
BLOOMINGTON BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY

The Bloomington Board of Public Safety held a Special Session on **Tuesday, June 23rd, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.**, Teleconference/Virtual Meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Board president Susan Yoon called the meeting to order at approximately 6:05 p.m. to allow members of the public time to connect to the meeting. Other Board members present were: Maqubé Reese, Kim Gray, Luis Fuentes-Rohwer and Rafi Hasan.

Others attending are included on the attached sheet.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Board member Maqubé Reese made a request for a moment of silence for victims of COVID-19 and racism.

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR HAMILTON

Mayor John Hamilton addressed the public at the start of the meeting. He thanked the board for representing the interests of the public and for their role on this board. He then thanked the individual members of the Bloomington Police Department for their daily commitment to the community and the improvement of the department. He then assured the community of the collective commitment to overcoming the history of racism that is a sorry and painful of our own long Bloomington story. He said there is a collective responsibility to listen to all ideas and welcome all suggestions and questions.

STATEMENT OF GROUND RULES

Board president Susan Yoon provided some ground rules in a statement for how to handle the virtual meeting. She then welcomed the public to the meeting.

ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA

Board member Luis Fuentes-Rohwer moved that items number 4 and 7 be flipped on the agenda to switch the CIRT report and the payroll certification. Board member Kim Gray seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the adjustment of the agenda through a roll-call vote by board president Susan Yoon.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board members unanimously approved the minutes from June 16, 2020 through a roll-call vote by board president Susan Yoon. The motion was made by board member Kim Gray and seconded by Luis Fuentes-Rohwer.

FIRE DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

Report on Monthly Statistics, Training and Incident Reports:

Fire Chief Jason Moore introduced himself and gave a report on the monthly statistics.

Letters of Appreciation and Commendation:

Fire Chief Jason Moore said that there were none.

General Business and Personnel Issues:

Fire Chief Jason Moore provided an update on the lease that was approved during the May meeting for a warehouse and central wash facility. He said that they are currently down four positions. He said that two people left before retirement for family business opportunities, a first since he had been with the City.

Board member Rafi Hasan inquired about the open positions.

Fire Chief Jason Moore answered the question.

Board member Luis Fuentes-Rohwer inquired about the hiring process.

Fire Chief Jason Moore answered the question.

Board member Maqubé Reese also inquired about the hiring process as well as the two firefighters who left the department.

Fire Chief Jason Moore answered the questions.

Purchases: Expenditures/Procurements:

Fire Chief Jason Moore said there are still some of the ongoing COVID expenses that they are hoping to have reimbursed.

Promotion of Darren Combs:

Fire Chief Jason Moore provided the merits of Mr. Combs, effective June 5, 2020.

Board members unanimously approved the promotion of Mr. Combs to the rank of chauffeur, effective June 5, 2020. Board member Rafi Hasan made the motion, and board member Maqubé Reese seconded the motion.

POLICE DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

Report on Monthly Statistics, Training and Incident Reports:

Deputy Chief Joseph Qualters presented on the monthly statistics.

Board member Maqubé Reese inquired about what online training topics police go through

Deputy Chief Joseph Qualters answered the question.

Board member Rafi Hasan inquired about what constitutes a call for service.

Deputy Chief Joseph Qualters answered the question.

Board member Maqubé Reese inquired about how dispatch knows when to alert the social worker or neighborhood resource officers.

Deputy Chief Joseph Qualters answered the question.

Board member Maqubé Reese inquired about a recent homicide.

Deputy Chief Joseph Qualters answered the question.

NEW BUSINESS

Verbal Certification of Payroll:

Police Chief Michael Diekhoff stated that the police payroll is correct.

Fire Chief Jason Moore stated that the fire payroll is correct.

POLICE DEPARTMENT BUSINESS

Letters of Appreciation and Commendation:

Deputy Chief Joseph Qualters said there were seven letters of appreciation. He noted there was a duplicate in the batch in error.

