

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

August 15, 2016
Held at the City of North Chicago Police Annex,
1801 Sheridan Road, North Chicago, Illinois

Preliminary Matters. On August 1, 2016, the Mayor and City Council of the City of North Chicago appointed and administered the oath of office to incoming Commissioners Debra Lewis and Nina Hampton-Stokes who are replacing outgoing Commissioners Velma Dicker and Shawna Huley.

Pending election of officers for the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners, Attorney Joe Miller facilitated administration of the meeting.

1. Attorney Miller called the meeting to order at 4:07 P.M.
2. Roll call identified the following Commissioners present:
 - Commissioner Vanderbilt Blanchard
 - Commissioner Debra Lewis
 - Commissioner Nina Hampton-Stokes (arrived late at 4:17 P.M.)

Other persons present included:

- Attorney Joseph Miller of the law firm of Ottosen-Britz, Ltd.
- Attorney Brian O'Connor of the law firm of Ottosen-Britz, Ltd.
- Elizabeth Black, Human Resources Director, North Chicago
- Dell Urban, Chief, North Chicago Fire Department
- Richard Wilson, Chief, North Chicago Police Department
- Luis Rivera, Officer, North Chicago Police Department
- Leon Rockingham, Jr., Mayor, North Chicago

3. Installation of New Commissioners. Attorney Miller noted for the record the August 1, 2016, appointment of Commissioners Debra Lewis and Nina Hampton-Stokes to the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners.
4. Election of Commission Chairperson and Secretary. Attorney Miller noted that with the appointment of new Commissioners, the Commissioners would need to elect a Chairperson and Secretary.
 - a. Chairperson. Following some discussion, Commissioner Lewis made the motion to elect herself as Chairperson, seconded by Commissioner Blanchard. No further discussion. Roll call vote: Lewis – Yes, Blanchard – Yes, Hampton-Stokes – absent.

All present thought it best to have a brief recess at 4:11 P.M. to await arrival of Commissioner Hampton-Stokes, who arrived at 4:17 P.M. Attorney Miller reconvened the meeting, now with all three Commissioners present and other attendees noted, at 4:18 P.M.

- b. Secretary. Following some discussion, the consensus of the Commissioners was to table election of Secretary to the next meeting.

5. Chairwoman Lewis opened the meeting for Public.
 - a. City Mayor Rockingham offered welcoming remarks to the new Commissioners, and extended the City's thanks for services of outgoing Commissioners.
 - b. Chief Wilson offered welcoming remarks to the new Commissioners along with his offer of assistance and cooperation.
 - c. Chief Urban offered welcoming remarks to the new Commissioners along with her offer of assistance and cooperation.
6. Approval of minutes. Commissioners' action on the open and closed session minutes from the Regular Meeting on July 7, 2016, was tabled by consensus to the next meeting, pending election of the Secretary for the Commissioners.
7. Old Business.
 - a. Commissioners' action on invoices for Commission services was tabled by consensus to the next meeting, to permit Commissioners the opportunity to review the invoices.

Mayor Rockingham left the meeting at 4:43 P.M.

8. New Business.
 - a. Discussion/possible action on appointment of full-time police officers. Tabled until after Closed Session deliberation of candidate pre-employment check results.
 - b. Discussion/possible action on appointment of full-time firefighters. Tabled until after Closed Session deliberation of candidate pre-employment check results.
 - c. Discussion/possible action on police sergeant promotions. Tabled until after Closed Session deliberation of candidates on the Final Promotion List.
 - d. Discussion/possible action on process for appointment of full-time firefighters. No action required at this time.
9. Closed Session. Chairwoman Lewis requested closed session for a discussion concerning the appointment, employment of specific persons for the City of North Chicago [exception 2(c)(1)]. Motion by Commissioner Blanchard, seconded by Chairwoman Lewis, to enter closed session at 5:29 P.M. to discuss the items noted above per the Open Meetings Act. There being no discussion, a roll call vote: 3 Yes, 0 No. Motion to enter closed session carried.
10. Chairwoman Lewis recalled open session to order at 6:42 P.M. Persons present:
Commissioner Vanderbilt Blanchard
Chairwoman Debra Lewis
Commissioner Nina Hampton-Stokes
Attorney Joseph Miller of the law firm of Ottosen-Britz, Ltd.
Attorney Brian O'Connor of the law firm of Ottosen-Britz, Ltd.
Dell Urban, Chief, North Chicago Fire Department
Richard Wilson, Chief, North Chicago Police Department
Luis Rivera, Officer, North Chicago Police Department
11. Action on items from closed session
 - a. Item 8(a), appointment of full-time police officers.

