

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING

Tuesday, April 23, 2013, 1:30 p.m.

City Hall, 45 Lyon Terrace, Wheeler A and B, Bridgeport, CT 06604

MINUTES

Commissioner Eleanor Guedes called the April 23, 2013 special meeting of the Civil Service Commission to order at 1:55 p.m. Present were Commissioners Rodgers, Plummer, McBride, and Correa, although Commissioner Correa would not be participating or voting. Personnel Director David Dunn, Clerk to the Commission Deborah Brelsford, City Attorney John Mitola, and Civil Service intern Justina Outhavong, were also in attendance. Chief Joe Gaudett, Captain Robert Sapiro, Lt. Lonnie Blackwell were in attendance from the Police department. Attorney Neil Austin was in attendance from the Labor Relations department.

1. Michael VanGrowski - Terminated

Mr. Dunn explained that the Commission had received a request from Police Chief Joe Gaudett to terminate probationary police recruit Michael VanGrowski for failing to pass the Cooper's Standards at the 50th percentile and that this matter had been on previous agendas but got tabled for various conflicts and that now there was a special meeting for this hearing.

Mr. Dunn asked Attorney Mitola to clarify the voting. Attorney Mitola said that a tri-part vote would take place. The Commission would get one vote and that the chairperson can vote to make a tie and vote again to break the tie. He said that Chief Gaudett as Department Head and Mr. Dunn as Personnel Director would each get one vote, thus, a total of 3 votes.

Attorney Gulash, representing Mr. VanGrowski, asked that the hearing be held in executive session. He wanted Sgt. Charles Paris, President of the Police Union, present in the event he called him as a witness. There was discussion between Attorneys Gulash and Mitola about this and the Commission entered executive session at 1:57 p.m.

The Commission returned to Public Session at 3:35 p.m. and at the request of City Attorney Anastasi and Attorney Mitola the Commissioners only entered executive session with them at 3:37 p.m. to discuss the duties and role of the Commissioners in this process.

The Commission returned to public session at 3:45 p.m. and the tri-part vote took place. Chief Gaudett voted to terminate Mr. VanGrowski. Personnel Director Dunn voted to extend 1 more opportunity to Mr. VanGrowski to pass the Cooper's test. Commissioners McBride, Plummer, and Rodgers each respectively voted to unanimously terminate Mr. VanGrowski. Commissioner Guedes stated that the vote was to terminate Mr. VanGrowski.

On a motion made by Commissioner Plummer and seconded by Commissioner McBride the April 23, 2013 meeting of the Civil Service Commission adjourned at 3:47 p.m.