

**CITY OF LOCKPORT**  
**BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS**  
**REGULAR MEETING – OFFICIAL RECORD**

Site: GoToMeetings.com

Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - 5:30pm

**Present: Commissioners Cheryl Brown, Mark Devine, Flora Hawkins, Thomas Murphy. Also present: Police Chief Steve Abbott, Mayor Michelle Roman, City Clerk Paul Oates, US&J reporter Connor Hoffman**

**Meeting called to order by F. Hawkins at 5:35pm**

**Motion by M. Devine to approve the minutes of the March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 meeting, seconded by T. Murphy. Motion passed.**

**Chief Abbott's Report: The department continues to maintain COVID-19 protocols and social distancing. None of the department members are sick. LPD still has a good supply of N-95 masks. First responders testing is available every Wednesday at the county building, while testing for the public is underway at NCCC. Awaiting word from the governor with regard to re-opening. It's not expected soon, since we are part of WNY and taken into consideration with Erie County.**

**F. Hawkins asked if the use of face masks is law or simply recommended.**

**Abbott: It's a health law that can be enforced. Currently, the department is just giving warnings. We don't want to charge the average citizen we see without a mask, but we can if need be.**

**Abbott: Regarding the budget, overtime is down. In conversation with Finance Director Tim Russo, a minimum of \$170,000 in cuts was discussed, and it is more likely to be greater as time goes on.**

T. Murphy asked if the proposed cuts are from the current 2020 operating budget. Abbott replied 'yes'. Murphy asked if the cuts were suggested by Russo, or if they are COVID-19 related. Abbott replied the cuts are a result of COVID-19.

Abbott: We're down three officers and that may affect overtime. Through the first four months of the year we're at 24% of our budget for 2020. The academy is tentatively set for June 1<sup>st</sup>.

F. Hawkins asked about the status of the school resource officer.

Abbott: We're under contract with him so he gets paid. He is still available to the department.

Abbott: Officer Mitchell Pagan is almost done with field training and should be ready to go in about three weeks.

Abbott: The April 2020 CompStat report shows calls and arrests were drastically reduced over the same time period in 2019. Domestic incidents and mental health calls were up. Shots fired calls are up.

Mayor Roman asked if there were any shots fired calls from around 3:30am this morning (May 4).

Abbott: There were calls in the early morning hours May 4<sup>th</sup> and were believed to be fireworks. No shell casings were found. It's being investigated and juveniles are suspected.

M. Devine asked if the suspects in shots fired calls are local people or from out of town.

Abbott: Mostly local residents, but a few from outside the area, such as Buffalo, Niagara Falls, Rochester.

T. Murphy asked if some people are perhaps taking advantage of the COVID-19 situation.

Abbott: Car stops haven't been banned, but officers are using their discretion.

Abbott: Police have been involved in six or seven drive-by parades for city residents. Four or five more are booked.

Mayor Roman added that most of these parades are for birthdays and retirements.

**6:15pm: Motion by T. Murphy to begin executive session. Seconded by C. Brown. Approved. Connor Hoffman exited the meeting.**

**7:00pm: Motion by M. Devine to end executive session. Seconded by C. Brown. Approved.**

**7:01pm: Motion to adjourn by M. Devine. Seconded by T. Murphy. Approved.**