

**MINUTES OF MARCH 4, 2025 MEETING OF THE VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST  
BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSIONERS**

**Call to Order**

A meeting of the Village of River Forest Board of Fire and Police Commissioners was called to order at 7:05pm by Michael T. Trucco, Chairperson.

**Roll Call**

Roll Call was taken. A quorum was present.

Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Commissioner Nate Mellman and Michael T. Trucco

Also Present: Commander Mike Swierczynski and Commission Secretary Renee Morris

**Public Forum (Citizen Comments)**

There were no citizen's comments.

**Approval of Minutes**

Meeting minutes for January 14, 2025 have been approved.

**Correspondence**

The Commission received a request to hire two new police officers.

Commission Secretary Morris sent the Commissioners an email to review the citizenship requirements for a firefighter/paramedic applicant. Commissioner Trucco will get guidance from the BFP commission attorney. He would like to make note that his authorization is only good through June 2026.

Commission Secretary Morris mentioned that a firefighter/paramedic applicant asked if they could retake the CPAT/Ladder test if they fail. Commissioner Trucco said according to our Rules and Regulations; on page 9: Examination – Minimum Grade; it states “This test may be administered on a pass/fail basis or given solely for demonstration purposes. Certification that a fire fighter candidate has successfully, within the twelve months immediately preceding the conduct of the written test, passed the Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT), as licensed and approved by the International Fire Chief’s Association and the International Association of Fire Fighters, satisfies the candidate’s obligation to complete the “physical aptitude test” component of this screening process.

**Old Business**

The Commission is scheduled to conduct interview sessions with Firefighter/Paramedic applicants and Police Sergeant candidates on Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:00pm.

The Commission is scheduled to conduct oral promotional examinations for Police Sergeant on Tuesday May 6<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday May 7<sup>th</sup>.

The Commission is scheduled to conduct promotional interviews for Police Sergeant on Tuesday May 27<sup>th</sup>.

### **New Business**

The Village informed the Commission of two vacancies in the police department. Commissioner Trucco made a motion to adjourn to closed session 7:16 pm to interview Xavier Saldana for entry level patrol officer. Commissioner Mellman seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Trucco and seconded by Commissioner Mellman to return to open session at 7:43pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Mellman made a motion to extend a conditional offer of employment to Xavier Saldana for entry level patrol officer. Commissioner Trucco seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Candidate 6, Matthew Zahora, was scheduled to be interviewed this evening at 7:45pm. At 7:50pm he was not there. Commission Secretary Morris left a voicemail at 7:50pm and sent a text at 8:02pm, and he did not respond.

Commissioner Trucco made a motion to strike Matthew Zahora from the eligibility list for entry level patrol officer. Commissioner Mellman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Trucco made a motion to adjourn to closed session at 8:00 pm to interview Jeanette Reyes for entry level patrol officer. Commissioner Mellman seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Trucco and seconded by Commissioner Mellman to return to open session at 8:18pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Applicant Jeanette Reyes failed the background investigation. Commissioner Trucco made a motion to strike Jeanette Reyes from the eligibility list for entry level patrol officer. Commissioner Mellman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Trucco did not invite Stephanie Grazioli to the interview session. Applicant Stephanie Grazioli failed the background investigation. Commissioner Trucco made a motion to strike Stephanie Grazioli from the eligibility list for entry level patrol officer. Commissioner Mellman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The current eligibility list is now exhausted. Commissioner Trucco recommended that when the new Fire and Police Commissioner joins, we schedule a meeting with Village President Adduci, Village Administrator Walsh, HR Manager Ivansek and department heads to get their input on how to cast the net wider. Commissioner Mellman suggested we post to social media accounts. Commander Swierczynsk suggested community college fairs. Commissioner Mellman asked to find out when the career fairs are scheduled.

Commissioner Trucco asked if we could inform former applicants that have withdrawn; that we are accepting applications for lateral transfers.

The next police academy is September 2025, so ideally it would be good to capture qualified applicants by July 2025.

A motion was made by Commissioner Trucco and seconded by Commissioner Mellman to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.