



Tacoma Civil Service Board Meeting Minutes

Date and Time: July 7, 2022, 5:00 PM
Location: By Zoom teleconference
Chair: Dan Sexton
Coordinator: Wendy Hobson

Call to Order:

Board Member Heller called the meeting to order at 5:00PM on behalf of Vice Chair Sexton. All board members were present with the exception of Vice Chair Sexton due to technical difficulties. Vice Chair Sexton joined after roll call was taken.

Board Member Heller: Ok. So, I'd like to introduce at this time, new Board Member Koree Wick. She's going to be the employee representative to the Board. Koree would like to say a few words to introduce yourself?

Board Member Wick: I am excited to be joining all of you. My name is Koree Wick, I live in Tacoma, obviously. I work for West Pierce Fire and Rescue for 26 years. I have experience in civil service, open public meetings, and all of that. I have a 9-year-old son who is the most amazing person on earth. I'm just happy to be participating and hope that I can be of good service to everyone.

Board Member Heller: Welcome to the board Ms. Wick, we are glad to have you join us.

Vice Chair Sexton: Hello! Hello!

Board Member Heller: Hi Dan, we were just getting ready; I will pass it over to you. I was going to ask Martha Lantz, (inaudible - Vice Chair Sexton talking over)

Vice Chair Sexton: Can you hear me? I can't hear me. I can't hear anybody. What is going on? Is that it? Is that it? Hello?

Board Member Heller: Can you hear us now?

Deputy City Attorney Martha Lantz: Can you hear Dan?

Vice Chair Sexton: Yes.

Deputy City Attorney Martha Lantz: Perfect.

Vice Chair Sexton: Are we rolling?

Board Member Heller: Yes, we are rolling. I just introduced Ms. Wick. I was going to ask Ms. Lantz does Board Member Wick need to be sworn in?

Vice Chair Sexton: She has been sworn in. I know that.

Board Member Heller: Okay Dan, we are now on (Vice Chair Sexton talking over)

Vice Chair Sexton: Did you do the roll call?

Board Member Heller: We did, we are now ready for approval of the minutes, and I will turn it back over to you.

Vice Chair Sexton: Alright, thank you.

Board Member Heller: You're welcome.

Approval of Minutes, May 5, 2022:

Vice Chair Sexton: Uh, I really need to; I really need to uh, open up my computer so I can see everyone. Is everyone... can I see everyone on here somehow? So, has everyone received the minutes? Is there any discussion?

Board Member Heller: Vice Chair Sexton.

Vice Chair Sexton: Board Member Heller.

Board Member Heller: Yes, I had some edits for the meeting minutes please.

Vice Chair Sexton: Please proceed.

Board Member Heller: Ok. So, starting on, I know I was having camera problems but apparently there were some audio problems as well. So, starting on page 2 of the minutes. Um, where it starts out as my objection, on line 1,2,3,4,5. So it should read such as, well line 4. I believe we need to set this hearing for as soon as possible, there should be a comma. Delete the and comma, the City Council and the Public Utility Board, period. Like the City Council and like the Public Utility Board, period. And then we should be capitalized, that was the beginning of my next sentence. And then going down to the last line, um, that we can hear everything that is going on, there should be a comma, and that they can hear us period. So, and then the last line, strike the first and, we should be capitalized, need to meet in person. So then going onto page 4, under my comments on line 1,2,3,4. Lawful requirement at this point that we can't do, strike other than, and should be, as the City Council does comma, have in person meetings. So, I think this sentence got garbled probably in translation so you can strike past the emergency rule, because it just doesn't make sense the way it is. I think there was some problems there and then down in the very last line it says clearly hear and make decisions and then you have inaudible in parenthesis. What I said was in the best interest of the city. And then before the sorry about that, so that that makes sense there should be in parenthesis background noise or phone ringing or whatever you have

because that was what I was apologizing for. And page 9, under my comment, it says let me clarify that by making my motion comma, in no way did I intend to delay his hearing. Alright, so those are my edits. So perhaps we can set these; um, I would ask the board that we set the minutes forward until the edits are made and then we can approve them at the next meeting.

Board Member Klein: Is it possible for someone to move adoption with the corrections that Board Member Heller has recommended and that way we're agreeing to your corrections but we're going ahead and approving them as you corrected them?

