

# HardisonInk.com

## City delays decision on pay increase for two CPD sergeants



**The Chiefland City Commission on Monday night considers issues. They are (from left) Commissioner Teresa Barron, Commissioner Rollin Hudson, Mayor Betty Walker, Commissioner Donald Lawrence and Commissioner Chris Jones.**

**Story and Photo By Jeff M. Hardison © May 12, 2017 at 2:57 p.m.**

**CHIEFLAND** -- Heeding the advice of City Attorney Norm D. Fugate on Monday night (May 8), the five Chiefland City Commission members chose to delay acting on a request from Police Chief Scott Anderson for a 5 percent pay increase for two Chiefland Police Department sergeants.

The two sergeants went from being patrolmen to being sergeants, skipping over the rank of corporal during the tenure of former CPD Chief Robert Douglas.

Traditionally, there has been a 5 percent pay increase for a CPD officer going from patrol officer to corporal and then another 5 percent increase for going from corporal to sergeant. These two men saw only a five percent increase - one for a couple of years and one for a few years.

Chief Anderson approached the City Commission to reduce the odds of the Police Benevolent Association (PBA) members needing to sue the city.

City Commissioner Chris Jones asked Anderson why this issue was not brought before the City Commission in the past few years.

"I can't tell you that," Anderson said. "I've only been in this position (as chief of police) since December. I was told that it was brought up before by the prior chief. They were told it would get fixed, but thing happened."

City Attorney Fugate said this is a matter that requires participation by the PBA to assure that the offer for a simple 5 percent increase now will be sufficient, in comparison with a potential request for back pay from those years when those sergeants served in that capacity at the rate that was only 5 percent above their rate as an officer.

This is not a matter for the officers to bring to the City Commission individually, Fugate said. It is for the union (PBA) to bring for resolution.

Fugate said if the City Commission is willing to simply start paying these two sergeants at what would be 10 percent rather than 5 percent from this point out, waiving any back pay, then the city needs that proposal in writing from the PBA.

# HardisonInk.com

---

“The union has to be involved in any release that might be coming on behalf of these officers,” Fugate said.

Attorney Fugate added that he has looked at the language of the applicable PBA agreement and he is not automatically agreeing that 10 percent rather than 5 percent is due for these two sergeants.

Chief Anderson put it into perspective.

“I just promoted Blake Murphy at the last commission meeting,” Anderson said.

The chief said Murphy’s salary as a corporal went to “x.” Then he compared that with one of the sergeants’ salaries, and after two years as a sergeant that man was earning the same amount.

Sergeants have more leadership responsibility than corporals, the chief said, and so it is his belief that they should be paid more money than a corporal.

City Commissioner Teresa Barron mentioned some of the verbiage.

“It says they get a 5 percent raise when they get a promotion,” Barron said. “It doesn’t say that if they go up two places that they get 5 and 5 (more percent) or whatever.”

The Chiefland City Commission chose to wait for the PBA to weigh in on this issue, and to work to resolve it later.