



BOARD OF FIRE & POLICE COMMISSION

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TO: Thomas Peters, Chairman, Commissioner Diane VanHootehem and
Commissioner Bernie Cowan

FROM: Brittni Carr, Public Safety Clerk

DATE: April 14, 2025

SUBJECT: February 17, 2025 Board of Fire and Police Commissioners Meeting Minutes

The regular meeting of the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners was called to order by Chairman Thomas Peters on Monday, February 17, 2025 at 10:03 a.m.

Those present in person were: Chairman Thomas Peters, Commissioner Bernie Cowan, Police Chief Russell Idle, Police Deputy Chief Kevin Legate, Fire Deputy Chief John Seitz, 911 Coordinator Amanda Jennings, Secretaries Jenni Moser and Brittni Carr.

Public Forum (Citizen Comments)

None

Approve

Commissioner Cowan motioned to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2024 regular meeting and the minutes of the July 29, 2024 special meeting. Chairman Peters seconded. Motion carried. All previous Executive Session minutes were reviewed and Commissioner Cowan motioned to keep these minutes closed. Chairman Peters seconded. Motion carried.

Correspondence

None

Old Business

The police department is currently fully staffed, does not anticipate openings until April or June. They are half way through the hiring list, which expires in 2026. Chief Idle does not expect many applicants for promotional testing.

The fire department hired three new firefighters that will be going to the academy for twelve weeks. There are four or five on the current hiring list, which will expire late in the year. The testing process for Battalion Chief will begin at the end of the year or beginning of next year.

New Business

The 2025 meeting calendar was presented and approved. There were no suggested changes.

Commissioner Cowan motioned to approve the 2024 Annual Report. Chairman Peters seconded. Motion carried.



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Jenni Moser presented the tentative schedule for the fire department testing. The physical and written exams will take place on June 28, 2025, with interviews to be conducted on July 7, 2025.

Amanda Jennings presented the tentative schedule for police promotional testing. The written exams will take place the week of September 1, 2025, with interviews to be conducted September 8 – 15, 2025.

With Commissioner Diane VanHootegem leaving the Board in June, Chairman Peters plans to contact City Clerk Kelli Bennewitz regarding approval of her replacement.

Chairman Peters advised the spring seminar may be skipped this year due to unavailability of all modules. Commissioner Cowan has taken all but one.

General discussion held regarding the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Cowan and seconded by Chairman Peters. Meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 21, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. in the Chief of Police Office, Public Safety Building, 150 South Broad Street, Galesburg, Illinois

cc: Randy Hovind, Fire Chief
Kevin Legate, Acting Police Chief
Kelli Bennewitz, City Clerk
Media