Vice Chair Sexton: Yes, thank you very much.

Board Member Klein: So moved.

Vice Chair Sexton: Any discussion on; any other discussion?

Board Member Heller: No, I'll second for the record.

VOICE VOTE: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABS. THE MINUTES OF MAY 5, 2022, WERE APPROVED WITH CORRECTIONS.

Vice Chair Sexton: Ms. Hobson, are you the host of the meeting?

Wendy Hobson: Yes.

Vice Chair Sexton: Can you let me in? Alright (echoing), I can see everyone now. Well, it's good to see everyone. Got it. Now I just um... (echoing). Hang on, I just need mute this. How is that? Does anyone else have; I have the echo. I have the echo. Uh, audio...ok, that does it. Perfect. Perfect. Well, greetings to our new board member.

Communication for Information:

Vice Chair Sexton: Communication for Information, Ms. Hobson?

Wendy Hobson: None this evening.

Vice Chair Sexton: Thank you.

Actions on Matters Still Pending / New Business:

Vice Chair Sexton: Is this you again, Ms. Hobson?

Wendy Hobson: I can share that. OPMA and Public Records training will be held at the August meeting and also a discussion on election of officers. Is that correct, Martha? Are we going to just have a discussion or are we going to have them vote on officers at that meeting as well?

Deputy City Attorney Martha Lantz: I think the intent was to go over your rules of procedure since we haven't had officer elections in a long time, and to determine amongst yourselves how you want to proceed. You could possibly elect at that meeting, or if your discussion is complex, and there is a reason to delay it until September, then you can do that as well. So, I think we can draft the agenda to allow for both possibilities.

Vice Chair Sexton: Well that sounds great to me. Ms. Hobson was that it?

Wendy Hobson: Yes

Vice Chair Sexton: Great.

Considerations of Matters Set for Public Hearings:

Vice Chair Sexton: Appeal hearing in the matter of Joseph Harris, Tacoma Police Department. Um, the uh, the party is here?

Joseph Harris: Yes, Joseph Harris is here.

Wendy Hobson: Deputy City Attorney Cheryl Comer is here as well

Vice Chair Sexton: Okay, great, great. The Board will now convene the appeal hearing for Appellant Tacoma Police Officer Joseph Harris. Um, Officer Harris' appeal dated January 27th, 2022, relates to his participation in the Tacoma Police Department's Detective classification promotional examination process. His appeal references Tacoma Municipal Code 1.24.480, (exams shall be impartial) and Tacoma Municipal Code 1.24.520 (review and notification of exam results). Um, due to our ongoing situation, uh, the hearing will be conducted using Zoom.

The proceeding is being recorded and minutes are being taken. This proceeding is part of an open public meeting and members of the public and other interested parties are welcome to attend this proceeding, but there will not be a public comment period during the hearing. If Board members, uh, have a question, you can, uh, you can, uh, use the, uh, make it known one way or another. I don't care if you yell at me during a break in the action, whatever it takes to, uh, to get noticed here, I'll get to ya, and we'll get your question.

Do not use the chat function, um, to make any comments or statements during the proceeding. Anything in the chat function is part of the public records, so try to refrain from doing that if you can and, uh, if you're a public individual, we are happy to hear from you at the end of the hearing. If you have not been called upon to address the Chair and the Board, please use the hand raise function or, uh, like I said you can wave at me or whatever it takes. A staff member will be monitoring the zoom function and will assist the Chair and making sure that raised hands are recognized.

Everyone, including the parties, representatives, witnesses, Board members, and staff must mute their audio unless speaking. Um, hopefully we won't have any more audio or video issues or other technical difficulties. If it just happens to me, you've seen Board Member Heller is more than capable to jump in. If it happens to, uh, either side we'll just

have to, uh, um, discontinue the hearing for tonight and reschedule for another time. This matter will proceed following the boards Rules of Procedure for Adjudicative Hearings. All documents, included in this appeal to the Board are hereby admitted into the record. The City of Tacoma's brief is also made part of the record. Officer Harris shall present his evidence first and has the burden of proving his claim by a preponderance of the evidence. Following the presentation by Officer Harris or of the testimony of any and all witnesses called by Officer Harris and after, uh, cross examination by the Deputy City Attorney for the City, um, Board members may ask questions. Following the presentation of evidence, um, I will call on each party to make a closing argument if desired. The Board will recess to an Executive Session to deliberate prior to ruling on the appeal. The final decision of the Board will be made in open session by motion and vote. Um, we will now start the hearing. Will the parties or their representatives, uh, please introduce themselves for the record beginning with the Appellant. Officer Harris? Um, Officer Harris?

