



BOARD OF FIRE & POLICE COMMISSION

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TO: Thomas Peters, Chairman, Commissioner Sandy Wood and
Commissioner Bernie Cowan

FROM: Jenna Hunt, Public Safety Clerk

DATE: February 17, 2026

SUBJECT: February 16, 2026 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 16, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Those present in person were: Chairman Thomas Peters, Commissioner Sandy Wood, Commissioner Bernie Cowan, Police Chief Kevin Legate, Fire Chief Randy Hovind, Fire Deputy Chief Brock Schmitt, 911 Coordinator Amanda Jennings, Secretaries Jenni Moser and Jenna Hunt.

Public Forum (Citizen Comments)

None

Approve

Commissioner Wood motioned to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2025 regular meeting. Commissioner Cowan seconded. Motion carried.

Correspondence

None

Old Business

The fire department is currently one firefighter short from being fully staffed. The department will be swearing in a lateral transfer on Monday, February 23rd. There will also be a retirement in March, which will put the department one short again.

The police department is currently fully staffed. There is a retirement on Friday so the department will be short one after Friday. There are currently four candidates in the academy. There are two promotions that will be held also on Monday, February 23rd. The last candidate on the current eligibility list is going through the background process with one other candidate who took a pass due to military obligations.

New Business

The fire department will be doing their battalion chief promotional testing soon. The request for bids for a testing vendor is due on Friday, and then a tentative schedule will be given to the board.

The police department will be doing another entry level testing starting in late March with applications being open until mid-May. The next academy will be in September if the department is in need to send candidates at that time. There was some discussion about possibly using an online vendor for the written



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exam in the future.

The Board was advised of new state statutes regarding background checks for employment.

Additional discussion was held regarding the promotional testing processes.

The 2025 Annual Report was presented to the Board. Commissioner Cowan approved the report as written. Commissioner Wood seconded. Motion approved.

The 2025 meeting calendar was also presented and reviewed. There were no objections to the meeting dates.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Wood and seconded by Commissioner Cowan. Meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 20, 2026 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, Police Chief
Kelli Bennewitz, City Clerk
Media