

TOWN OF NORTHWOOD
POLICE COMMISSION
9/20/2022

Chairman John Schlang calls the meeting to order at 5:00 pm at the town hall.

PRESENT: Chairman John Schlang, Commissioner Justin Miller, Police Commission Administrator Linda Smith, Police Commission Attorney John McGee.

Minutes:

Motion is made by Commissioner Miller, second by Chairman Schlang to approve the minutes of 7/19/2022 as written. Vote: 2/0.

Budget Review

Discussion is held on scheduling a meeting with Chief Drolet to go over his proposed 2023 budget. Ms. Smith will coordinate a day/time in the next 10 days to hold the meeting.

Public Input

Ms. Caroline Talbot requested to be on the agenda and is present to speak with the commissioners. Ms. Talbot filed a complaint against the department last week in writing. Chairman Schlang turns the meeting over to Attorney McGee to speak. Attorney McGee states her complaint was brought to his attention by Ms. Smith. He states that he reviewed the complaint and has spoken with Chairman Schlang regarding the complaint. He states that the commission will not be taking any action at this time on the complaint because she has filed a complaint with the Attorney Generals Office. He states that he understands that they are reviewing their complaint to determine if they will be taking any action on it. He states that he is advising the commission to hold off on reviewing the complaint until the Attorney Generals Office has completed their investigation on the matter. He further states that she has made general complaints against the police department, and she has identified certain members of the department that she believes did not act appropriately. He adds that the commission has a procedure relative to investigating the individual behavior of officers, and to the extent that investigation is done by the commission after the Attorney General, that will be a personnel matter and that is private.

He states she is free to say anything she would like at this time to the commission. Ms. Talbot states that she was going to file her complaint last month; however, the meeting was cancelled. She states she now understands the process for the commission. She states they do not take filing this complaint lightly. She adds that her husband is a former police officer, and she comes from a law enforcement family. She states that she believes Chief Drolet could have addressed this matter months ago. She adds that Chief Drolet never stepped back and asked to speak with them. She asks if the commission has any questions, they would like her to answer. Chairman Schlang says not at this time. Attorney McGee states that after the conclusion of the Attorney Generals investigation, the commission may reach out to her if they need additional information as she has stated she has additional backup information, or if they have any questions. It is confirmed that the commission has her contact info. Attorney McGee states his concern that her husband is doing okay since the accident. She responds that he is still recuperating from his injuries.

Budget Committee

Ms. Smith notes that the town work session of the 2023 budget is tentatively set for the first Saturday in December. More information will be provided when it gets closer to the time.

Correspondence: None

Motion to adjourn is accepted at 5:19 pm

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Smith".

Linda Smith, Police Commission Administrator