Officer Harris: Um, can you hear me? I'm having issues right now.

Vice Chair Sexton: Sure. Sure. Um, I can hear you.

Officer Harris: Okay.

Vice Chair Sexton: Officer Harris do you have video also?

Officer Harris: Okay. Are you there? Hello?

Vice Chair Sexton: Yeah, yeah, yeah. I'm here. Is your...

Officer Harris: Sorry about that. It keeps, the internet. it's, uh, going in and out.

Vice Chair Sexton: Yeah. Do you have video Officer Harris?

Board Member Heller: Vice Chair Sexton?

Vice Chair Sexton: Board Member Heller?

Board Member Heller: So, this is exactly the type of thing that I was concerned about. That, um, we can't see the person that's presenting before us. He's having trouble with his audio. Um, and this has been happening routinely with our meetings. I think that we really truly need to do these appeal hearings in person. We can make arrangements to social distance. We don't have to be in City Council Chambers. I would move that we set this hearing forward and reconvene in person.

Vice Chair Sexton: Board Member Heller? Um, before we do that, I am in complete agreement with you. Um, I want to check in with Officer Harris and, uh, see if we can communicate with him, um, at all, see if we can get his thoughts on that matter. I know he was, uh, anxious to, uh, get his case heard. I imagine he will be, um, disappointed in, uh, not being able to get this done tonight. But, if we can't see him and hear him, we

can't see him and hear him. Um, I think I've lost him again. Officer Harris, are you there? Um, Ms. Hobson, you would know if Officer Harris is connected?

Wendy Hobson: He is not. He was, but he is not at this time.

Vice Chair Sexton: Well, I guess if he's not connected, we don't really have any choice. Uh, just like I said just a couple of minutes ago about the, uh, the meeting might get postponed if there's, uh, technical difficulties. And I see Board Member Heller?

Board Member Heller: I would reassert my motion that we set this forward perhaps in August we can meet in person and be able to actually see and hear what Officer Harris has to bring forward and present to us. This is just no way to run a hearing.

Vice Chair Sexton: Yup, Board Member Heller we can't, uh, we can't have a hearing without the Appellant. Board Member Hansen, I see your hand up. Go ahead.

Board Member Hansen: I'm kind of like that kid in the first row that keeps raising his hand. Um, I believe Ms. Lantz that you may have had a discussion with the City Council or someone from the City Council or one of their representatives about our request to hold these hearings in person. Is that correct?

Deputy City Attorney Martha Lantz: Yes.

Board Member Hansen: Okay.

Deputy City Attorney Martha Lantz: You sent them a letter, and the Mayor responded to the letter. What she stated in her letter is that state law currently doesn't allow in person meetings if it is, if a local rule, a local emergency rule is in place and our local emergency rule is still in place. So, the combination of the local emergency rule and the Open Public Meeting Act as it was amended quite recently in recognition of these hybrid meetings and the whole pandemic inability to meet in person, precludes an in person at this time. The law simply doesn't allow it.

What I did want to say was, I think, if the Vice Chair is receptive to this we could, suspend this meeting, just put it on hold and stall the proceedings for a second instead of adjourning, and we could see if maybe Ms. Comer could help or maybe some member of the Human Resources staff could try to call Officer Harris and see if there is a way that we could patch him in by phone. It's possible that he would agree to just have the board consider his written materials and Ms. Comer's response and you could make your decision based on that if he's amenable to it, but I think we should try to get ahold of him.

Vice Chair Sexton: Yeah uh.

Board Member Hansen: Yeah, I haven't finished with my comment.

Vice Chair Sexton: I'm sorry.

Deputy City Attorney Martha Lantz: Oh, I'm sorry.

Vice Chair Sexton: Board Member Hansen.

Board Member Hansen: Could I just interject?

Vice Chair Sexton: Please.

Board Member Hansen: You know I understand what you are saying Ms. Lantz, but um the Council and the Public Utilities Board is meeting in person is that correct?

