

## **BLOOMINGTON BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY**

The Bloomington Board of Public Safety held a Special Session on **Monday, July 15, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.**, in the McCloskey Room, Room 135, City of Bloomington located at 401 N. Morton Street, Bloomington, Indiana.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Board President Barbara McKinney called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. Board Members Jon Barada and Philip Amerson were present in person.

Also in attendance were Fire Chief Roger Kerr, Fire Deputy Chief Max Litwin, Fire Assistant Chief Tania Daffron, Police Chief Michael Diekhoff, Police Deputy Chief Scott Oldham, Police Captain Myrick Williams, Assistant City Attorney Christopher Wheeler, and Legal Administrative Assistant Ashley Sparks. See sign-in sheet for full list of attendees.

### **FIRE PERSONNEL MATTERS**

Board Member Jon Barada made a motion to move Fire Personnel matters (originally matter 5e on the Agenda) to the beginning of the meeting. Board Member Philip Amerson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

Board Member Philip Amerson made a motion to promote Darren Combs to the rank of Fire Captain, effective July 16, 2024. Board Member Jon Barada seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

Board Member Jon Barada made a motion to promote Matt Patterson to the rank of Fire Captain, effective July 16, 2024. Board Member Philip Amerson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

Board Member Philip Amerson made a motion to promote Matt Muehling to the rank of Fire Captain, effective July 16, 2024. Board Member Jon Barada seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

Board Member Jon Barada made a motion to promote Jayden Elkins to the rank of Fire Captain, effective July 16, 2024. Board Member Philip Amerson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

Board Member Philip Amerson made a motion to promote Joe Radanovich to the rank of Fire Captain, effective July 16, 2024. Board Member Jon Barada seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

Board Member Philip Amerson made a motion to extend an offer of employment to firefighter Judson Garvin. Board Member Jon Barada seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

### **DECLARATION/REVIEW OF BOARD MEMBER CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Board President Barbara McKinney read the conflict of interest disclosure statement. No conflicts of interest were declared.

### **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Board Member Jon Barada made a motion to approve the presented consent agenda, which included payroll and claims from June and July, as well as minutes from the June meeting. Board Member Philip Amerson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

### **CERTIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Board President Barbara McKinney certified the executive session held earlier in the afternoon.

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT BUSINESS**

#### **Report on Monthly Statistics, Training and Incident Reports:**

Police Deputy Chief Scott Oldham presented the monthly statistics and training. Police Chief Michael Diekhoff added additional information throughout the presentation regarding specific statistics.

Board President Barbara McKinney asked if Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) training was required by the State of Indiana or the City of Bloomington. Police Deputy Chief Scott Oldham answered affirmatively for both entities.

#### **Letters of Appreciation/Commendation:**

Police Deputy Chief Scott Oldham presented 1 letter of appreciation.

#### **General Business:**

Police Chief Michael Diekhoff indicated that there has been an increase in issues with homeless camps and that the Mayor and Community Service Specialists have been discussing possible solutions but have not been successful. Recent decisions made by the Supreme Court are expected to cause other communities to crack down on homeless populations and therefore drive additional people into Bloomington. Police Chief Michael Diekhoff also explained that a large percentage of service calls reported deal with issues regarding the homeless population.

Board Member Jon Barada asked if there were specific locations of homeless camps, particularly on the Rails to Trails path, that were problematic. Police Chief Michael Diekhoff responded that south of Country Club Drive has been problematic. Additional discussion was held regarding City versus County property along Rails to Trails. Board Members Jon Barada and Philip Amerson both offered to speak to private entities with which they are associated to request additional assistance.

Board Member Jon Barada asked which camps have been getting cleaned out. Police Chief Michael Diekhoff responded that the main concerns are those that pose safety issues, such as homicides and the harboring of shooting suspects.

Board Member Jon Barada asked if clean outs were completed at the City's expense. Police Chief Michael Diekhoff answered that clean outs on public property are completed at the expense of the City, but those on private property are the responsibility of the property owners.

#### **Purchases: Expenditures/Procurements:**

Police Deputy Chief Scott Oldham indicated that there is a vehicle purchase to replace a vehicle that was totaled in an accident, but that it was a reimbursement from insurance.

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Personnel:

Police Deputy Chief Scott Oldham indicated 5 officers on extended sick leave or light duty, 1 on maternity leave, and 1 on light duty pending retirement. Police Captain Myrick Williams indicated that there are 15 openings altogether.

Board Member Jon Barada asked if the 15 is the total shortage. Police Chief Michael Diekhoff explained that 15 new hires will get the Department fully staffed, but with those out sick or on light duty, the Department is really down 20. Police Captain Myrick Williams added that the 9 candidates in the Academy will not count towards staffing numbers until March 2025.

Board Member Jon Barada asked if the pay was still not competitive enough with the funding provided. Police Chief Michael Diekhoff responded affirmatively, adding that the Mayor is trying to find solutions to the pay disparity. Additional discussion ensued.

Board Member Philip Amerson asked if tasers had been used or needed. Police Captain Myrick Williams indicated one deployment of a taser and three instances of its use in de-escalation efforts.

**CIRT/ARV REPORT**

Police Chief Michael Diekhoff indicated no deployments of the CIRT vehicle.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT BUSINESS**Report on Monthly Statistics, Training and Incident Reports:

Fire Assistant Chief Tania Daffron presented the monthly statistics.

Board Member Jon Barada asked about procedure to determine what is and is not a false alarm. Fire Assistant Chief Tania Daffron explained the process, indicating that all calls get at least one unit to arrive to ensure that all is well.

Board Member Jon Barada asked if accidental 911 calls from IU were still occurring. Fire Deputy Chief Max Litwin indicated that this is not as big of an issue now as in the past due to the prevalence of cell phone usage.

Board Member Jon Barada asked if the Fire Department's goals were self-imposed or state mandated. Fire Assistant Chief Tania Daffron explained that hour goals are based on staffing and regular training needs, though there are recommendations from ISO based on several factors. Additional discussion regarding ISO factors ensued.

Board President Barbara McKinney asked when Fire Headquarters would be moving to their new office. Fire Assistant Chief Tania Daffron indicated a first of 2025 expected move date.

Fire Assistant Chief Tania Daffron presented 1 letter of recognition.

General Business:

Fire Deputy Chief Max Litwin indicated no general business to discuss.

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Purchases: Expenditures/Procurements:

Fire Deputy Chief Max Litwin indicated that three vehicles are slated for capital replacement.

Personnel:

Fire Assistant Chief Tania Daffron indicated that an executive session will be needed for August's meeting to discuss the conditional hire of 5 employees.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business presented.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business presented.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

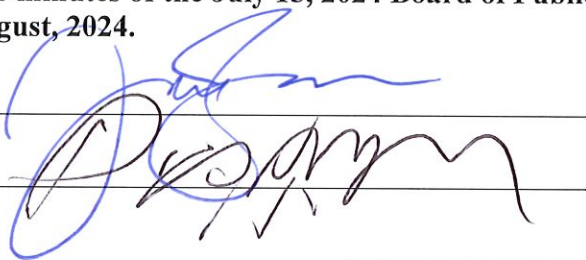
**ADJOURNMENT**

Board Member Barbara McKinney adjourned the meeting at 2:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Sparks, Recording Secretary  
Board of Public Safety

The minutes of the July 15, 2024 Board of Public Safety Meeting were approved this 20<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2024.



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