

**MINUTES OF POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSION  
MEETING OF JULY 16, 2020**

*4:00 p.m.*

*Virtual Meeting*

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MEMBERS PRESENT: Daniel Kincaid, Disa Wahlstrand, Stephanie Finn, Selika Ducksworth-Lawton, Kimberly Cronk

STAFF PRESENT: Police Chief Matt Rokus  
Fire Chief Chris Bell  
Human Resources Director Victoria Seltun

The Commission convened in open session at 4:00 p.m. Meeting was called to order by President Daniel Kincaid. President Kincaid asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the Police and Fire Commission meeting held on May 21, 2020. No corrections or additions were noted, and the minutes stand approved as circulated.

The Police & Fire Commission recognized Dennis Pope for 10 years of dedicated service to the Commission. Commission President, Daniel Kincaid, presented Commissioner Pope with a 10-year plaque and thanked him for his service. Commissioner Pope's service ended on April 30, 2020.

Chief Rokus provided a personnel update. The Department has recently hired 2 new Police Officers. Both officers are currently attending the Academy and will graduate in October. They will then enter into field training and be ready to start patrol duty mid-January 2021. Since the Commission last met, the Department has seen 2 new separations; 1 retirement and 1 resignation. Sergeant Eliopoulos retired and Officer Tompson resigned after two years to accept a position closer to his family. Currently, the Department has 6 officer vacancies. Chief Rokus plans to leave the sergeant vacancy open at this time, but will fill it before the current eligibility list expires in March 2021.

Chief Rokus discussed the upcoming hiring process for the Department. The Department has exhausted the current eligibility list and is therefore looking to start a new recruitment process for the vacant Police Officer positions. The Police Department, with the assistance of Human Resources, has been successful in proceeding forward with civilian hiring processes and maintaining the safety and security of staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Police & Fire Commission oral interviews could be held virtually and Chief staff interviews will also consider utilizing a virtual interview process. UWEC and ECASD are currently not allowing the external use of their facilities, so we will most likely be working with Regis High School to run the written and physical portions of the testing. The Department hopes to hold the testing in late August and PFC oral interviews in mid-September, and then the candidates will be able to attend the Academy in January 2021. Commissioners provided feedback and discussion was held regarding the upcoming hiring process.

Chief Rokus provided operational updates. The Department has been dealing with mostly peaceful protests in our community in the aftermath of George Floyd's death. The Department

has been working to address community concerns, provide community outreach, assist with events/marches/protests, and make their practices transparent. The Police Department has updated over 20 policies and reviewed their training procedures. Commissioner Ducksworth-Lawton would like to note the great job Chief Rokus has been doing as the leader of the Department during this time. Discussion was held.

Chief Bell provided a personnel update. With the retirement of Lieutenant Brian Kranz, the Department currently has 5 full-time position vacancies. The Department has extended the employment of four of the limited-term employees that were brought on in March through August 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Department is seeing an increase in the number of employees who have been required to quarantine. Having the limited-term employees has helped during this time, but they will be returning back to school in late August.

Chief Bell recommended Firefighter/Paramedic Natasha Myre-Roth for promotion to Fire Lieutenant. Firefighter/Paramedic Natasha Myre-Roth would be the first female company officer with ECFD. Discussion was held. Commissioner Ducksworth-Lawton made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Finn, and passed unanimously, to approve the promotion of Firefighter/Paramedic Natasha Myre-Roth to Fire Lieutenant, effective July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Chief Bell discussed the upcoming hiring process for the Department. CVTC is planning on resuming their process in August and holding 3 testing dates. If CVTC is unable to proceed forward, the Fire Department will hold their own testing process, the results of which would only be used for the ECFD. The Department is planning on holding PFC oral interviews in mid-September and will determine if it will be in-person or virtual, following the police department's lead, at a later date.

Chief Bell provided operational updates. Chief Bell anticipates one more retirement by the end of the year, and a couple more in the Spring of 2021. 5-6 rookie firefighters will be training to become Master Divers in the upcoming weeks.

President Kincaid asked if there are any future agenda items. Discussion was held.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wahlstrand to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Ducksworth-Lawton, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled Police and Fire Commission meeting is September 17, 2020.

Minutes recorded by Kelly Shea, Police and Fire Commission Secretary.