

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS AND SAFETY
SPECIAL SESSION
JULY 26, 2012

The Board of Public Works & Safety met in special session on Thursday, July 26, 2012 at 4:00 P.M., E.S.T.

Board of Public Works & Safety member Susan Fye presided with the following members absent or present:

Present: Jayne Farber

Absent: Mayor Kristin Brown

Others present were Kelly Benjamin, City Attorney, Luann Welmer, Clerk Treasurer, Alan Whitted, Attorney for Columbus Fire Department, Joel Thacker, Fire Chief, Gary Henderson, Firefighter, and Edward Merchant, Attorney for Mr. Henderson.

Susan Fye read the procedures to be followed. Susan asked both parties if they wished to make any comments. Mr. Whitted stated he would like the Board to favorably consider the agreement that has been submitted. He believes it is in the best interest of the Columbus City Fire Department and the parties involved and that it is a fair and equitable settlement. Chief Thacker had no comment. Mr. Merchant agreed with the statement made by Mr. Whitted and stated he believes it is a fair and equitable resolution to this matter. Mr. Henderson had no comment.

Susan Fye opened the floor to public comments. Stephanie Pierret, a Columbus resident, spoke on behalf of Mr. Henderson.

Jayne Farber moved to accept the settlement agreement that has been presented, and signed by Firefighter Gary Henderson and Chief Joel Thacker. Susan Fye seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Jayne Farber read the original Notice of Disciplinary Action dated June 7, 2012.

Jayne Farber read the Settlement Agreement entered this date.

Susan Fye discussed the process of executive session verses open session. She stated the issue was discussed, but it was her decision to make this an executive session.

Jayne Farber stated she personally believes that managers, supervisors, bosses, and leaders should be held to a higher set of standards. She realizes it is sometimes a difficult position to be in. She stated we don't always have all of the answers, but we should be responsible as leaders and supervisors to always encourage ourselves to further discovery to make sure that we know what are standards, what are procedures, what are rules and regulations and what is the proper thing to do and if we don't know we query and ask.

Susan Fye stated she spent many hours looking over Indiana codes sections, reading case law, reading through personnel manuals, and reading through city policies to make the determination today.

Jayne Farber made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Susan Fye seconded the motion. Motion was unanimous. The Board concluded its Special Session at 4:15 p.m.

Presiding Officer

Member

Member

Attest: _____
Luann Welmer, Clerk-Treasurer