Deputy City Attorney Martha Lantz: Yes, that is correct.

Board Member Hansen: Okay, so it is possible to make an exception to the blanket rule that meetings are not in person, we do know that. I just want to know, does the City Council understand that we do have quasi-judicial hearings where we have testimony and we and the parties offer exhibits?

Deputy City Attorney Martha Lantz: Uh hum

Board Member Hansen: So, they do understand that?

Deputy City Attorney Martha Lantz: Uh hum

Board Member Hansen: Okay. I just want to make sure they understand what our quandary is when we are trying to hold a hearing and we are having these issues with the internet. And especially if a party can't appear because they are having problems with their internet. Uh, and so you know, given that two boards are already meeting in person, it's conceivable that we could also meet in person as well and these particular boards do not hold hearings. The Council does not hold evidentiary hearings. The Public Utilities Board does not hold evidentiary hearings and I think we can all agree that there is a lot of potential for problems when you're trying to hold an evidentiary hearing on Zoom and were seeing that right now, uh, and I don't know if there's anything else that we can do to try to convince the council that we do at least need to hold hearings in person because this has become an unworkable situation.

Vice Chair Sexton: Got it. Got it. Uh Board Member Klein?

Board Member Klein: Yes, I respect the point that Board Member Heller made and her motion I think, is still hanging out there without a second. But I also like what the Vice Chair said because it really comes down to, we really have to respect the Appellant under the employ that's been delayed all of this time. So, I like the Vice Chair's suggestion of contacting him, making sure that he's comfortable with setting it out again. If he insists that his computers working again and he wants to get it over with I'd hate to have us not proceed and delay him again, so I don't know if there's a way to take Amy's motion and...

Vice Chair Sexton: Got it. Got it.

Board Member Klein: and amend it to where you'll contact him to verify.

Vice Chair Sexton: If I may. If I may? Uhh, Ms. Hobson?

Wendy Hobson: Yes.

Vice Chair Sexton: There you are. Okay, um, we have some more business to take care of here and I'm going to, um, jump back to... Before we do that, I'm sorry, Ms. Comer, um, you're here. Um, you're party to this. Did you have anything you wanted to add?

Deputy City Attorney Cheryl Comer: I am fine with whatever the Board decides. I agree with Ms. Lantz though, it was my understanding that a public hearing was not possible. I have been holding evidentiary hearings successfully, many cases for PERC and arbitrations so it's really unfortunate that this Board hasn't had a good experience with that because I have. So, I am fine proceeding tonight if we can or, if the Appellant is agreeable to proceeding just based on the written documentation, that's fine. I was going forward tonight with a subject matter expert, just to fill in some of the information for the Board. Lynn Stehr is here so I'm happy to, you know, allow you to ask questions of Lynn if that would be helpful. If Officer Harris is able to call in and hear what's happening, that would be helpful. I certainly understand not wanting to delay it.

Vice Chair Sexton: Thank you. Thank you so much. Uh, really - really appreciate any help you can be on that. Uh, I'll go back to, uh, Board Member Heller and then I want to talk to, uh, our Coordinator. Go ahead.

Board Member Heller: So, it's the, uh, moving party's responsibility to both go first and they have the burden of proof. As such, I think it's inappropriate to have the city put on their case when the Appellant isn't here to put on their case.

Vice Chair Sexton: Duly noted. Duly noted.

Board Member Hansen: Vice Chair Sexton I agree, and I want to just interject here really quickly, and I know...

Vice Chair Sexton: Thank you.

Board Member Hansen: Okay yeah, I mean any kind of testimony; just let me finish up here please.

Vice Chair Sexton: Go ahead.

Board Member Hansen: Any kind of testimony, um, that the City would offer would have to be subject to cross examination and obviously if the other party is not here that party cannot cross examine that witness so...

Vice Chair Sexton: Let me do this first...

Board Member Hansen: I mean it would violate due process to have a hearing when the other party is not attending the hearing.

Vice Chair Sexton: Yes. Yes absolutely.

Deputy City Attorney Cheryl Comer: That wasn't what I suggested.

Vice Chair Sexton: Let me do this first. It, uh, um, what, um, our coordinator, Ms. Hobson, are you still here? I don't see you.

Wendy Hobson: Yes, I am.

Vice Chair Sexton: Great. Um, have you...

