

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

November 24, 2015

Held at the City of North Chicago Police Annex,
1801 Sheridan Road, 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
 - Secretary Shawna Huley
 - Commissioner Vanderbilt Blanchard

Other persons present included:

 - Attorney Joseph Miller of the law firm of Ottosen-Britz, Ltd.
 - City Special Counsel for Labor Matters Benjamin Gehrt of Clark, Baird Smith LLP
 - Third Ward Alderman Carl Evans
 - Fifth Ward Alderman Terrance A. Markham, Sr.
 - Mayor Leon Rockingham, Jr.
 - Lieutenant Tony Theis
 - Detective Morris Wade
 - Deputy Police Chief Richard Wilson
 - Police Investigator Luis Rivera
3. Chairwoman Dicker opened the meeting for Public Comment: No public comment was offered.
4. Approval of minutes.
 - a. The minutes from the October 22, 2015 Board of fire and Police Commissioners was tabled for further review by the Commission.
5. Old Business.
 - a. Discussion/possible action on invoices for Commission services. The Commission did not have any invoices for review. Attorney Miller indicated that he would have the bill for legal services forwarded to the City and Commission.
 - b. Discussion/possible action to amend Commission rules. Attorney Miller distributed copies of the proposed update to Commission rules to the Commissioners. After initial discussion to table such rules, Commissioner Blanchard made a motion to approve the amended rules, the motion was seconded by Secretary Huley and approved by a unanimous roll-call vote.
6. New Business.
 - a. Discussion/action regarding independent background investigations for the Commission to verify eligibility of candidates for original appointments [65 ILCS 5/10-2.1-6(c), 10-2.1-6.1 and 10-2.1-6.2].

Upon discussion and review, the Commission determined that further information would be necessary concerning costs and the nature of the examination before it would hire an outside firm to conduct the investigations.

- b. Discussion/action regarding Commissioners access to Commission records maintained and stored in the North Chicago Police Annex. A discussion was held concerning the keys for the storage room in the Annex building where the Commission files are stored. A discussion was held concerning every Commissioner having a key to the room. A discussion was held on the past history of the files and access of the storage room. Commissioner Huley expressed concern as to being held responsible for the files in the Commission room in her position as Secretary should each Commissioner have a copy of the key to the room. After extensive debate, Commissioner Blanchard made a motion to change the locks and have every Commissioner get a copy of the key to the Commission room, the motion was seconded by Chairperson Dicker and approved by the following vote; Dicker-Aye, Blanchard-Aye, Huley-Nay.
- c. Discussion/action regarding promotional examination for the rank of sergeant for the North Chicago Police Department. A discussion was held regarding conducting the test for the rank of sergeant. Attorney Gehrt and Mayor Rockingham made a request for the Commission to hold the exam. Commissioners Dicker and Blanchard as well as Aldermen Harris Evans and Markham expressed concern over the cost of the examination. Attorney Miller asked the City to confirm its intention to pay the costs of the examination. Commissioner Huley asked if such a request was necessary. Attorney Miller informed the Commission that this request is not required but would hopefully ease the concerns over the cost of the exam. After closed session, Chairperson Dicker made a motion to proceed with the sergeant's exam pending confirmation from the City Council at its December 7 meeting to pay for the exam. The motion was seconded by Blanchard and approved by the following vote; Dicker-Aye, Blanchard-Aye, Huley-Nay.

Members of the public left the meeting, including: Alderman Evans, Alderman Markham, Mayor Rockingham, Attorney Gehrt and Lieutenant Theis.

7. Closed Session. Attorney Miller requested a closed session for a discussion concerning the appointment, employment of specific persons for the City of North Chicago. Motion by Chairwoman Dicker, second by Commissioner Blanchard, to enter closed session at 10:25 A.M. to discuss the appointment, employment of specific persons for the City of North Chicago per Section 2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act. There being no discussion, a roll call vote was taken on the motion with the following results: Yes – 3, No – 0, Abstain – 0, Absent – 0. Motion to enter closed session carried.
8. Chairwoman Dicker recalled open session to order at 11:12 A.M.

9. Action on items from closed session

- a. Motion by Secretary Huley, seconded by Commissioner Blanchard, to reject/remove the candidates listed in Exhibit A for hire with the City of North Chicago based on their failure to pass the background examination. There being no discussion, a roll call vote was taken on the motion with the following results: Yes – 3, No – 0, Abstain – 0, Absent – 0. Motion to release identified minutes for public inspection carried.

10. Adjournment. There being no further business for the Commission, a motion was made by Chairwoman Dicker, seconded by Commissioner Blanchard, to adjourn at 11:15 A.M. A roll call vote was taken on the motion with the following results: Yes – 3, No – 0, Abstain – 0, Absent – 0. Motion carried.

Reminder:

Next Regular Meeting, at the Police Annex at 9:00 A.M. on Thursday, January 7, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Miller, III
One of the Commission's Attorneys

Approved by the Commission on December 17, 2016.

Wilma R. Dicker
Chair, Board of Fire and Police
Commissioners
City of North Chicago

ATTEST:

Vanderbilt Blanchard Jr
Secretary, Board of Fire and Police Commissioners, ~~Per~~ ~~nom~~
City of North Chicago