

**MINUTES OF APRIL 8, 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 6:04pm by Commissioner Nate Mellman.

Roll Call

Roll Call was taken. A quorum was present.

Upon roll call, the following persons were:

Present: Commissioner Nate Mellman and Frowene Rodgers

Telephonically: Commissioner Michael T. Trucco was enroute and anticipated arriving by 6:25pm. Commissioner Mellman made a motion to allow Commissioner Trucco to attend via phone. Commissioner Rodgers seconded the motion.

Also Present: Fire Chief Thomas Gaertner and Commission Secretary Renee Morris

Public Forum (Citizen Comments)

There were no citizen's comments.

Approval of Minutes

Meeting minutes for March 4, 2025, Commissioner Mellman asked to amend statement to "page 9: Examination – Minium Grade; 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." Commissioner Mellman made a motion to amend. Commissioner Trucco seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence

Commissioner Trucco sent Commission Secretary Morris a request to schedule a meeting to discuss recruitment issues. Commissioners Mellman and Rodgers are available on Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at 6:30pm.

The Commission received a request to hire one new firefighter/paramedic and promote one new police sergeant.

Old Business

New Business

The Commission welcomes Commissioner Frowene Rodgers.

Commissioner Trucco discussed the preliminary hiring process for firefighter/paramedic and police sergeant.

Commissioner Trucco arrived in person at 6:30pm.

Commissioner Trucco made a motion to adjourn to closed session 6:38 pm to interview Vincent Ayala for firefighter/paramedic. Commissioner Rodgers 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 7:12pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Trucco made a motion to strike Vincent Ayala from the eligibility list Firefighter/Paramedic. Commissioner Rodgers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Trucco made a motion to adjourn to closed session 7:17pm to interview Sameh Abuzineh for Firefighter/Paramedic. Commissioner Rodgers 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 7:42pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Trucco made a motion to extend a conditional offer of employment to Sameh Abuzineh for Firefighter/Paramedic. Commissioner Rodgers seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Trucco made a motion to adjourn to closed session 7:50 pm to interview Stephen Yanan for firefighter/paramedic. Commissioner Rodgers seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Commissioner Trucco and seconded by Commissioner Rodgers to return to open session at 8:05pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Trucco informed Stephen Yanan that we do not currently have any vacancies to fill.

The next candidate on the existing eligibility list is Adam Johnston. He has not yet obtained his paramedic license. When it comes to his deliberations, his paramedic status will be required.

The Commission received a request to promote one new police sergeant.

Commissioner Trucco made a motion to retroactively go into closed session to interview Matthew Landini for Police Sergeant at 8:35pm. Commissioner Mellman second.

Recording started at 8:17pm.

Commissioner Trucco made a motion to go into closed session to interview Daniel Humphreys and Denisse Zermeno for Police Sergeant at 8:37pm. Commissioner Rodgers second.

A motion was made by Commissioner Trucco and seconded by Commissioner Rodgers to return to open session at 9:58pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Trucco made a motion to promote Daniel Humphreys to Police Sergeant. Commissioner Rodgers seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Commissioners wanted to thank all the candidates for their service and preparedness. They indicated that it was a very difficult decision and felt fortunate to have such candidates. They encourage them to continue to seek such roles.

A motion was made by Commissioner Trucco and seconded by Commissioner Rodgers to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:06 pm.