

MERRILLVILLE METROPOLITAN POLICE COMMISSION MINUTES
Merrillville Town Hall, 7820 Broadway

September 8, 2023

Regular Meeting called to order at 2:00 PM

IN ATTENDANCE: William Poling – Police Commissioner Chairman, Present
Petar Dragojevic – Police Commissioner Vice Chairman, Present
Michael Rich – Police Commissioner, Present
Thomas Pawlak – Police Commissioner, Present
Gene Ward – Police Commissioner, Present
Michael Deppe – Police Commission Attorney, Absent
Josh Gonzales – Assistant Chief of Police, Present
Konstantinos Nuses – Chief of Police, Present
Lori Sanfratello – Chief’s Executive Director, Present

A quorum is present.

Commissioner Poling asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ITEM I Motion was made to accept the minutes of the Police Commission Meeting dated August 11, 2023, as presented.

Commissioner Dragojevic made a motion to accept August 11, 2023, minutes and was seconded by Commissioner Pawlak.

Commissioner Poling asked if there was any discussion.

Commissioner Poling stated all in favor signify by saying, “Aye.”

All replied, “Aye.”

Commissioner Poling stated, “Opposed, same sign.”

Commissioner Poling stated, “Motion carries.”

ITEM II STATISTICS REPORT

The Chief presented the July 2023 Monthly Statistical; 93 State Reports; 217 Total Citations; 93 Adult Arrests; 2,316 Calls for Service; 19 Domestic Battery; 252 False Alarms; 7 Weed Citations.

ITEM III

LETTERS OF CORRESPONDENCE

Commissioner Poling read a letter of Resignation from Officer Shrewsbury.

Commissioner Dragojevic made motion to accept the letter of Resignation from Officer Shrewsbury and was seconded by Commissioner Ward.

Commissioner Poling asked if there was any discussion.

Commissioner Poling stated all in favor signify by saying, "Aye."
All replied, "Aye."
Commissioner Poling stated, "Opposed, same sign."
Commissioner Poling stated, "Motion carries."

Commissioner Poling read a letter of Resignation from Officer Jordan.

Commissioner Dragojevic made motion to accept the letter of Resignation from Officer Jordan and was seconded by Commissioner Pawlak.

Commissioner Poling asked if there was any discussion.

Commissioner Poling stated all in favor signify by saying, "Aye."
All replied, "Aye."
Commissioner Poling stated, "Opposed, same sign."
Commissioner Poling stated, "Motion carries."

Commissioner Poling read a letter Awarding Officer Early the Alberts Hero Award.

Dear Officer Amanda Earley,
We would like to inform you of our decision to nominate you as the recipient of the 2023 Albert's Diamond Jewelers Heroes Award for the Merrillville Police Department. You display an incredible desire to always go above and beyond. Whether facing danger or showing empathy and caring to those in need, you genuinely put forth your best. Your actions do not go unnoticed.
Congratulations!

Commissioner Dragojevic made motion to award Officer Early the Alerts Hero Award and was seconded by Commissioner Rich.

Commissioner Poling asked if there was any discussion.

Commissioner Poling stated all in favor signify by saying, "Aye."
All replied, "Aye."

Commissioner Poling stated, "Opposed, same sign."

Commissioner Poling stated, "Motion carries."

Commissioner Poling read a letter Awarding Officer Solis as Officer of the Year.

I am writing this letter to nominate Ofc. J. Solis as the 2023 Officer of the Year for the Merrillville Police Department. Ofc. Solis has been one of our department's most successful and dedicated officers throughout the year. Ofc. Solis' hard work and dedication have been on display, day in and day out, as he has been one of the leaders in felony arrests. Ofc. Solis has shown the ability to actively seek out stolen vehicles, investigate suspicious subjects and cars, and apprehend wanted subjects while attending to calls in his assigned district. Ofc. Solis has participated in Lake County blitzes, where officers are encouraged to find stolen vehicles and wanted subjects. Ofc. Solis has even taken on the responsibility of filing high-level felony charges, which are cases usually assigned to detective bureau officers.

On May 18th of 2023, while working overtime for a crew shortage, Ofc. Solis apprehended a homicide subject who was wanted out of Dallas, TX. Several weeks before May 18th, our department was notified about the wanted subject possibly being in our area. Ofc. Solis' took it upon himself to stay vigilant and surveil the wanted subject. His perseverance and hard work led to the arrest and removal of a violent subject from our community.

On July 11th, 2023, Ofc. Solis was training a new officer and located a vehicle in our town that was wanted in connection with a shooting out of Flossmoor, IL. Ofc. Solis taught our new officer how to surveil a vehicle, and they conducted a felony stop. The vehicle was taken into custody, and Ofc. Solis and our new officer were able to assist another agency with a violent crime.

Although these are only a couple of examples of Ofc Solis' hard work, he has shown the ability to stay proactive even as the department's call volume has grown substantially. Ofc. Solis has a great attitude when he comes to work and is a pleasure to be around. And he is more than willing to help other officers who need assistance.

Ofc. Solis' outstanding police work and dedication over his career have shown that he has been an excellent addition to the Merrillville Police Department from day one. Ofc. Solis is an exceptional police

officer, and our department is truly honored to have Ofc. Solis as one of our officers!

Commissioner Rich made motion to Award Officer Solis as the 2023 Officer of the Year and was seconded by Commissioner Dragojevic.

Commissioner Poling asked if there was any discussion.

Commissioner Poling stated all in favor signify by saying, "Aye."
All replied, "Aye."

Commissioner Poling stated, "Opposed, same sign."

Commissioner Poling stated, "Motion carries."

Commissioner Poling read a letter of Commendation from Assistant Chief Gonzales.