Wendy Hobson: I did try to call Mr. Harris and he didn't answer.

Vice Chair Sexton: Um, that's about all we can do. Do you just have one number for him? Did he call in on a number? Has he made any attempts to get back in or give me a report?

Wendy Hobson: Deputy City Attorney Martha Lantz has a question.

Deputy City Attorney Martha Lantz: I just wanted to clarify that I was not advising that we proceed without Mr. Harris' input. My suggestion was that if you suspended the hearing, which you've affectively done, to try to get ahold of him and if you could get him on the line, if he were willing to have his evidence be presented simply in the form of his written submission, he would be able to do that. But I certainly wasn't suggesting that we go ahead without hearing from him. He does need to be present. So, I wanted to be clear on that.

Vice Chair Sexton: Duly noted. Um, my thoughts are we're not going anywhere for a while. We still have more business to take care of. Um.

Wendy Hobson: Vice Chair Sexton?

Vice Chair Sexton: Yes, please.

Wendy Hobson: Um, Deputy City At— (Vice Chair talking over)

Vice Chair Sexton: You're who I wanted to talk to anyhow.

Wendy Hobson: ... has her hand up.

Vice Chair Sexton: No, who, who does?

Wendy Hobson: Ms. Comer.

Vice Chair Sexton: I don't see – oh, oh. I'm sorry. Board Member Heller go ahead.

Board Member Heller: So, yeah, I had a motion on the floor and I –

****Vice Chair Sexton and Board Member Heller both speaking****

Vice Chair Sexton: Yeah, yeah. Board, Board Member Heller, um, before, before we do that, I really wanted to see about contacting Officer Harris. And what we're doing to contact Officer Harris. Go ahead.

Board Member Heller: I was going to amend my motion.

Vice Chair Sexton: Alright.

Board Member Heller: ... to say that we should, we should check in with, we- ah, Wendy's tried to contact him tonight.

Vice Chair Sexton: Yes.

Board Member Heller: I think we should contact him and see; does he want to schedule a special meeting; does he want to set it forward to August and try this again if we can't meet in person; does he want to submit written paperwork. Check in with him, but this isn't functioning tonight.

Vice Chair Sexton: Right.

Board Member Heller: I would move that we close up this part. There are other items on the agenda to come to and set this forward to at least our next meeting so that we can try to be more productive.

Vice Chair Sexton: Board Member...

Board Member Klein: I second that.

Vice Chair Sexton: Board Member Heller, um, if I- if I may discuss this with you for just a minute. Um, my, my only thought was, um, we have a little bit of business to take care of. I thought that we could, um, take care of our regularly scheduled business and give Officer Harris, um, that much time to try to get back with us. And then, when we run out of time, I guess he's ran out of time, would be my thinking for tonight.

Board Member Heller: That's fine with me.

Wendy Hobson: Vice Chair Sexton?

Vice Chair Sexton: Yes?

Wendy Hobson: Ms. Comer has had her hand up.

Vice Chair Sexton: Oh ok. Um, I don't see her, but, uh, Ms. Comer, you uh, are you there?

Deputy City Attorney Cheryl Comer: Yes, I'm here.

Vice Chair Sexton: Ok.

Deputy City Attorney Cheryl Comer: Thank you, Wendy. I just wanted to echo what Ms. Lantz said. I was not, in any way, suggesting we proceed without the Appellant being present. I understand. If I conveyed that, I apologize. What I said was: if he was able to attend by phone, so if he could call in. So, sorry if that got miscommunicated. I would not...

****Vice Chair Sexton and Deputy City Attorney Cheryl Comer both speaking****

Vice Chair Sexton: Duly noted. Thank you very much.

Board Member Klein: And I did second Board Member Heller's motion. So, it is had a second.

Vice Chair Sexton: And Board Member Heller, um, are you alright, are you fine with setting your motion aside, um, for the next few minutes?
You're, you're on mute.

Board Member Heller: Let's go ahead and do the other items of business and then once we've hit through item 10-11 then we can...

****Vice Chair Sexton and Board Member Heller both speaking****

Vice Chair Sexton: Right, right. Before we hit item 11, we'll get back to, uh, the motion. Everyone good with that?

Board Member Klein: Yes.

