

CLOSED SESSION

June 17, 2013

Closed session was entered into per 5ILCS 120/2 (c) (1) at 8:12pm by motion from Nolan and second from Blackstock with a vote by voice being 5-0.

Attorney Lindner and Temporary Police Chief Melton were allowed to remain during closed session.

Nolan opened discussion pertaining to the police computers and issues that were brought to the board's attention by Skelton and Tibbs at the June 6, 2013 Committee Meeting. Nolan voiced her concerns over the entire board needing to be advised about what issues had actually happened since all that was suggested were insinuations towards ex-Chief Hodgson.

Tibbs explained about the computer (Computer #1) that had been taken home by ex-Chief Hodgson and how said computer came to be in his possession. Tibbs then explained what he found once he and Skelton examined the contents of the hard drive. They were unable to determine what was on the stated hard drive or if anything had been removed. Tibbs explained that after he replaced the hard drive on said computer it is in good working order and is currently being used by the police department. R. Coon and Blackstock voiced their concerns over the way in which the computer was handled and possible conflicts that arose as a result.

There was then discussion about the computer that had been actively being used by the police department at the time of ex-Chief Hodgson's resignation (Computer #2). Nolan and Blackstock questioned what occurred when files were deemed "missing" by Skelton and Melton. There was discussion about the date of modifications that were done to Computer #2.

Nolan voiced her concerns about the remainder of the board not being notified when these situations occurred for all to be advised and make decisions as a board.

Skelton voiced concerns over questionable text messages that went through the police cell phone. There was further discussion about any other issues that are currently being pursued by Skelton, Tibbs and Melton pertaining to ex-Chief Hodgson or the police computers in question.

There was discussion about contacting at least the police committee for any type of investigation and then bringing the findings to any investigation to the entire board for recommendations and board action in lieu of doing individual investigations without the advice or consent of the entire board.

Skelton explained that there was no decisions made; however, the investigation by Tibbs, Melton and himself had not been completed as of yet.

R. Coon recommended that both computers be sent to the state police for further investigation and examination. Attorney Lindner explained that a written policy needed to be drafted and adopted to address 1) the taking home of village property 2) in proper steps to be taken when an investigation into any matter needs to take place.

Blackstock voiced her concerns over the insinuations that were stated at the June 6, 2013 committee meeting.

Tibbs explained that police computers should have professionals brought into the office and the computers not leave the office even for repair.

Melton voiced his concerns about sending the computers to the state police for examinations due to possible problems that may be found which could hurt ex-Chief Hodgson. It was discussed that some of the possible missing files on Computer #2 have been found and the modifications that were made were possibly unremarkable modifications.

There was discussion about the rights of the mayor to look into police files and computers. Skelton pointed out that as mayor he had the rights to review files per an entry in the Illinois Municipal League handbook. Attorney Lindner was shown referenced entry for review. Attorney Lindner asked for time to review case law that was footnoted in reference for further clarification.

Blackstock stated the new findings during current meeting and the possible "back pedaling" that is going on. Skelton stated that at no point was anyone sure of what had happened due to the internal investigation not being completed.

Skelton voiced concerns over ex-Chief Hodgson being "drug through the mud" due to questions being arisen about integrity of files and such. Blackstock, R. Coon and Nolan expressed their doubts with ex-Chief Hodgson wrongdoings but if that did occur then it should be tended to.

There were questions about the media finding out about said action taken by the board pertaining to stated issues. Attorney Lindner cautioned all in attendance the purpose of closed sessions and that the subjects and details of conversations had during such meetings should be kept confidential.

Blackstock questioned the need for further investigations due to the "back peddling" that had gone on during this closed session. A recap of the recommendations that would be read upon the conclusion of the closed meeting for board action to be rendered was heard.

Concerns over what computer would be used during state police investigation were discussed.