

The Board of Public Safety met in a Special Meeting on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 11:08am. The meeting was held in the Community Common Room of the Technology Resource Center in Ignition Park, located at 1165 Franklin Street, South Bend, IN 46601, and was streamed live to the public via Microsoft Teams. Board President Luther Taylor and Board Members Daniel Jones, Melissa Colpitts, and Darryl Heller were present. Also present were Hearing Officer Roland Chamblee, Attorneys Jeff Haupt, Danielle Weiss, and Thomas Dixon. Firefighter Willamowski and Chief Carl Buchanon were also present. Clerk Anne Fuchs was in attendance, virtually. The meeting was recorded and posted to the City’s website under “Virtual Meeting Recordings:” <https://www.southbendin.gov/board/public-safety/>

FIRE DEPARTMENT

RECONVENE HEARING OF CASE 2021-01 REGARDING THE CAPTAINCY OF FIREFIGHTER MICHAEL WILLIAMOWSKI

This was the date set for the continuation of the Hearing of Case No. 2021-01 in the matter of the Captaincy of Firefighter Michael Williamowski. The meeting was streamed live to the public via Microsoft Teams and recordings of the meeting were uploaded subsequently to the City’s website under “Virtual Meeting Recordings:” <https://www.southbendin.gov/board/public-safety/>

The parties reached a mutual agreement prior to the start of the hearing, which was recited to the Board Members as follows:

Firefighter Willamowski’s Captain in Special Assignment rank will be extended for six months from today’s date. During the six-month time period, at least two formal evaluations will be provided. Firefighter Willamowski will also receive backpay for the period of time he was removed from the Captain in Special Assignment rank, which extends back to January 21, 2021. At the end of the six-month extension, a final determination will be made regarding Firefighter Willamowski’s rank. Upon a motion from Board Member Jones, seconded by Ms. Colpitts, the Board approved the agreement of the parties.

Mr. Taylor commended the parties for working through this matter and coming to an agreement. Chief Buchanon asked to make a brief statement. He first thanked the Board for the job that they do. He next stated he does not take his role as Chief lightly and that he took his role to make changes for the good of the department, which will affect the entire department. Chief Buchanon stated he recognizes that some of these changes are a deviation from what his predecessors put in place, so the changes he is making will be formalized and communicated to ensure that individuals know what is expected of them.

ADJOURNMENT

Board President Taylor adjourned the meeting at 11:23am.

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY



Luther Taylor, President



Eddie Miller, Member



Daniel Jones, Member



Melissa Colpitts, Member



Darryl Heller, Member

ATTEST:



Anne Fuchs, Clerk