Vice Chair Sexton: We're just going to go back to our regularly scheduled business and, and hopefully, uh, give Officer Harris, uh, a few minutes to try to get back. Um, Ms. Hobson, uh, ma-maybe you could try to contact him again. I understand you weren't successful, and I don't know what else you could do. But, uh, going back to our agenda, and the rest of our business. We have our Civil Service Coordinator's report. Ms. Hobson?

Civil Service Coordinator's Report

Wendy Hobson: I do not have a report this evening.

Vice Chair Sexton: Excellent report. Thank you very much. Uh, Human Resources Director Report.

Human Resources Director Report

Human Resources Assistant Director Cheryl Bidleman: Good evening. Sorry about that. Good evening.

Vice Chair Sexton: Good evening.

Human Resources Assistant Director Cheryl Bidleman: Good evening, Vice Chair Sexton, and members of the Civil Service Board. Uh...we've met before, my name is Cheryl Bidleman.

Vice Chair Sexton: Ms. Bidleman? Did I say that correctly?

Human Resources Assistant Director Cheryl Bidleman: That is correct. Thank you. Assistant Director of Human Resources, standing in for Director Shelby Fritz to give the Director's report this evening. I can try to burn some clock here for you, but I have a fairly brief report. There are two things that I want to report out on. The first one is regarding the Class & Comp Study. Our consultants have completed their initial assessment of the Classification and Compensation Study results. They met with City leaders in June to discuss outstanding questions related to classifications and are meeting this month to discuss compensation. Once this is complete, we will be able to finalize a timeline for completion and implementation. So, we'll intend to give you updates as we move along.

The second item is regarding Situational Awareness training. So, the City's Safety Office has been offering all City employees Situational Awareness training through an organization called Crisis Reality Training. The training is designed to help employees be more aware of their surroundings and mitigate their risk of an assault and to date, over 1800 employees have completed this training. And that concludes my report.

Vice Chair Sexton: Um, is it Madam Assistant Director?

Human Resources Assistant Director Cheryl Bidleman: Assistant Director, yes.

Vice Chair Sexton: Um, so, uh, who's – who's giving that training?

Human Resources Assistant Director Cheryl Bidleman: It's being offered to all employees, so everyone is getting it.

Vice Chair Sexton: Just, uh, whoever wants it is getting it?

Human Resources Assistant Director Cheryl Bidleman: Well, we're asking that all employees participate in it. There are parts of it that are particularly relevant for employees who are working out in the field, and who are being approached by the public. I personally attended it. We have virtual and in-person training, it's been really effective, and really well received by our employees.

Vice Chair Sexton: Hmm, great, great. How many, uh, people are they training currently?

Human Resources Assistant Director Cheryl Bidleman: Well, the last time I got an update, it was at about 1800 employees, but our intention is to have all employees trained. That's the goal with something like this. I haven't had an update for a while, so we could report back on that number if you'd like.

Vice Chair Sexton: Can I – can I just ask, uh um, how long is the training?

Human Resources Assistant Director Cheryl Bidleman: I believe it was three hours. Yeah, walks through a lot of different scenarios, shows videos of actual, like, crimes in action, and talks employees through how to respond to situations in order to maintain their personal safety.

Vice Chair Sexton: Yeah, ok. Great, great. That sounds, uh, very worthwhile. Um, Board members... any questions? Any thoughts? Any discussion? Hearing none, um, oh, I'm sorry. Board Member Heller.

Board Member Heller: I think we're back to my motion.

Vice Chair Sexton: Um, we could go to the comments by the public. I don't know if there are – I don't know if there is any public, uh, attendees tonight. I don't know. Uh, um, Ms. Hobson? Is there any – is there – do we have any, um, do we have an audience tonight? Is there any public in attendance?

Wendy Hobson: Yes, we do have an audience.

Vice Chair Sexton: Alright, alright. So, at this time it is time for the, uh, comments by the public if, uh, if we have any, uh, um, public members who'd like to make a comment. Um, wave now or forever hold your peace. Ok. Um, hearing none. Let's, uh, let's go back to, uh, the-the motion on the floor. Board Member Heller?

Board Member Heller: I would just say that I've already made my motion, and it's been seconded. I guess we're up for discussion at this point.

Vice Chair Sexton: Yes, um, Board members, uh, any discussion? Umm, Board Member Heller, perhaps you'd like to, uh, to restate your – your motion just so, um, everyone might – might be, uh, um, get everyone on the – on the same page. To refresh everyone's memory. Go ahead.

