

MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS' SUPPLEMENTAL PAY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 9 2023

A regular meeting of the Municipal Police Officers Supplemental Pay Board of Review, August 9, 2023 at Louisiana Department of Public Safety, Management and Finance Office, Chief Justice called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

The following members and staff present:

Board Members

Chief Kip A. Judice, Chairman (LA Assoc. of Chiefs of Police)
Capt. Jonas Martin (DPS)
Carl Richard (LA. City Marshals and City Constables Assoc.)
Jim Craft (Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement (LCLE))
Adrienne T. Bordelon (Office of state Examiner of Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service)
Mayor David Toups (Louisiana Municipal Clerks Institute)

Staff

Natalya Besse
Candy Diez
Susanne Tessier
Sherlyn D. Shumpert, Esq.

Visitor

Lavon Johnson (Office of state Examiner of Municipal Fire and Police Civil Service)
LTC Gregory Graphia (DPS)
Lauren Whatley (Louisiana Legislative Auditors)
Alison Chapman (Louisiana Legislative Auditors)
Krista Baker-Hernandez (Louisiana Legislative Auditors)

There was no quorum. Chief Justice allowed discussion of the appeal without voting, since both officers, Spencer S. Cornette and Mark Anthony Kidder, were present for the appeal.

APPEALS

St. Landry Parish Government – Spencer S. Cornette, Director of Animal Control & Mark Anthony Kidder, Lead Investigator:

The officers' applications were denied at the February board meeting because the commission cards were from the Opelousas Sheriff's Department. The applications were denied at the May board meeting because new commission cards were from the Opelousas PD – Reserve Police Officers; the applications were signed by the Director of Finance, not the Chief of Police.

Chief Justice confirmed with officer Cornette that he is a full time officer at the parish sheriff's office.

Chief Justice asked why they do not receive supplemental pay through the sheriff's program. The officers were told it is because they are not fully employed through the sheriff's office.

Adrienne T. Bordelon advised that anyone who is employed by the St. Landry parish government, regardless of title and post status, is ineligible for municipal police supplemental pay because they are not employees of a municipality. Per statute 40:1667.1, officers must be employed either by a municipality or by an Indian tribe to be eligible for municipal police supplemental pay. St. Landry government is a parish government. The only exception is a city-parish, consolidated city parish government. St. Landry is not a consolidated city parish government. As a non-voting board member, Adrienne T. Bordelon suggested that since the St. Landry parish government is not a municipality, the officers should not be eligible for municipal police supplemental pay.

Officers said they have problems getting anyone at the sheriff's supplemental pay office.

Capt. Martin recommended attending the next sheriff's supplemental pay public meeting to address this matter with their board.

Jim Craft confirmed with the officers that both are commissioned with St. Landry and POST certified. Being commissioned by a sheriff's office and not by a law enforcement agency, Jim Craft agreed with Ms. Bordelon interpretation of the statute, the officers are not eligible for municipal supplemental pay.

Adrienne T. Bordelon referred to statute 40:1667.5 that addresses Parishes having no incorporated municipalities and extra compensation for deputy sheriffs. Officers fall under that statute and need to apply to the sheriff's supplemental pay office.

Chief Justice advised that when the board has a quorum, his motion to the board would be to deny the applications for municipal supplemental pay. However, he would support an idea to provide a letter to the sheriff's board requesting the sheriff's board review these applications.

Officer Kidder said that their positions were created in accordance with State statute RS 3:2501 due to a bad situation with animal abuse.

Per Chief Justice, the statute RS 3:2501 gives authority for parish government to commission officers but it has no reference to supplemental pay.

Carl Richard advised that because payroll goes through the sheriff's office, it makes them ineligible for municipal supplemental pay.

Attorney Sherlyn Shumpert recommended a detailed denial response to the appeal. The denial will provide information for the sheriff's supplemental pay office.

Chief Justice agreed that at the next meeting with a quorum, he would provide outlined reasons why the municipal supplemental pay board did not accept the applications.

INCENTIVE PAY ACT 376:

The board briefly discussed ACT 376.

To confirm that there was no prior law enforcement service, before each meeting supplemental pay staff can provide a list of applicants to Rebekah Taylor Hill & Jim Craft to verify either the date for POST certification or the date for firearm license. Per statute, new officers must receive certification within a year of their employment.

The statute allows prior service at another state. Per Chief Justice, the statute was drafted in part to attract officers from other states.

ADJOURN:

Jim Craft made a motion to adjourn.

Capt. Martin seconded the motion and the motion passed.