I would like to make you aware of the excellent work conducted by Corporal Jason Besse. In April of 2023, Cpl. Besse was offered the opportunity to undertake some of the administrative side of police work. Cpl. Besse was offered to take on the special project of developing a proper system to manage the Department's fleet and equipment.

Over the past six months Cpl. Besse has gone above and beyond in performing his duties to execute this project. Cpl. Besse has spent countless hours organizing, inventorying, and creating digital records of all police department equipment. Cpl. Besse has been essential in keeping our fleet running as well as taking on the duties of facilitating the receipt of nearly 20 new vehicles. He also developed a new system of conducting monthly inspections to ensure our uniforms, equipment, and vehicles properly reflect the professionalism of our Department. This inspection program will also ensure our equipment and vehicles are meeting or exceeding their expected lifespan. Lastly, Cpl. Besse was instrumental in much needed updates to both our squad room and workout room. Cpl. Besse took this opportunity to enhance his supervisory and managerial skills without hesitation and far exceeded expectations. I am requesting Cpl. Besse be awarded the Merrillville Police Department Commendation for Excellent Police Duty for the submission of a method adopted by the Department to increase efficiency in the administrative procedure.

Commissioner Dragojevic made motion to award Cpl. Besse with the Excellent Police Duty Commendation and was seconded by Commissioner Pawlak.

Commissioner Poling asked if there was any discussion.

Commissioner Poling stated all in favor signify by saying, "Aye."
All replied, "Aye."

Commissioner Poling stated, "Opposed, same sign."
Commissioner Poling stated, Motion carries."

ITEM IV OLD BUSINESS

NONE

ITEM V NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 1015 approving full-time K-9 Yaga and Blue effective from and after 12:01 AM, August 22, 2023.

Commissioner Dragojevic made a motion to accept Resolution 1015 and was seconded by Commissioner Pawlak.

Commissioner Poling asked if there was any discussion.

Commissioner Poling requested that Chief Nuses take a roll call vote.

Chief Nuses took a roll call vote.

Commissioner Rich, "Aye"
Commissioner Dragojevic, "Aye"
Commissioner Poling, "Aye"
Commissioner Pawlak, "Aye"
Commissioner Ward, "Aye"

Commissioner Poling stated, "Vote is unanimous, and the motion carries."

Motion was made to Ratify the Emergency eligibility list.

Commissioner Dragojevic made motion to Ratify the Emergency eligibility list and was seconded by Commissioner Rich.
Commissioner Poling asked if there was any discussion.

Hearing none, Commissioner Poling requested that Chief Nuses take a roll call vote.

Chief Nuses took a roll call vote.

Commissioner Rich, "Aye"
Commissioner Dragojevic, "Aye"
Commissioner Poling, "Aye"
Commissioner Pawlak, "Aye"
Commissioner Ward, "Aye"

Commissioner Poling stated, "Vote is unanimous, and the motion carries."

Chief Nuses presented Conditional offers of Employment to Troy Allen, Kraig Caridine, and Danielle Eberhart.

Commissioner Pawlak made motion to extend the Conditional offers to Troy Allen, Kraig Caridine, and Danielle Eberhart and was seconded by Commissioner Ward.

Commissioner Poling asked if there was any discussion.

Hearing none, Commissioner Poling requested that Chief Nuses take a roll call vote.

Chief Nuses took a roll call vote.

Commissioner Rich, "Aye"
Commissioner Dragojevic, "Aye"
Commissioner Poling, "Aye"
Commissioner Pawlak, "Aye"
Commissioner Ward, "Aye"

Commissioner Poling stated, "Vote is unanimous, and the motion carries."

General Order 23.8 Clothing Allowance Amendment.

General order 17.1 Department Uniform Amendment.

Administrative Section 19 Duties of the Commander of Professional Services.

Commissioner Dragojevic made motion to approve the Amendments to General Order 23.8, General Order 17.1 and Administrative Section 19 and was seconded by Commissioner Pawlak.

Commissioner Poling asked if there was any discussion.

Commissioner Poling requested that Chief Nuses take a roll call vote.

Chief Nuses took a roll call vote.

Commissioner Rich, "Aye"
Commissioner Dragojevic, "Aye"
Commissioner Poling, "Aye"
Commissioner Pawlak, "Aye"
Commissioner Ward, "Aye"

Commissioner Poling stated, "Vote is unanimous, and the motion carries."

ITEM VI

ADJOURNMENT

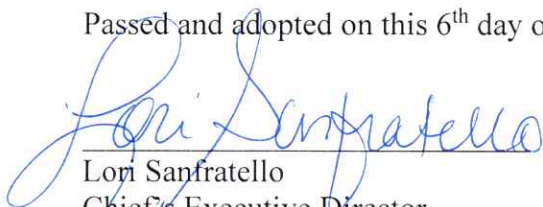
Commissioner Pawlak made motion to adjourn and was seconded by Commissioner Rich.

Commissioner Poling stated all in favor signify by saying, "Aye."
All replied, "Aye."
Commissioner Poling stated, "Opposed, same sign."
Commissioner Poling stated, "Adjourn."

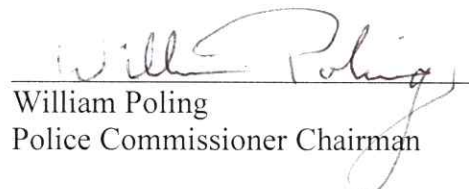
Commissioner Poling stated the next regular meeting will be Friday October 6, 2023, at 2:00 P.M.

AS THERE WAS NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED

Passed and adopted on this 6th day of October, 2023



Lori Sanfratello
Chief's Executive Director
Police Commission Recorder



William Poling
Police Commissioner Chairman