

MINUTES

NOVEMBER 15, 2011

LA PORTE CITY POLICE MERIT COMMISSION

MAIN FLOOR MEETING ROOM
LA PORTE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
1206 MICHIGAN AVENUE
LA PORTE, INDIANA

I CALL TO ORDER – 2:00 pm

President Larry Pinkerton called the regular meeting of the La Porte City Police Merit Commission to order. The Board members in attendance were Mr. Larry Pinkerton, Mr. Robert Cutler and Ms. Krista MacLennan. Others in attendance were Chief Terrence Scherer, Captains Julie Smith, Paul Brettin and Clyde Crass, Sergeant Thomas Thate, Officer Joseph Blake, Attorney Douglas Biege and Marilyn Shelby.

II APPROVAL OF MINUTES

As each member had received a copy of the minutes of the October meeting, Mr. Pinkerton dispensed with the formal reading of them. Ms. MacLennan moved and Ms. Cutler seconded the minutes be approved as submitted. Unanimously carried.

III CORRESPONDENCE

Officer Jennifer Lewis was notified on November 9, 2011, that the decision on her disciplinary hearing would be announced at the regular meeting of the Commission on November 15, 2011.

IV OLD BUSINESS

In the matter of Corporal Jennifer Lewis, Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law were introduced by Mr. Pinkerton and included as part of these minutes. The consequences are set out as follows:

1. Jennifer Lewis shall be demoted from the rank of Corporal to Specialist effective as of November 15, 2011.
2. Jennifer Lewis shall not be eligible to petition for promotion of a period of three years from the date of the written decision.
3. Jennifer Lewis shall be on notice that any further disciplinary action may result in further consequences up to and including dismissal.

Ms. MacLennan moved and Mr. Pinkerton seconded that the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in the Lewis matter be adopted. Unanimously carried.

V NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Pinkerton moved and Ms. MacLennan seconded that the December Merit Meeting be changed to Tuesday, December 20, 2011, at 2:00 pm in the main floor meeting room. Unanimously carried.

Sergeant Thate asked if a rule could be considered that if an officer is demoted that they return to the bottom of the seniority list of the particular rank to which they are returned. The Merit Commissioners agreed that this would be something that should be considered and there will be further discussion regarding this.

VI CERTIFICATION UPDATE

Officer Greer completed two credit hours of Indiana BAC Datamaster Recertification on October 31, 2011.

Officer Drangmeister passed the Mobile Data Operator Certification test on November 6, 2011.

VII PAST PERFORMANCE

No report at this time.

VIII EDUCATIONAL SCHOOLS, ADDITIONAL TRAINING AND IN-SERVICE COMPLETED ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

Captain Behenna added 4 hours to his training total by successfully completing the Advanced EVO Instructor Course at ILEA on October 20, 2011.

Officer Favia successfully completed an 8 hour Armorer's Course on September 20, 2011.

Officers Mamazza and Splix graduated from the Indiana Law Enforcement's Basic Course on September 30, 2011, and after successfully completing the Pushup component of the Physical Fitness Exit Assessment, Officer Bishop graduated on October 13, 2011.

Officers Bowman, Brettin, Favia, Worek and Sponaugle completed two hours of training in Internet Social Network Law Enforcement Liabilities on June 9, 2011, at the Indiana State FOP Conference.

Captain Behenna instructed EVOC (Driving) on October 15, 16 and 22, 2011, with thirty four officers participating and adding two hours to their respective training totals.

Officers Butcher, Drangmeister, Greer and Metcalf, successfully completed a 21 hour course in Street Crimes.

K9 Office Reed completed 35 hours of training given by Michigan City Officer Doug Samuelson from January 10, 2011, through September 19, 2011.

Assistant Chief Heath, Captain Smith, Sergeant Struss and Officer Bunton added 2 hours of credit by successfully completing Defensive Tactics given by the South Bend Police Department on Tuesday, November 15, 2011.

IX EXPENSES

None at this time.

X EXPLORERS, RESERVES AND HONOR GUARD

No report at this time.

XI APPLICANTS

Twelve applicants were contacted regarding physical fitness testing that was held on Tuesday, November 18, 2011, here at the department. Of the twelve, three of the applicants could not attend, four were no shows and all five remaining passed.

Passing were Kevin Borrell, Robert H. Gray, Jr., Stephen M. Navarre, Daniel R. Pletcher and Javier Porras. The Police Officer Selection Test will be administered to these applicants on Wednesday, November 16, 2011, at 9:00 am.

XII ADJOURNMENT - 2:20 pm

The meeting was adjourned by a motion made by Mr. Cutler and seconded by Mrs. MacLennan. Unanimously carried. The next meeting has been changed to the third Tuesday, or **DECEMBER 20, 2011**, in the Main Floor Meeting Room at **2:00 pm**.

Respectfully submitted by:

Krista MacLennan
Secretary
La Porte City Police Merit Commission

Marilyn Shelby
Secretary