- i. Motion by Commissioner Blanchard, seconded by Chairwoman Lewis, declaring that Candidates Harvey (#29), Arenas (#31) and Bettasso (#32) had passed their Background Checks and were authorized to have a conditional offer of employment extended and to complete the final pre-employment checks (medical, polygraph, psychological). There being no further discussion, a roll call vote was taken: 3 Yes, 0 No. Motion carried.

Letters to be sent to the Candidates and to HR for notice and to facilitate the process.

- ii. Consensus of Commissioners to note for the record that Candidates Lehnert (#27), Fischer (#28), Escobedo (#33) and Flegel (#36) had withdrawn from consideration on their own request but for differing reasons.
- iii. Motion by Commissioner Blanchard, seconded by Commissioner Hampton-Stokes, declaring the Commissioners' determination that Candidates Bahena (#23), Yasko (#30), Kumpula (#34) and Shockey (#35) had failed their pre-employment Background Checks. There being no further discussion, a roll call vote was taken: 3 Yes, 0 No. Motion carried.

Letters to be sent to the Candidates and to HR for notice.

- iv. Consensus of Commissioners to note that Candidates Ramig (#37) and Romero (#38) failed to appear for the oral interview during the testing process, and ratify the determination that neither should have advanced in the application process.
- v. Note for the record that the 2015 Police Entry Level Final Eligibility Register, effective October 1, 2015, has exhausted listed candidates.

b. Item 8(b), appointment of full-time firefighters.

- i. Motion by Chairwoman Lewis, seconded by Commissioner Blanchard, that Firefighter Candidate Herrera (#16) had passed his pre-employment background check and medical evaluation, and was therefore certified for appointment as a full-time firefighter with the Fire Department of the City of North Chicago. There being no further discussion, a roll call vote was taken: 3 Yes, 0 No. Motion carried.

Letters to be sent to the Candidate Herrera and to HR for notice and to facilitate the process.

- ii. Consensus of Commissioners to authorize a pre-employment Background Check on Candidate Hunt (#11) after his failure to respond to earlier attempts by the Commissioners to conduct the pre-employment Background Check for him.

Letters to be sent to the Candidate Hunt and to HR for notice.

- iii. Consensus to note for the record the Commissioners' earlier authorization of background checks on Candidates Whipple (#18) and Wesolowski (#19), to be accomplished after resolution of Candidate Hunt (#11) status has been addressed.

c. Item 8(c), police sergeant promotions.

- i. Motion by Chairwoman Lewis, seconded by Commissioner Blanchard, to approve the promotion to Police Sergeant of Candidates Fapso (#1) and Rivera (#2) on the North Chicago Police Sergeant Final Promotion List dated June 8, 2016. There being no further discussion, a roll call vote: 3 Yes, 0 No. Motion carried.

Letters to be sent to the Candidates and to HR for notice and to facilitate the process.

- ii. Consensus of Commissioners to withhold approval of promotion to Police Sergeant of Candidate Hartmann (#3) on the North Chicago Police Sergeant Final Promotion List dated June 8, 2016 pending confirmation of record information.
12. Records Security. General discussion of access to Commissioners records and files, with brief review of history and past issues. Consensus of Commissioners, supported by Attorneys Miller and O'Connor, was that only the 3 current commissioners should have access to the room containing Commissioners records and files, and the file cabinets in which the records and files were maintained. Motion by Chairwoman Lewis to authorize Commissioner Blanchard to change Commissioners' Records room access door and file storage cabinet locks as soon as possible, seconded by Commissioner Hampton-Stokes. There being no further discussion, a roll call vote: 3 Yes, 0 No. Motion carried.
13. Consensus of Commissioners of need for Special meeting on September 8, 2016, to be held at the City of North Chicago Police Annex, tentatively at 4:00 P.M.
14. Adjournment. There being no further business for the Commissioners, a motion was made by Chairwoman Lewis, seconded by Commissioner Hampton-Stokes, to adjourn at 7:03 P.M. A voice call vote was taken with the following results: 3 Yes, 0 No. Motion to adjourn carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian O'Connor
One of the Commission's Attorneys

Approved by the Commissioners on September 15, 2016.

/S/ Debra Lewis

Debra Lewis, Chairwoman
Board of Fire and Police Commissioners
City of North Chicago

ATTEST:

[None Sitting]

Secretary, Board of Fire and Police Commissioners
City of North Chicago

Attending at approval:
Commissioner Vanderbilt Blanchard
Commissioner Nina Hampton-Stokes