

AGENDA
POLICE MERIT COMMISSION
Monday, February 8, 2021
Council Chambers

Municipal Building, 229 S. Second Street, Elkhart, IN 46516

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll call**
- 3. Approve Agenda**
- 4. Signature Authorization for Commission President**
- 5. Minutes- January 25, 2021**
- 6. Police Department**
 - Retirement- Lt. Brent Long, Cpl. Alan Williamson
 - Change of Status- Sgt. Whitmyer, Cpl. Barron
 - Discipline Notice- Cpl. Jeffrey Gorball
- 7. Public Participation**
- 8. Adjournment**

POLICE MERIT COMMISSION
Monday, January 25, 2021

President James Rieckhoff called a meeting of the Police Merit Commission to order at 9:13 a.m., Monday, January 25, 2021. Clerk of the Commission Nancy Wilson called the role. Commissioner James Rieckhoff attended in person. Thomas Barber, Rev. Jean Mayes, Brad Billings, and Clifton Hildreth attended on WebEx.

1. APPROVE AGENDA

On motion by Brad Billings, seconded by Jean Mayes and carried, the agenda was approved as presented.

2. Signature Authorization for Commission President

On motion by Jean Mayes, seconded by Brad Billings and carried 5-0, the Commissioners approved the authorization for the President to sign on behalf of the Commissioners.

3. MINUTES- January 11, 2021

On motion by Cliff Hildreth, seconded by Brad Billings and carried 5-0 the minutes from January 11, 2020 were approved as presented.

4. POLICE DEPARTMENT

Disciplinary Notice for Ptlm. Scott Swanson

Asst. Chief Snyder appeared on WebEx and presented a Disciplinary Notice for Patrolman Scott Swanson. Due to the violation of Policy 307.5(b)(2) Pursuit Driving and Policy 320.5.10 (b) Safety he was issued a one-day suspension without pay. Cliff suggested putting the Officers through a driver safety course. Asst. Chief Snyder agreed and said he would discuss it with Chief Seymore, noting it is as important to train and educate as much as it is to discipline. Jim Rieckhoff said a one-day suspension is the Chief's discretion, and noted the Officer signed it and the Commissioners did not receive a request to review it. Jim accepted the Disciplinary Notice for Ptlm. Swanson.

Change of Status Promotion

Asst. Chief Snyder presented a Change of Status promotion for Cpl. Jason Gruber for the position of Uniform Division Patrol Sergeant. His effective date will be January 18, 2021. Per policy, this promotion will have a probationary six-month period. On motion by Brad Billings, seconded by Clifton Hildreth and carried 5-0, Cpl. Jason Gruber was promoted to Uniform Division Patrol Sergeant.

5. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Brad Billings, seconded by Clifton Hildreth and carried 4-0, the City of Elkhart, Indiana Police Merit Commission was adjourned at 9:27 a.m.

James Rieckhoff, President

Attest: _____ Nancy Wilson, Clerk

Bob Roberson
Mayor

Kris Seymore
Chief



Police Department
175 Waterfall Dr.
Elkhart, IN 46516

574.295.7070
Fax: 574.293.0679

January 21, 2021

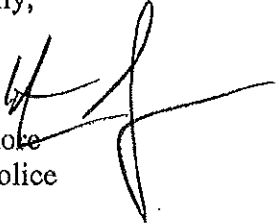
Police Merit Commission
Municipal Building
229 S. Second Street
Elkhart, IN 46516

RE: Retirement
Lieutenant Brent Long #188

Dear Commissioners:

Lt. Brent Long submitted a letter indicating his intent to retire from the Elkhart Police Department effective January 25, 2021. Upon his retirement, Lt. Long will have served as an officer with our department for twenty-seven years.

Respectfully,


Kris Seymore
Chief of Police

KS/kae

c: Personnel File
Payroll

Bob Roberson
Mayor

Kris Seymore
Chief



Police Department
175 Waterfall Dr.
Elkhart, IN 46516

574.295.7070
Fax: 574.293.0679

January 29, 2021

Police Merit Commission
Municipal Building
229 S. Second Street
Elkhart, IN 46516

RE: Retirement
Corporal Alan Williamson #337

Dear Commissioners:

Cpl. Williamson submitted a letter indicating his intent to retire from the Elkhart Police Department effective February 1, 2021. Upon his retirement, Cpl. Williamson will have served as an officer with our department just over 20 years.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Kris Seymore".

