

City of Hastings

Public Safety Advisory Commission (PSAC)

Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2017

Hastings City Hall – Volunteer Room

**Present:** Commissioners McCauley and Ascheman.

**City Staff:** Chief of Police Schafer, Director/Chief of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Schutt.

1. The meeting was called to order at 6 pm by Chair Commissioner McCauley.
2. Welcome and introduction of new commission members Trinity Augesen, Dolores Pemble, Russ Rohloff, Brian Schommer, and Jesse Starkson.
3. Approval of meeting minutes from December 15, 2016. Minutes approved by Ascheman, seconded by Chair McCauley.
4. Oaths were signed by new commission members.
5. A discussion was had regarding the terms of the commission members. Commission Chair McCauley's term expires on December 31, 2017. Commissioner Ascheman's two-year term expires on December 31, 2017. Commissioner Pemble was appointed to a one-year term which will expire on December 31, 2017. Commissioners Rohloff, Schommer and Starkson were appointed to two-year terms that will expire on December 31, 2018.
6. Police department update provided by Chief Schafer:
  - In December 2016, Lieutenant Jim Rgnonti and Sergeant Rod Risch retired.
  - The department plans on hiring two positions in the next several months. The first will be a deputy chief position. The job posting was open to internal and external candidates and several applications had already been received. Interviews will be scheduled in the upcoming weeks. The second position to be posted is for a commander position. This position is open to internal candidates. Chief Schafer reported that he also anticipated that there would be two or three promotions to sergeant depending on the number of police officers hired.

- The department opened the lobby in February and Chief Schafer has received a number of positive comments. Two receptionists have been hired.
- The department also hired Richard Brown, a former Hastings police officer, as a part-time evidence room technician.
- Chief Schafer reported on the notification process and the community meeting related to the level 3 sex offender who would be moving to Hastings. The community meeting took place on February 15, 2017. In addition to Chief Schafer, representatives from the Minnesota Department of Corrections, the Dakota County Intensive Supervision Unit and the Jacob Wetterling Foundation participated in the meeting. Approximately 200 community members attended.
- Commissioner Ascherman reported that he had received positive comments from staff and students on the recent ALICE training at the high school and middle school.

#### 7. Fire department update by Chief Schutt:

- Chief Schutt provided a summary of the current organization and staffing of the fire department for the benefit of the new commission members.
- 2016 saw a record call volume. EMS calls continue to rise. Fire calls remain steady.
- The Hastings Fire Department has the largest service area in Dakota County. The department provides fire and EMS services not only to Hastings but to a number of townships including Vermillion, Denmark, Nininger, Marshan and Ravenna.
- Chief Schutt also provided background information on the pension plan available to paid on-call staff.
- As a result of the reorganization of the department that took place in 2015, the department was able to reduce overtime by approximately \$100,000 in 2016.

#### 8. Old Business

- None

#### 9. New Business

- Chair Commissioner McCauley provided background to the new commission members regarding the history of the commission, its evolution from the civil service commission to the PSAC and its function. A discussion was had regarding the current role of the PSAC's. The PSAC was not designed to be involved in directing the personnel or operational decisions of either the police or fire department. Rather, the PSAC primary function is to act as a liaison between the departments and the community and serve as a conduit for educating the community on the activities of the departments. In addition, the PSAC supports the departments through events such as the

police department open house, the fire department open house, the annual booya and attendance in special events such as swearing-in of new officers and recognition events. The PSAC also takes an active role in National Night Out.

- Following the swearing-in of new City Council members, the current members of the City Council Public Safety Commission are Lori Braucks, Tina Folch and Lisa Leifeld. The suggestion was made that it may be beneficial for the commission members to meet with the City Council Public Safety Committee to discuss way both groups for assist and support each other.
- Planning was begun on National Night Out. The commission members discussed reaching out to the parks and recreation department and local businesses. There was also a discussion on the appropriate focus of the community events. It was decided that a further working meeting to conduct planning for National Night Out was in order. That meeting was scheduled for March 9, 2017.
- Finally, Chief Schafer provided commission members a copy of the City's Social Media Policy. Commission members are considered agents of the City for purposes of this policy. Accordingly, members should review this policy and abide by it.

10. Next meeting date:

- Next meeting date is April 20, 2017.

Meeting adjourned.