

# **VILLAGE OF DRESSER CITIZENS POLICE REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING**

In the Matter of a Complaint Against Ryan Haass, Chief of the Dresser Police Department.

## **NOTICE OF HEARING**

To: Ryan Haass - Dresser Police Chief, Eugene Hendricks – Complainant, Sharon Hendricks – Complainant, The Public – Pursuant to the Wisconsin Public Records and Open Meetings Law.

Please Take Notice that the Village of Dresser, Polk County, Wisconsin Citizens Police Review Committee will meet for the purpose of conducting a fact-finding hearing in the captioned matter at the Dresser Village Offices on Wednesday, June 27, 2018 at 4:30 PM.

The Wednesday, June 27, 2018 Citizen Police Review Committee Meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM by Michael Nelson. Roll Call Vote was done. Present: Michael Nelson, Tom St John, Rodney Brust, Attorney Tim Laux, Clerk Jodi A Gilbert, Officer Ryan Haass, Sharon Hendricks, and Eugene Hendricks. Other public present: Grace Bjorklund, Jeff Gutzmer, Bea Nelson, Vicki Minnick, Cly Longhenry, Jim Longhenry, Sandy Bassett, Karen Andrie, Steve Jacobs, Joe Wallner, Richard and MaryLou Durand, Bryan “FatBoy” Raddatz, Joyce Tesch, and Gino Torresin. The InterCounty Leader and the Standard Press newspapers were present. There was one other unknown reporter. Announcement of a Quorum by Michael Nelson.

Motion St John/Brust to approve the minutes of the June 14, 2018 Citizen Police Review Committee meeting. All in Favor. Motion Carried. Nelson stated at this point I am turning over the meeting to Attorney Tim Laux.

Laux stated the committee along with Michael Nelson, Chair asked me to conduct this public hearing. The purpose of the committee is not to act as an investigative tribunal and that the hearing is not a judicial inquisition, but rather a formal inquiry into the facts of the matter at hand. This hearing was publicly noticed and all parties were notified. Laux asked for the record was Officer Haass notified. Gilbert stated yes.

1. The complaint was filed and at this point and time I will have Michael Nelson, Chairman to read it into the record and then we will get into the taking of testimony and/or evidence. Michael Nelson read the complaint. Laux stated for the record of this hearing - the purpose of the hearing is the complaint that has been read into the record this afternoon. The committee is to conduct an inquiry into the facts that formed the basis of that complaint.
2. Next step - does the complaining party and/or the police chief have any documents to offer as exhibits. Laux asked the Hendricks if they have any

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documents for the record. They stated yes. Laux clarified that they had their own copies of the exhibits submitted. After documents were submitted Laux numbered the exhibits. 1. Notice of Hearing. 2. The Formal Complaint. 3. WI Law Enforcement Standards a portion from the Admin Code 4. Proceedings of Village of Dresser Board Minutes Page 7 of 8 from May 7, 2018. 5. Copied off the internet a Copy of an Osceola Sun Article (2 pages) 6. Photo Copy of InterCounty Leader Newspaper Article from June 20, 2018 7. 5 - page document off the internet - Transcript from Fox 9 News Video that they aired Posted: April 29, 2018, Video Posted: April 29, 2018, Updated: May 1, 2018 8. Copy of a Citation to Officer Haass Osceola Village Municipal Court AB877962-1 alleged failure to keep vehicle under control. 9. Citation to Officer Haass Osceola Municipal Court AB877959-5 alleged failure of operator to notify police of accident. Laux asked the Hendricks if they had any other documents. They stated no. Laux asked Officer Haass if he had any documents/exhibits he wished to submit. Haass stated no documents.