Kris Seymore
Chief of Police

KS/kae

c: Personnel File
Payroll

God Roberson
Mayor

Kris Seymore
Chief



Police Department
175 Waterfall Dr.
Elkhart, IN 46516

574.295.7070
Fax: 574.293.0679

January 22, 2021

Police Merit Commission
229 S. Second Street
Elkhart, IN 46516

RE: Change of Status
Sergeant Andrew Whitmyer #382
Acting Lieutenant

Dear Commissioners,

Effective January 18, 2021 I appointed Sgt. Whitmyer to the rank of acting lieutenant in the Professional Standards Division. He will be overseeing this division and all internal affairs cases for our department. He will be replacing A/Lieutenant James Anderson, where he will be returning to the rank of detective and placed in the Criminal Investigations Division.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Kris Seymore".

Kris Seymore
Chief of Police

KS/kae

C: Personnel File
Payroll
Captain Price
Acting Lt. Whitmyer

Kod Roberson
Mayor

Kris Seymore
Chief



Police Department
175 Waterfall Dr.
Elkhart, IN 46516

574.295.7070
Fax: 574.293.0679

January 18, 2021

Police Merit Commission
Municipal Building
229 S. Second Street
Elkhart, IN 46516

RE: Change of Status
Cpl. Ronnie Barron #444
Detective

Dear Commissioners:

The Promotional Review Board interviewed candidates for a detective opening in the Criminal Investigations Division; Cpl. Ronnie Barron was selected to fill the open position. I concurred with this selection. Effective January 18, 2021 Cpl. Ronnie Barron was promoted to the position of detective within the Criminal Investigations Division for a probationary period of six months per policy.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Kris Seymore".

Kris Seymore
Chief of Police

KS/kae

c: Payroll
Personnel File
Captain Price

Ed Roberson
Mayor

Kris Seymore
Chief



Police Department
175 Waterfall Dr.
Elkhart, IN 46516

574.295.7070
Fax: 574.293.0679

January 20, 2021

Cpl. Jeffrey Gorball #363
Elkhart Police Department
175 Waterfall Dr.
Elkhart, IN 46516

RE: Discipline Notice – Sys# 561

Cpl. Gorball,

The following is a summary of the above referenced case and its resolution:

FACTS: An internal complaint was generated on November 30, 2020 and investigated.

FINDINGS: The investigation recommended the allegation of violating Policy 320.5.9(f) Conduct – Insubordinate, Discourteous, and Disrespectful toward any member of the department be sustained; I agree with the findings.

Violating this policy, in the manner in which you did, was insubordinate, discourteous and disrespectful to not only a member of this department, but to your supervisor. For these actions you are being charged with IC 36-8-3.5-17(b)(2)(H) conduct unbecoming a member.

SUSTAINED: Policy 320.5.9(f) Conduct,
IC36-8-3.5-17(b)(2)(H) Conduct unbecoming a member

ACTION TAKEN: Fifteen Days Suspension without Pay

Kris Seymore
Chief of Police

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "KS", is written over a horizontal line.

I.C. 36-8-3.5-17(c) "If the chief of the department, after an investigation within the department, prefers charges against a member of the department for an alleged breach of discipline under subsection (b), including any civilian complaint of an alleged breach of discipline under subsection (b)(2)(H), a hearing shall be conducted upon the request of the member. If a hearing is requested within five (5) days of the chief preferring charges, the parties may by agreement designate a hearing officer who is qualified by education, training or experience. If the parties do not agree with the five (5) day period, the commission may hold the hearing or designate a person or board to conduct the hearing, as provided in the commission's rules."

Received by:

J. Gorball
Cpl. Jeffrey Gorball

1-25-7021
Date Signed

C: Police Merit Commission
Captain Moore
Professional Standards
Personnel File
Payroll