

**VILLAGE OF HODGKINS**  
**POLICE COMMITTEE MEETING**

**January 27, 2016**

Meeting called to order: 7:00 pm

Those present:       Larry Rice, Chairman  
                          Dominic Misasi, Member  
                          Paul Struve, Member

Those Absent:       Don Cuttill, Member

Also Present:       Stephanie Gardner, Clerk  
                          Phil Kringlie, Trustee  
                          John O'Connell- Attorney  
                          Melody Salerno, Comptroller  
                          Ernest Millsap, Chief of Police  
                          Ryan Carrasquillo, Officer

Pledge of Allegiance

Chief Millsap asked that Officer Ryan Carasquillo speak and tell about the injury he has.

Officer Carasquillo stated that the original injury occurred 5 years ago when he was on duty and was hit head on by a drunk driver while in his squad car. The injury started then, but he stated he was young and dumb and rushed back to work after being treated. Officer Carasquillo stated that he has never stopped receiving treatment for his injuries. He was treated for neck and shoulder problems that have worked all the way down to the elbow, and arm. About one year ago he stated it started to get bad where he was having trouble functioning. He saw a specialist who ran tests, and discovered that there were problems in the elbow, that would require immediate surgery, and it was from the original injury. The injury affects the hand, arm and overall grip strength. Officer Carasquillo states he had the surgery on the elbow in November, and has been going to therapy. He thought he was going to be cleared to go back to work last week, but when he went back to work they did not clear him. There was a negative progress report from the occupational therapist, so he was not cleared, due to the type of work he does as a police officer. The Doctor and Therapist wanted him to have 2-3 weeks of therapy and strength training for the hand, too improve grip strength. He goes back to the doctor in another week and expects to be cleared. He stated he has been doing all his therapy and everything the doctors and therapist have been telling him to do.

Mr. Rice wanted the trustees to know that Officer Carasquillo was in a head on accident at LaGrange and I-55 while on duty. A motorist crossed the median at 80mph, when he lost control and hit Officer Carasquillo head on. This was an on the job accident and injury.

Chief Millsap wanted clarification on who and why the meeting was called, without him knowing. Chief is asking for respect and does not want to be side tracked by a Lieutenant. Mrs. Salerno stated that she was notified as Human Resources that the 45 days off were authorized by the Police Department to Officer Carasquillo. Mrs. Salerno stated she notified Lt. Cepelcha at the Police Department, because he is the one who handles these type of things at the Police Department for her. Lt. Cepelcha handles payroll, sick time, and Mrs. Salerno states she called him because Lt. Cepelcha is her point of contact for the Police Department and the schedules of the officers. Chief Millsap wanted to know what this injury has to do with the seniority. Mrs. Salerno stated that because in the contract it states if you are off for more than 75 days it affects your seniority. Chief Millsap stated that he is aware of this, but there has been instances in the past that Officers have been on extended leave for more than 75-90 days and it was never questioned. Mrs. Salerno stated that it should have been questioned. It was changed back to 60 days by the board a few years back. Chief Millsap stated that if it was still at the 90 days then there would not be a question. Mr. Struve said that at the time it was 90 days it was for all Village employees which were a repeatable 90 days and things could get out of hand. At some point it had to transfer to disability.

Chief Millsap stated he feels there are times people go around him and things get leaked out of the Police Department that should not go out of the Police Department. He states he has spoken with Mr. O'Connell and Larry about the situation and it will be discussed more in closed session.

Mrs. Moxley wanted to know why this was not brought up to the Health and Human Resources Committee. Chief Millsap stated he is not sure why and according to the employee handbook Trustee Moxley is the point of contact and why any new hiring's have not gone through Trustee Moxley he is unsure why. Mr. O'Connell stated that since Officer Carrasquillo is a Police officer it went to the Police Committee, the same as it has done for past officers, in similar situations. Mrs. Moxley feels the Health and Human Resource committee has been underutilized and we have a hand book, and these issues can be addressed in tandem.

Mr. Struve asked Officer Carrasquillo what was told him to begin with and by whom, after the initial accident. Officer Carrasquillo stated that his initial complaints were the neck and the shoulder, he still has 2 protruding disks that put pressure on the spine,

and nerves. He was treated by Chiropractors and this cannot be fixed. He was treated and returned to work, but the pain persisted and has been getting worse. He went back and seen a specialist, and had MRI's completed. It was seen that this injury was related to the initial injury 5 years back. Officer Carasquillo said he had it documented back then that the elbow hurt, but they always thought it was from the neck and shoulder injury and only recently found that there was trauma in the elbow area. They had to go in and operate and free the nerves. He was feeling a tingling pain in the hand all the time and it was affecting his grip strength and it is important for his job his hand function properly.

Mr. O'Connell and Mr. Rice asked for consensus in allowing Chief Millsap, and Mrs. Salerno into the closed session. Mr. Rice asked for a motion to go into closed session. Mr. Struve made the motion to go into closed session. Second by Mrs. Moxley. Voting Aye: Mrs. Moxley, Mr. Rice, Mr. Struve, Mr. Misasi and Mr. Kringlie. Voting Nay: None.

Closed session to discuss personal issues.

Mr. Rice made the motion to go back into closed session. Second by Mr. Misasi. Voting Aye: Mrs. Moxley, Mr. Rice, Mr. Struve, Mr. Misasi, and Mr. Kringlie. Voting Nay: None

Mr. O'Connell stated that the closed session deliberation over 45 day extension over the 60 day illness period. It will go before the formal board on February 8<sup>th</sup> and be retroactive. The motion to approve the 45 days extension was made by Mr. Struve. Second by Mr. Rice. Approved by Mr. Rice, Mr. Misasi, Mr. Struve, Mrs. Moxley, and Mr. Kringlie.

Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m. by Mr. Rice. A motion to close the meeting was made by Mrs. Moxley. Second by Mr. Struve. Everyone was in favor of closing the meeting with no other topics to be discussed.

  
Stephanie Gardner, Village Clerk