

Balsam Lake- Centuria Police Department

Tuesday, April 23rd, 2024

Joint Board of Police Commissioners Meeting

Meeting called to order by Chuck Ellsworth at 6:30 p.m.

Members present on roll call: Jim Duncan, Brian Kammerud, Corby Stark, Chuck Ellsworth.

Members absent on roll call: Bill Alleva.

Others Present: Sharel Mabry, Darel Hall, Police Chief- Eric Jorgensen.

Public comments:

Mr. Darel Hall was in attendance. Mr. Hall stated he is currently employed with many municipalities as a private contractor serving as their Animal Humane Officer. Some communities he is employed with are as followed: Hammond, Baldwin, Somerset, New Richmond, Clear Lake, Clayton and North Hudson. Mr. Hall stated he has 11 years of experience in his area of expertise and a diversity of equipment. Mr. Hall emailed the Clerk of Centuria and the Clerk of Balsam Lake an Animal Control/ Animal Humane Officer Agreement for both municipalities to review. Compensation and benefits for being hired as the municipal Animal Humane Officer are, being paid on a per-call basis, at an hourly rate of \$20.00, starting from the time Mr. Hall leave his home. Mr. Hall would also be entitled to milage reimbursement at the current IRS milage rate. Mr. Hall stated he has received calls from residents located within the Village of Centuria regarding dog concerns. Some of those concerns are from dogs barking and unattended dogs in residential areas. Mr. Hall stated he can impound dogs at his home as he has a licensed establishment. The Commissioners will talk with their respective communities to review Mr. Halls drafted Animal Control/ Animal Humane Officer Agreement at their next municipal Board Meeting.

Sharel Mabry was in attendance. Mrs. Mabry stated she was one of the concerned citizens who phoned Mr. Hall to develop the Animal Control/ Animal Humane Officer Agreement. Mrs. Mabry is a resident of the Village of Centuria. Mrs. Mabry shared concerns relating to her neighbors' dogs being in her yard and their barking with neighbors are away from home. Mrs. Mabry also communicated concerns with barking dogs located in the township. Mrs. Mabry stated Officer Austin Reed, and Police Chief Eric Jorgensen, have reported to her calls for service to assist with her dog concerns. Mrs. Mabry requested copies of the completed police reports for all of her calls for service relating to dogs. Mrs. Mabry stated her support for creating a barking dog ordinance and is in contact with the Polk County Sheriffs Department for better county coverage. Chief Jorgensen thanked Mrs. Mabry for sharing her concerns and for updating him about the number of dogs a neighboring property has. Chief Jorgensen will be in contact with that family in the upcoming weeks.

To consider and possibly act to approve the April 23rd, 2024 Police Commissioners meeting agenda. **Motion by Jim Duncan to approve the April 23rd, 2024 Police Commissioners meeting agenda. Second by Brian Kammerud. All in Favor. Carried.**

Discussion and possible action to approve the December 12th, 2023 Police Commissioners meeting minutes. It was noted the Clerk Treasurer for the Village of Balsam Lake did not attach the correct minutes to the meeting packet. It was stated the December 12th, 2023 meeting minutes will be reviewed at the June 2024 Commissioners meeting.

To consider and possibly act to approve the general and payroll vouchers. **Motion by Jim Duncan to approve all general and payroll vouchers. Second by Corby Stark. All in Favor. Carried.**

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Joint Board of Police Commissioners Meeting

To consider and possibly act to approve the December 2023, January 2024, February 2024, & March 2024 Treasurers Reports. **Motion by Corby Stark to approve the December 2023, January 2024, February 2024 & March 2024 Treasurers Reports. Second by Brian Kammerud. All in Favor. Carried.**

Discussion on Police Department staffing. Chief Jorgensen stated Officer Austin Reed's last day of services with the BLCPD will be May 2nd, 2024. Officer Reed is looking forward to his new roll within the Minneapolis Police Department. There will be a small get together to celebrate Officer Reed on Monday April 29th, 2024 starting at 1:00 p.m., located at the Village Hall of Balsam Lake. Chief Jorgensen also communicated the departments' part time officer accepted a new job working for the State Patrol. There are many police officer and chief openings throughout the county.

Discussion and possible action on amending the BLCPD salary and benefit policy. Chief Jorgensen shared with the commissioners a diversity of payrates for police officers and police chiefs for the Polk County Sheriff's Department and other municipalities throughout the surrounding area. There was much discussion regarding payrates for hiring new officers for the department as well as insurance. **Motion by Jim Duncan to have Chief Jorgensen post both police officer vacancies with a starting wage between \$30.00-\$32.00 an hour with the Police Department paying for 100% of the insurance premium for the lowest cost Individual health insurance plan offered. Second by Brian Kammerud. All in Favor. Carried.**

Recap on officer and chef trainings. Officer Reed finished up his ICAC training. Officer Reed will continue his efforts with the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program with his new department in the future. Chief Jorgensen as been attending the Peer Support Workshops being held at the Polk County Justice Center. On April 30th there will be a county wide workshop for officers, county workers and their families to attend.

Police Chiefs report given by Chief Jorgensen.

Announcements: There were no announcements.

Motion to adjourn by Jim Duncan. Seconded by Corby Stark. Carried. 8:00 p.m.

Unapproved Minutes

Amy VanDeBrake, Village Clerk-Treasurer