

PORTER POLICE COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

November 30, 2004

The Porter Police Commission special meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m. Present were Chad Brooks, President; William Donley, Vice-President; Linda Hodges, Commissioner; Assistant Police Chief James Menn, Sandy Boothe, Liaison for Porter Town Council and Attorney Patrick Lyp.

Linda Hodges made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 10, 2004 meeting. William Donley seconded. Passed 3-0.

There were no reports to submit at this meeting nor any old business to discuss.

Moving to New Business, Chad Brooks read the letter he sent to the Police Commission dated November 19, 2004, regarding the resignation of Chief John Lane. Mr. Brooks then read the letter received by the Police Commission dated November 18, 2004 from John W. Lane wherein John Lane noted in his November 16, 2004 letter he recommended Lt. Ed. Surgener be considered as his replacement. Mr. Lane noted that Ed Surgener declined this position and John Lane then offered his support and recommendation for James Spanier for position of Chief of Police.

Mr. Brooks then read the letter dated November 22, 2004 to the Police Commission from Billy D. Biggs requesting he be considered for the position of Chief of Police.

Mr. Brooks then read a letter from James Spanier dated November 23, 2004, where he formally requested to be considered for the position of Chief of Police for the Town of Porter.

Today, November 30, 2004, Mr. Brooks received letters from all active members of the Porter Police Department. He then read the letters from Assistant Chief James Menn, Lt. Ed Surgener, Sgt. Todd Allen, Sgt. Joseph Torok, Cpl. John McMahon, Det. Mike Veal and Patrolmen Eric Moore and Jason Casbon who all endorsed James Spanier.

At this point, Linda Hodges pointed out that the Commission should advertise since only two candidates have submitted applications; one from within the department and one from without. Mr. Donley felt that the position should be posted from within then an Executive Session be held. Attorney Lyp pointed out that two additional commissioners are to be added after January 1, 2005 and they should have an opportunity to be in on the process.

Assistant Chief Menn pointed out state law requires a police chief to be a member of the department for five years prior to appointment; if not, the governing body of the municipality involved could waive that requirement.

Mr. Donley made a motion to select a chief from within the department. On the advice of the attorney, this motion was changed to first look internally for a new chief. Chad Brooks passed the gavel to William Donley and seconded the motion. Motion passed 2-1. Attorney Lyp again stressed that two more commission members will be added January 1, 2005.

After discussion, William Donley made a motion to post the job opening until December 8, 2004 and an Executive Session to be held on December 15. Linda Hodges seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Regular meeting of the Commission will be on December 8, 2004 with an Executive Session scheduled for December 15, 2004. After the Executive Session, the Commission will schedule a regular public meeting. Liaison is invited to come to the Executive Session.

Meeting adjourned 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

*Rita Newman*

Rita Newman, Secretary

Minutes approved this 10 day of December, 2004

*Chad Brooks*

Chad Brooks, President

*William Donley*

William Donley, Vice-President

*Linda Hodges*

Linda Hodges, Commissioner

Attest: *Rita Newman*  
Rita Newman