

**Stevensville Police Commission**  
**Meeting minutes for**  
**MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2020 6:30 PM**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Dewey: I think we are ready to go, I don't know if the police commission has formally recognized that they have a chairperson, and I don't know on our records who that is given the virtual setting I am happy to facilitate your meeting this evening and the process given the police commission to my knowledge has even undertaken a virtual interview of a police officer before. From your agenda tonight. Mayor Dewey called the meeting to order Police Commission members, Mike Mickelson, Jeff Motley and Sue Devlin were all present. We also have with us town clerk Jenelle Berthoud and candidate before you tonight is Eli Alspaw. The commission received the application material that we released to the commission in terms of his application, excuse me, is cover letter, certain application material, personal history statement all of those were included and sent to by the town clerk and you have had time to look over that. Mr. Alspaw is joining us from Miles City where he served roughly a year and a half and prior to that grew up in Libby Montana. Montana native and we are excited to bring him in front of you for certification tonight he is an excellent candidate and has excelled in all areas that we put him through in terms of the interview process and the evaluation process of a police officer and he is ready for duty upon your certification, so assuming that all goes forward, and you are satisfied with the candidate we expect Mr. Alspaw to start first week of January. With that I will turn it over to the commission for Mr. Alspaw or the administration.

2. Discussion on the Following Items

a. Review and Certify Police Officer Candidate, Elijah P. Alspaw

Sue Devlin: my biggest question is housing; we all know how awful it is in this county Eli have you been able to find housing?

Eli: yes, I have quite a few friends that live in Stevensville and so I have arrangements with them, they live about 10 miles outside of Stevensville and I am going to stay with them for the time being.

Sue: because housing if you have looked at it, is a nightmare.

Eli: yes, I have been looking around

Sue: that was my big concern is that your paperwork looks great and the background I just wondered if you were going to have to tent some place or?

Eli: Yep, I have some things in the works I am all set there.

Sue: why do you want to come to Stevi?

Eli: I have always, like I grew up in Libby, Montana and I love the mountains and the west side of the state I am not really a flat lander and so I tried it out hear and it just wasn't working for me and then again I have a bunch of friends in Stevensville and the Missoula area so to get back to them and closer to people that I know and closer to family back in Libby.

Sue: okay, thank you.

Eli: no problem.

Mike: one of my questions Eli, I see that you picked up your associates degree is that correct?

Eli: I do not have an actual degree yet when I went to Montana State Northern and I have about a year and a half, it was a relatively new program for criminal justice there and so the last year, year and a half is online. So, intend to finish that later.

Mike: okay, how large is the current police force that you are working with in Miles City?

Eli: we have a 16-man force and that includes the lieutenant, captain and chief and so there is 13 maned patrol guys including two sergeants.

Mike: and what is the population exactly of close in Miles City?

Eli: it is roughly eight to ten thousand.

Mike: with coming to Stevensville and it is smaller force we cooperate with the sheriff the county and that but so you for see problems or any challenges coming to the job with such a significantly smaller force?

Eli: nope I don't I grew up in a small town and I am more about that small town feel the community policing and I look forward to everything that it brings.

Sue: what is your drug activity in Miles City? Because we have a huge drug problem between Missoula and Ravalli County.

Eli: we have a very significant drug problem because of the oil fields we have a lot of people that commute back in from the oil fields, so we have very high drug activity, and we work pretty closing with drug task force here in town, so we have done a lot of drug raids and all that kind of stuff and helping them out and so it is a pretty big problem that we deal with on a regular.

Jeff: So, Eli I am sure you have gone over the salary, compensation and all that stuff with the mayor and the chief, is all that going to be suitable for you?

Eli: yep, everything worked out good there. No problems.

Jeff: I know that Brandon said that you would be ready to go so you are all post certified, and all trained up and all those fun things?

Eli: I sure am.

Mayor Dewey: Mr. Alspaw would undergo roughly I think according to IN term Chief Ellington 2-3 weeks of field training for Stevensville specific type training so that he can transition from one

agency to another, but all of the state level stuff is already completed obviously, his training is much shorter than the standard 13-14 weeks that we run somebody through.

Sue: and that is a big help.

Eli: absolutely.

Sue: financially, yeah.

Mayor Dewey: any further questions from the commission?

Mike: Eli currently I take it you are single?

Eli: actually, I have a girlfriend over in Stevensville.

Sue: oh, okay the plot thickens.

Eli: yep, exactly that was one of the deciding factors after I decided applying, my friends introduced me to her.

Jeff: and you are still willing to come?

Eli: yep, absolutely.

Jeff: that can be good, or it can be bad you know.

Eli: true

Mayor Dewey: very good, if there is nothing further from the commission, I would entertain a motion from one of the commissions to certify Eli Alspaw as a police officer for the Town of Stevensville.

Sue: I certify Eli Alspaw as a police officer for Stevensville, MT

Mike: I 2<sup>nd</sup> it.

Mayor Dewey: it has been moved by Ms. Devlin and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Mickelson to certify Eli Alspaw as a police officer for the Town of Stevensville I will do a quick roll call vote.

Sue: aye.

Mike: aye.

Jeff: aye.

Mayor Dewey: very good the motion passes unanimously from this juncture the administration will extend a formal offer and final offer of employment to Mr. Alspaw which we hope he will accept, and we will undertake the process of on boarding.

Sue: and we will need to come down and sign?

Mayor Dewey: Ms. Berthoud will have the certification form in the clerks office available so at your own convinance you can swing by during business hours we'll have you quickly throw a signature on a piece of paper and you will be on your way.

Mike: okay.

Sue: all right.

Mayor Dewey: thank you for your time this evening.

Sue: welcome aboard Eli.

Eli: thank you I appreciate it.

Mayor Dewey: Eli we will be in touch with you first thing in the morning, okay?

Eli: alright sounds good.

Mayor Dewey: thank you for your time tonight, if there is nothing further from the commission or if there are any questions I am happy to answer those other wise we will adjourn.

### 3. Adjournment

Meeting Minutes prepared by

  
Jenelle S. Berthoud, Town Clerk