

BLOOMINGTON BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

The Bloomington Board of Public Safety held a Regular Session on **Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at 6:00 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 6:11 p.m. Board Members Jon Barada and Philip Amerson were present in person.

Also in attendance were Fire Chief Roger Kerr, Fire Assistant Chief Tania Daffron, Police Chief Michael Diekhoff, Police Captain Ryan Pedigo, Assistant City Attorney Christopher Wheeler, and Legal Administrative Assistant Ashley Sparks. See sign-in sheet for full list of attendees.

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.

CERTIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

CONSENT AGENDA DISCUSSION

Assistant City Attorney Christopher Wheeler requested the Board begin utilizing a Consent Agenda to approve items such as payroll, claims, and meeting minutes in bulk. Assistant City Attorney Christopher Wheeler explained the process in detail.

Board Member Jon Barada asked if there were any trade-offs, aside from efficiency, if the Consent Agenda were to be adopted as practice. Assistant City Attorney Christopher Wheeler responded that the practice was widely used for financial reports and minutes with other Boards and Commissions, while still allowing for items to be independently discussed, if desired.

Board Member Jon Barada asked why this process was not adopted in the past. Assistant City Attorney Christopher Wheeler responded that there have been several things that have been done incorrectly, but that an attempt at bringing practices up to date and within compliance was ongoing and a vote on these matters should have been occurring.

Board Member Philip Amerson moved to adopt the practice of approving Consent Agendas. Board Member Jon Barada seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

Report on Monthly Statistics, Training and Incident Reports:

Police Captain Ryan Pedigo presented the monthly statistics and training. Police Chief Michael Diekhoff added additional information throughout the presentation regarding specific statistics.

Board Member Jon Barada asked what factors are taken into consideration when preparing crime total statistics. Police Captain Ryan Pedigo responded that the calls for service get reported by Records. Police Chief Michael Diekhoff elaborated, adding that crime totals on the Powerpoint presentation represent actual cases or offenses and that numbers are based off of the system the Department uses to report crime totals to the FBI. Further discussion and clarifications ensued.

Board Member Jon Barada asked if traffic stops increase revenue for the Department. Police Chief Michael Diekhoff responded that approximately \$1.00 of revenue that comes from a traffic ticket goes to the Department, while the rest of the money is sent to the State.

Board Member Jon Barada commented that the traffic stop numbers have increased drastically. Police Chief Michael Diekhoff responded that these numbers have increased in an effort to locate criminals with active warrants, drugs, stolen property, and other things of the like.

Board Member Philip Amerson asked Police Chief Michael Diekhoff and Police Captain Ryan Pedigo to help the Board understand what issues the Department is facing. Police Chief Michael Diekhoff stated that there are more "bad actors," as well as a large quantity of people coming to Bloomington to commit more crimes, adding that if traffic enforcement is more aggressive, that allows for more opportunity to make contact with individuals of interest. Police Captain Ryan Pedigo added that he gets 2-3 requests per week for increased traffic enforcement in specific areas around town, which also adds to this number.

Board President Barbara McKinney asked if there are statistics available for how many arrested individuals are not residents of Monroe County. Police Chief Michael Diekhoff responded that there are statistics available, but not for the current meeting.

Board Member Jon Barada asked how a traffic stop results in finding weapons. Police Captain Ryan Pedigo and Police Chief Michael Diekhoff provided scenarios in which a lawful traffic stop would result in an officer finding weapons.

Board President Barbara McKinney asked what TikTok for Law Enforcement training is. Police Captain Ryan Pedigo responded, indicating that the training is to teach law enforcement how to access information such as photos and videos on TikTok that are documenting criminal behavior.

Board Member Jon Barada asked what the Department views as a community engagement event. Police Captain Ryan Pedigo responded that events in which officers are in attendance alongside other service providers in town would constitute a community engagement event.

Board Member Jon Barada asked about claims of a bike theft ring in town. Police Captain Ryan Pedigo indicated that, while there are a lot of bike thefts around town, he is unaware of an organized theft ring or coordinated effort.

Board Member Jon Barada asked how the Department views the importance of community engagement events in light of being understaffed and with a tough job. Police Chief Michael Diekhoff responded that non-sworn employees engage in most community engagement events to offset this issue.

Board Member Jon Barada asked how the Department views the importance of community engagement events in the hierarchy of the job duties imposed upon the Department. Police Chief Michael Diekhoff explained that these events are a good way for the officers to meet people of the community in which they serve in a good way and build trust. Additional conversation ensued surrounding this topic.

Letters of Appreciation/Commendation:

Police Captain Ryan Pedigo presented 3 letters of appreciation.

General Business:

Police Chief Michael Diekhoff indicated that the teen academy will begin the last Monday in June with 29 local kids and teens participating, giving a great opportunity to introduce policing to younger members of the community. Police Chief Michael Diekhoff indicated that there have been participants of this program who have applied to be and later become officers with BPD.

Purchases: Expenditures/Procurements:

Police Chief Michael Diekhoff indicated no upcoming large purchases.

Personnel:

Board Member Jon Barada made a motion to extend a conditional offer of employment to James Qualters. Board Member Philip Amerson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

Board Member Philip Amerson made a motion to extend a conditional offer of employment to Barrett Helzer. Board Member Jon Barada seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

CIRT/ARV REPORT

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

Board President Barbara McKinney asked if there had been any deployments yet in 2024. Police Captain Ryan Pedigo indicated that there may have been one earlier in the year.

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 if false alarm statistics were indicative of someone pulling the fire alarm when there is no fire. Fire Chief Roger Kerr indicated that sometimes it is faulty equipment, sometimes things such as burnt popcorn set off the alarms, etc.

General Business:

Fire Chief Roger Kerr indicated that the new Fire Headquarters building is set to be finished in October, Fire Station #3 is ready to go to bid for a remodel, and work is still being done to get the training and logistics center ready to go to bid this fall.

Purchases: Expenditures/Procurements:

Fire Chief Roger Kerr indicated no upcoming large purchases.

Personnel:

Fire Chief Roger Kerr indicated that the Department is 5 short, with an anticipated new hire beginning EMT classes in November and entering the Recruit Academy in January.

Fire Assistant Chief Tania Daffron indicated 3 employees on light duty with 1 to be released soon.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business presented.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Member Jon Barada asked what the latest staffing numbers are for the police department. Police Captain Ryan Pedigo responded that there are currently 91 officers, 5 out with injuries, 1 on deployment with the US Army for approximately 18 months, and 9 in field training, leaving 14 openings. Additionally, there are 2 openings for Police Social Workers and the Department is actively interviewing for those positions.

Board Member Jon Barada asked how many full time sworn officers were in the budget and where that number is derived from. Police Captain Ryan Pedigo responded that the budget allows for 105 sworn officers. Police Chief Michael Diekhoff further explained that the budget is not determined by the City's population, but rather a decision made by the Mayor and City Council.

Board Member Jon Barada asked what steps would need to be taken if the City's population outgrew the 105 budgeted officers. Police Chief Michael Diekhoff responded that there would need to be a discussion with the Mayor and City Council should this occur.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

Board Member Barbara McKinney adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Sparks, Recording Secretary
Board of Public Safety

The minutes of the April 16, 2024 Board of Public Safety Meeting were approved this 15th day of July, 2024.