3. Laux stated next the parties involved make opening statements. This would be a short version of what you want to say under sworn testimony. Do you want to make an opening statement? Sharon Hendricks stated I wish our Chief would get professional help and join a support group once a week. Nothing else was stated. Chief Haass – No Statement.
4. The Complaining party puts on its case and can be cross examined. This is the time during the hearing where you submit your case. Which means to do those things that are required to enable the committee to a full fact finding on your complaint to introduce the documents and go into more detail as you wish and once you are done there will be the opportunity for Chief Haass to question you in matter of cross examination before moving onto his testimony. Gilbert swore in Sharon Hendricks. Laux told Sharon if she refers to a document to please identify the document. This hearing is recorded and Gilbert is taking notes. We need to have a clear record. We want to have a record that is clear but this is not as strict as submitting evidence in a court of law – the committee wants to hear what you have to say. The exhibits you submitted are part of the hearing and they are declared part of evidence. The committee will take all of that under consideration when they do their deliberation. They want to hear what you have to say. Sharon Hendricks provided the following testimony: As a police officer he should have to obey the laws just like us citizens do. There is a code of ethics that he signed when he did his training. Sharon read from Exhibit #3. Sharon read from Exhibit #4 Officer Haass's quote from the minutes. I believe this was for putting his car in the ditch and for not calling the Osceola police. Sharon read parts of Exhibit #5 and Exhibit #6. Sharon referred to Exhibit #8 and Exhibit #9 as two citations that Officer Haass received and paid. Sharon just stated that Exhibit #7 is the video transcript from the Fox 9 investigation. Tom St John asked Sharon you are referencing Fox 9 – what exactly is the complaint. Sharon stated the complaint is that 2 tickets were served him and that there is the code of ethics he is supposed to uphold. Nelson stated I seen the video and Ryan drinking. I didn't see him leave.

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I don't know how to respond to that incident. Nelson stated I don't know how we can use that since we don't know if he was intoxicated and he was not cited for it. There were no fines. Sharon stated he did get two tickets. The two tickets are the facts Sharon stated. There were some public comments made and Attorney Laux asked the public for no further comments during the hearing. Nelson stated is it appropriate to use that when we don't know? I can't see how I can say he was intoxicated. It can't be proved. He went in the ditch and he didn't report it. Laux asked Officer Haass if he wanted to cross examine the witness. Haass stated no questions. Laux asked Sharon if they had any other witnesses. Sharon stated not at this time. Gilbert asked for clarification if Eugene wanted to testify. Eugene stated he did not want to testify at this time.

5. Chief Haass was asked to come forward and provide any testimony. Gilbert swore in Chief Haass. Haass stated I was off duty at the time of this incident. I did have an accident. I received forfeitures and I did pay these forfeitures. Laux asked the complaining party if they had any questions for the Chief. The Hendricks stated nothing at this time. Does the committee have any questions of the Chief? Nothing was stated.

6./7. Laux stated so Mr. & Mrs. Hendricks do you want to make a closing statement to the committee. Sharon stated he should receive professional treatment, uphold the laws as a citizen, and join a support group. Gene stated after the meeting I talked to him about getting professional help and congratulated him for taking the steps to get help. I would help him if he needed it. I am not against Ryan. This reflects on Dresser again. He needs help and gets it that is fine. Nelson asked Chief Haass if he is in a support group at this time. Haass stated yes within the two state area. Laux asked Chief Haass if he had a closing statement. Haass stated the events of that day changed me greatly. In the long run it has made me a better person. The coping mechanisms that I was using are not appropriate and I realize that. I haven't drank since that night. I hope I don't ever again. Nelson asked Haass does the Village Board get any reports on your progress. Haass stated no they do not.

8. Laux stated we are at the point where the testimony is concluded. We had closing statements and questions. I defer to the Chair to adjourn the hearing. Motion Nelson/Brust to adjourn the public hearing at 5:10 PM. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

Laux referred to the next step in this process. The committee may meet in closed session to consider testimony and to weigh the evidence presented at the hearing. The decision needs to be filed within 3 days from the hearing. Thank you all for attending.