

Whatcom County Civil Service Commission

March 14, 2019

Human Resources Conference Room – Suite 107

Minutes

Commissioners Present: Bart Miller, Paul Myers

Sheriff Staff Present: Sheriff Bill Elfo, Sr. Admin. Assistant Dawn Pierce

Human Resources (HR): Bea Acland, Chief Examiner

Visitor: Sergeant James Triplett, Whatcom County Sheriff's Office

Approval of Minutes

January 10, 2019 meeting minutes not approved: Bart requested the inclusion of the political party issue under Commission agenda items at that meeting. Bea will revise draft minutes and bring to the April meeting for review.

Public Comment Period

None.

Elections

Elections were held. Bart Miller is the new Chair, Paul Myers Co-Chair.

Sheriff's Discussion Items

Dawn Pierce reviewed employment activity in the Sheriff's Office.

Sheriff Elfo asked Commissioners about their preference for having a civilian on oral boards for Deputy Sheriff and Corrections Deputy. The Sheriff's Office has a hard time finding civilians available for two-day oral boards. The Sheriff asked if having one oral board panelist from an outside agency would be acceptable if a civilian was unavailable. Commissioners stated that would be acceptable. Commissioners will discuss recruitment for civilian panelists at a future meeting when all three Commissioners are present.

Commission Discussion Items

- Request from Sergeant Triplett for permission to apply for Lieutenant.
Sgt. Triplett did not meet the requirement to have 2 years' Sergeant experience as of the application deadline for lieutenant, but will have 2 years' experience before the eligible register is certified and the position filled. Sheriff Elfo stated his support for the request.

Commissioners went into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Returning from executive session they made and passed the following motion:

- To allow Sgt. Triplett to apply for Lieutenant in light of the fact that he will have the required time in grade as Sergeant as of the time of any appointment to Lieutenant.
- Return Rights after appointment to unclassified position.
Issue was tabled to give Sheriff the chance to discuss it with his staff.
- Political party of Commissioners.
Commissioners Bart and Paul met with County Executive Jack Louws about this issue. Executive Louws stated he would add a voluntary question about party affiliation to the application for Civil Service Commissioner. Commissioners

reported that Mr. Louws suggested the Commission put in its minutes the party affiliation of Commissioners. Paul stated his opposition to this idea. No official action taken.

- Rules amendment to address change in law regarding citizenship requirement
Tabled until next meeting.

Chief Examiner's Report

Next Meeting: April 11, 2019.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am

Minutes by Bea Acland