

City of Whitewater Police Commission
Special Session Meeting Minutes
August 29, 2013

ABSTRACT / SYNOPSIS OF THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF THE OFFICIAL ACTIONS OF THE POLICE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF
WHITEWATER, WALWORTH AND JEFFERSON COUNTIES, WISCONSIN

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call – Police and Fire Commission President Jan Bilgen called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Members present:

Jan Bilgen

Dennis Knopp

Dr. Mark McPhail

Dr. Ken Kidd

Members absent:

Dave Haberman

Also present: Chief Lisa Otterbacher, Captain Brian Uhl, and Support Services Manager Kathy Boyd.

- II. New Business

- A. Consideration of Discontinuing Chief and/or Command Staff Attendance to PFC Candidate Interviews – Knopp stated that he was the one that had requested. Knopp stated that they (interview candidates) are nervous having their boss staring at them during the interview. Knopp stated that they are more at ease talking to the Commission instead of their boss. Knopp stated that he wouldn't have a problem with Boyd attending because she is a better note taker than he is. Knopp stated that the upper echelon can stay outside and put their ear to the wall. Bilgen asked if there were other thoughts. Dr. McPhail stated that officers are expected to stay calm under any circumstances so he didn't see why this is a problem and that he was fine having the upper echelon in the room. Bilgen stated that she agreed with Dr. McPhail and that the candidates have gone through a couple other processes so she wants to make sure their answers are consistent with what they've indicated to staff during those processes. Knopp stated that this was a request from a past candidate. Dr. Kidd stated that to him it's a matter of what's the Commission's purpose. Dr. Kidd stated that if the purpose is to give an outside civilian viewpoint of the candidate separate from the command staff then it makes sense to not have the command staff be there. Dr. Kidd stated that maybe it changes the demeanor in the room and colors how the Commissioners look at someone. Dr. Kidd stated that he doesn't think the command staff should be there during the deliberation. Bilgen stated there are two issues, the command staff in the room during the interview and during deliberation. Bilgen stated that if the Commission wants to make a change then there would need to be a motion and a second because every other interview that has been done since Bilgen has been associated with the Commission that has been the process. Bilgen stated if they want to change the process it would require an agreement of the Commission. Dr. Kidd stated that he would want to talk to the command staff and get their viewpoint, but be able to talk without the command staff there. Dr. Kidd stated that it is a good precedent, not that he has any problems with the current command staff, but if something was amiss with the command staff then the Commission should be able to talk. Bilgen stated if there is an issue with command staff then the Commission is not doing their job. Dr. McPhail stated that it would be a useful conversation to have outside of the process. Dr. McPhail stated that the process has been in place for an extended period of time and he would like to see it on an agenda and have an extended conversation and hear from someone who is concerned directly instead of indirectly. Dr. Kidd stated that he agreed.

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Knopp stated that if the Commission could possibly bring it up at another time and he didn't expect it to happen this day, but put it up for discussion and maybe have a timeline of the first of the year. Bilgen stated it will not be on the September agenda, but the next meeting. Bilgen stated that the Commission could develop a draft procedure to review.

- III. Adjournment - Adjournment to Closed Session, to Reconvene per Wisconsin State Statute §19.85(1) (c) "Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility."

A. Items To Be Discussed: Interviews of Sergeant Candidates - 3

On a motion by Bilgen, with a second by Dr. McPhail, the Commissioners unanimously voted to adjourn to closed session at 6:09 pm.

AYES: Bilgen, Knopp, Dr. McPhail Dr. Kidd

NOES: None

ABSENT: Haberman

- IV. Reconvene into Open Session at Approximately 8:00 pm – The Commissioners reconvened into open session at 8:00 pm.

- V. Announcement of Recommendation to Chief of Police Concerning Sergeant Candidates

Dr. McPhail made a motion to approve and certify for promotion, Officers Elder, Weston and Reif. There was a second from Knopp. Bilgen stated that the Commission was grateful for the interest and please with the quality of the candidates. The motion was passed by unanimous voice vote.

AYES: Bilgen, Knopp, Dr. McPhail, Dr. Kidd

NOES:

ABSENT: Haberman

Bilgen stated that the Commission would turn it back to the Chief and Captain for their action.

- VII. Adjournment - On a motion by Dr. McPhail with a second by Knopp, the Commissioners voted to adjourn. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

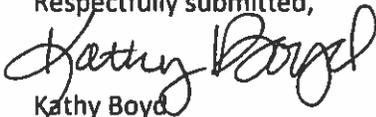
AYES: Bilgen, Knopp, Dr. McPhail, Dr. Kidd

NOES:

ABSENT: Haberman

The Police and Fire Commission adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathy Boyd
Support Services Manager

**City of Whitewater Police Commission
Closed Session Meeting
Thursday, August 29, 2013**

Call to Order: Police Commission President Jan Bilgen called the closed session meeting of the Whitewater Police Commission to order at 6:10 PM.

Members Present: Jan Bilgen, Dennis Knopp, Mark McPhail and Ken Kidd

Members Absent: David Haberman

Also Present: Police Chief Lisa Otterbacher and Captain Brian Uhl

The Commission interviewed three candidates for the open sergeant's position and conducted discussions concerning each candidate.

At 8:00 PM Dennis Knopp made a motion to reconvene into open session, seconded by Ken Kidd. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Bilgen, President