

**SALARY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, MAY 31, 2018**

The Salary Committee met May 31, 2018 PM in the Council Chambers at the Knisely Centre. The purpose of the meeting was to review Chapter 531 of the Codified Ordinances of New Philadelphia, Oh.

In attendance were Salary Committeepersons:

*Mr. Dean Holland
Mr. Kelly Ricklic
Alternate: Aimee May
Committee Chairperson Mr. John Zucal.*

Guests were:

*President of Council Sam Hitchcock
Mr. Dan Lanzer
Mr. Rob Maurer
Mrs. Cheryl Ramos
Council Clerk Julie Courtright
Mayor Joel Day
Law Director Marvin Fete
Safety Director Greg Popham
City Prosecutor Lacey Felix*

Salary Committee Chairperson, John Zucal called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM.

The first item on the Agenda is a Commendation to recognize Mr. Doug Hixson for his years of service to the City of New Philadelphia.

Mr. Ricklic had the following comment:

I definitely recommend recognizing Mr.Hixson. Yes, he worked for me for 13 years in the capacity of maintenance and in the water plant. He's a dedicated employee, dependable, always showed up on his shift. He was always prepared and ready to work and was the first one to help us out.

MR. RICKLIC MOTIONED THAT THE LAW DIRECTOR MAKE A COMMENDATION TO RECOGNIZE DOUG HIXSON FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE CITY OF NEW PHILADELPHIA.

MR. HOLLAND SECONDED THE MOTION

A COMMENDATION WILL BE PRESENTED TO FULL COUNCIL FOR PASSAGE

Action: *The Law Director will draw up appropriate legislation to recognize Mr. Hixson for his service. The legislation will be presented to full council for passage.*

Chairman Zucal had the following comment:

The next item on the Agenda is an application for a grant for the victims of crime and to look at someone to act as an advocate in that capacity.

Law Director Fete had the following comment:

Everyone received a letter from Doug Jackson. This is really a product of the new law that went into effect. We handled about 13,800 cases last year, roughly 450 of those were cases that had a victim where a victim advocate would be appropriate. However with the new law we're also having to show up anytime there's a little fender bender. Right now we as prosecutors have to fill the role of being the victim's advocate. It's not a very good position for the prosecutor to be in because we have to make tough calls on cases. Prosecutors are charged with doing justice we're not charged with getting as many convictions as we can, we're not charged with representing the police department, we're not charged with representing the victim. We represent the State of Ohio and that's it. We handle about 450 cases a year where there are real victims, vehicular manslaughter, domestic violence. To put that in context of all the criminal cases that are handled by the county there's only about 150 cases total that are

handled by the County. We've got at least 450 where there are victims. They have supplied through this grant program a victim to the county. When we applied for this originally they came back to us after the fact and said "hey, we want to come look at how many cases you have". They were shocked to know how many cases we have where a victim advocate would be appropriate and encouraged us to reapply. They had no idea there was such a great need. They had previously looked at felony cases. The vast majority of domestic violence cases are not felony cases. The same goes for the vast majority of assault cases. When we have to be in the role of being the victim's advocate we're having to decide whether or not this case should go forward or not go forward based on the evidence that is presented to us. You can't be both a prosecutor and a victim's advocate. A victim's advocate needs to be there for counseling and support. The City's commitment would be \$11,000. The total expense is \$55,314, the City's commitment only being \$11,062.80.

Mr. Zucal had the following question:

Is this going to be a sustainable position for a period of time?

Mr. Fete had the following response:

The County has been doing it for 20 years. It's the same grant program funded at the same level. I believe that that is what will happen here. I think there's a greater need here and when we brought them in they were shocked that there is this large of need for it.

Mr. Zucal had the following question:

What's the deadline for the grant?

Mr. Fete had the following response:

I believe it's June 28th. I would like the Committee to do two things. First, I would like a Resolution from Council in support of this so that when we apply for this grant we can show our Council fully supports this and sees the need for it and agrees with it. Two, to address the funding issue I spoke with Auditor Gundy earlier. Both she and Dean Holland would like to weigh in on this. Previously the court had asked us to take the CILOCS money and give that back to the court. That was money that was generated by the court through fines that was coming to the City of New Philadelphia. We gave all of it back to the court at their request. What I would suggest we do is take whatever we need for the victim's advocate out of that, according to the Auditor it's between \$140,000 and \$150,000. This is money that's already generated by the court. It's already there. I would propose that we restructure what we did in the CILOCS Grant to allow a portion of those funds to go in and offset the cost that the City pays for the victim's advocate.

Prosecutor for the City Lacey Felix had the following comment:

I would second everything that Mr. Fete said, I also want to throw in a little bit of the behind the scenes facts. It's not just about being present at every arraignment. It's not just about being there with the victim, not only as a helping hand but also to explain the proceedings, to explain the sentencing options, to explain plea agreements of that nature. Every morning when I come in to work I have five to 10 voicemails from victims from something that happened the night before and I don't even have the report yet, also traffic crashes, criminal damaging, all those kinds of things. Our victims also include places like Walmart, Kohls, gas stations. We have to get restitution figures from all of those places which can be difficult especially with places like Buehlers for example. So it's a lot of follow up, not just with the victims themselves but also with insurance companies for medical bills, we have to call hospitals, following up with any witnesses of the crime, prepare everyone for doing testimony. It's a lot of extra office work as well for Heidi and Doug and also our secretary. I think that we definitely have the need.

Mrs. Ramos had the following question:

I think that Harbor House and Compass have victim's advocates. Do you guys use them as well?

Mr. Fete had the following response:

We do as much as possible. We call them on a regular basis trying to get somebody there but because they're not part of the mix and also doing stuff for the County and Southern District Court and other places we don't have somebody on hand. They're also only going to be present in the case of a domestic violence case, not the litany of cases that we have.

Mr. Zucal had the following request:

I would like to schedule another meeting in the near future to have a deeper discussion about this.

No action was taken at this time.

Mr. Ricklic made a motion for the Meeting to adjourn.

The Meeting of the Salary Committee adjourned at 7:30 pm.