General Business:

Police Chief Michael Diekhoff commented on what has been going on and referenced a statement where he denounced what happened in Minneapolis. He directed folks to the website to see the statement and the FAQ for the department. He said there is also information on how “8 Can’t Wait” policies are implemented in the department.

Police Chief Michael Diekhoff said BPD was one of the first departments in the state to have body cams and that policy is to have that on whenever an officer is interacting with someone.

Police Chief Michael Diekhoff also spoke about the department being a nationally accredited police department through Kalia and state accredited. Less than five percent of police departments are nationally accredited. In Indiana, 12 departments are nationally accredited, according to Police Chief Michael Diekhoff.

Police Chief Michael Diekhoff said that the department spent more than six months reviewing and implementing all but two of the recommendations within the 21st Century Policing Project from President Obama.

Police Chief Michael Diekhoff said they release data to the police data initiative and on the B-Clear Portal.

Police Chief Michael Diekhoff said they have neighborhood resource specialists and the full-time social worker on staff. BPD was one of the first departments in the state to have a full-time social worker on staff.

Police Chief Michael Diekhoff said BPD officers receive 4.5 times the amount of training than what the state requires and that there is a lot of training on deescalation, bias prevention training and critical incident training.

Board member Luis Fuentes-Rohwer inquired about “8 Can’t Wait.”

Police Chief Michael Diekhoff answered the question, saying that the department has adopted all of them.

Board member Maqubé Reese inquired about the crisis center.

Police Chief Michael Diekhoff answered the question.

Purchases: Expenditures/Procurements:

Police Chief Michael Diekhoff said that there may have been some for the evidence storage facility.

Personnel Issues:

Captain Ryan Pedigo provided an update. He said the department currently has 10 openings and that three officers will start June 29. He also said that two of those applicants are social workers that have their masters in social work and decided to become police officers.

CIRT/ARV Deployment Report:

There was no CIRT/ARV deployment.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no items under Old Business.

PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Greg May, the director of administration at Centerstone in the adult services division. May wanted to talk about some of the work that Centerstone has done with the downtown resource officers and the Bloomington Police Department. He also spoke about the crisis center, which has been named the Stride Center.

Ruth Aydt wanted to raise a concern. She thanked BPD for collecting and reporting data. She said they are seeing racial disparities in the data. She cited a newspaper article and criminal case data filed in 2018 to 2019 to see if it is indeed people from out of town.

Tami Giles, who works at Centerstone, said that DRP and the police social worker from BPD have built a partnership. She said they helped her find two clients that needed injections. She said the police social worker goes to camp sites with her as well.

Susan Harrington, who also works at Centerstone, said she wanted to echo what Greg May and Tami Giles said about the partnership with BPD.

RM had questions for Police Chief Michael Diekhoff. RM wanted to know if officers are allowed to be affiliated with white supremacy groups and how does he monitor to make sure that he is not. RM then wanted more time for a moment of silence for lives lost due to police violence. Another moment of silence was given.

Linda Grove-Paul, vice president of adult services at Centerstone, echoed other Centerstone voices. She said it is an important time to have these conversations. She commended having a police department that wants to get away from criminalizing mental health issues. She talked about a partnership to help homeless people get jobs through the city helping with landscaping. She said she is proud to be a resident of Bloomington.

Kaela Mason Garvin inquired about the non-social worker officers who are on the force and what sort of de escalation training they receive. She said she would like to hear more in the future as to what is being done for each officer.

Board recording secretary Nicole DeCriscio Bowe confirmed that no emails had come in.

Board member Susan Yoon thanked the members of the public that has joined the meeting and made public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

Board member Kim Gray made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nicole DeCriscio Bowe, Recording Secretary
Board of Public Safety

The minutes of the June 23rd, 2020 Board of Public Safety Meeting were approved this 21st day of July, 2020.