Board Member Heller: My – my motion was to set this hearing forward and to have Ms. Hobson, uh, try to communicate with the, um, the gentleman, Officer Harris, that filed the appeal, to see what option that he would like to pursue. Does he want to, um, set it forward and try this again in August if we still can't do a public hearing, does he want to submit...

****Vice Chair Sexton and Board Member Heller both speaking****

Vice Chair Sexton: I don't think, I don't think we need a date. Just leave that off, just leave that open. And leave that to...

****Vice Chair Sexton and Board Member Heller both speaking****

Board Member Heller: Um, that was the intent of my motion. My few comments directed towards it are to simply say this is not working. You cannot have an appeal without an Appellant. Um, the whole point of due process of this Board is to allow employees to bring their concerns forward, to file appeals, um, and be able to cite merit system rules, come before us to explain their case. None of that is happening tonight. First, he had audio problems, then he had video problems, then he had audio problems again, and then he just got kicked off. And this has also been my experience in prior board meetings, as well. Tonight, everything is working well for me, thank the tech Gods, but, um, here, but for the grace go any one of us. This just hasn't been working that well for us.

Vice Chair Sexton: I think our temporary Acting Chair had some problems tonight um, Board Member Hanson.

Board Member Hanson: Yes, thank you. Um, so I – I wasn't sure I heard the last part of your motion – motion, Board Member Heller. So, you wanted to offer the, uh, Appellant the option of delaying the hearing for another month. What about – and – and then you said another option. I didn't quite get that other option.

Board Member Heller: To provide the options available to him should he want to delay until we can meet in person, should he want to delay another month and try again, should we try to schedule a special session and try this again, should he want to submit his materials in writing and just have us rule on the written briefs as supplied.

Board Member Hanson: Ok, so...

Board Member Heller: I think those decisions should be up to him.

Board Member Hanson: Oh, so one option would be to delay until we can meet in person. Ok. Alright. Thanks.

Vice Chair Sexton: If everyone, uh, everyone follow along? Um, we ready, uh, um, to take action here, um, all in favor say "aye."

VOICE VOTE: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABS.

Vice Chair Sexton: And I guess from my take from that, we're unanimous. And so, um, Ms. Hobson –

Wendy Hobson: Vice Chair Sexton.

Vice Chair Sexton: - you're going to work your magic.

Wendy Hobson: I would like confirmation on Board Member Klein's vote.

Vice Chair Sexton: Ok, ok. I – I thought he was an AYE because he was definitely not a NAY.

Wendy Hobson: He's on mute.

Vice Chair Sexton: Uh, Board Member Klein – oh there he is.

Board Member Klein: Yeah, sorry. I was on mute, and she couldn't read my lips. I said yes.

Vice Chair Sexton: Alright. Um, I think we're clear on everyone else. Um, so, um, Ms. Hobson you're going to, um, uh, handle that and I believe, um...

Board Member Heller: Board Member Sexton? Vice Chair Sexton...

Vice Chair Sexton: I was gonna ask for comments from the Board. Is that what you have Board Member Heller?

Board Member Heller: No, I was going to make a motion to adjourn.

Vice Chair Sexton: Oh, well before we do that, are there any comments from the Board? Um, Board Member Wick. Good evening, welcome to the Board.

Board Member Wick: Thank you.

Vice Chair Sexton: Um, I've, uh, I've gave Board Member Klein a chance to, uh, introduce himself at our last meeting. Our previous new member, uh, anything you'd like to say or add? A hello, or anything else, the floor is yours.

Board Member Wick: I already did a very poor job of my introduction at the onset of the meeting, so I'm good.

Vice Chair Sexton: Duly noted. Great. Welcome, glad to have ya. Um, with that... is there a motion to adjourn? Board Member Heller.

Board Member Heller: So moved.

Vice Chair Sexton: With that, we are outta here, and see ya next month. Good evening. Good night. Thank you all so much. Sorry it didn't go better.

Meeting Adjourned: 5:54PM

ATTEST:

DocuSigned by:

Dan Sexton

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Dan Sexton, Vice Chair

DocuSigned by:

Wendy Hobson

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Wendy Hobson, Coordinator