Dicker, Blanchard), No – 0, Abstain – 0, Absent – 1 (Huley). Motion to approve the identified minutes carried.
5. Old Business.
 - a. Discussion/possible action on invoices for Commission services.

Approved, but not yet paid. Commissioners Dicker and Blanchard reviewed the outstanding invoices for legal services. The Commissioners noted that invoices for legal services totaling \$28,665.77 had been approved for payment by the City by the Commissioners at the July 10, 2014, meeting. Attorney O'Connor explained the firm had not yet received that payment. Commissioner Dicker suggested Attorney O'Connor follow-up with the Comptroller for payment.

Not yet approved. Commissioners noted an invoice for legal services for July 2014 in the amount of \$5,145.00 was due and owing. Commissioner Dicker asked that (1) she and Secretary Huley follow-up with the City Clerk's office to ensure notices were posted, (2) the attorneys communicate with Commissioners, and (3) that communications from the Police and Fire Chiefs with the Commissioners be done in writing. Attorney O'Connor explained that the attorneys would need to communicate with the City's attorney and other persons on a case-by-case basis, but certainly understood the Commission's direction to curb legal costs and would communicate the Commission's desire to other attorneys of the firm. There being no further discussion, a roll call vote was taken on the motion with the following results: Yes – 2 (Dicker, Blanchard), No – 0, Abstain – 0, Absent – 1 (Huley). Motion to approve payment of July 2014 legal fees was approved.

- b. Discussion/possible action on the Commission's files and records was tabled to the next meeting.

Commissioner Dicker noted that the State Archivist had contacted the Commission regarding the Commission's records.

- c. Discussion/possible action on revision of Commission's rules and regulations. Attorney O'Connor noted that Attorney Miller had been working on this, and Attorney O'Connor would follow-up with Attorney Miller. Further action was tabled to the next meeting.
- d. Discussion/possible action regarding amending Commissioner's retention of Legal Counsel. Attorney O'Connor reported that Attorney Miller was preparing a formal proposal for Commissioners' consideration at the next meeting addressing the concepts for Commission legal representation discussed at the July 10, 2014, meeting.
- e. Discussion/possible action regarding request for North Chicago Police Department Sergeant's examination.

Officer Sturt offered his assessment of the Local's position concerning the Sergeant's examination offered earlier this year.

Commissioner Dicker reviewed the actions of the Commission to work with the Local concerning the Sergeant's examination, including input from the Local and Chief for weeks prior to the examination. Commissioner Dicker noted the time, effort and costs incurred to offer the Sergeant's examination. Notice of the exam was provided, and all was seemingly on track, until no one sat for the Sergeant's written examination.

Officer Sturt commented that the Local preferred to have checks and balances for the Sergeant's examination in writing, and the Local is pursuing efforts with the City to amend the collective bargaining agreement to include those written processes. Officer Sturt noted in the meantime the City police department is "hurting" from lack of supervisory level sergeants.

Commissioner Dicker explained that the Commission had worked closely with the Local to explain how the written exam was to be administered and scored, as well as how the assessment center was to be evaluated.

Officer Sturt acknowledged the Commission's efforts concerning the Sergeant's examination.

