



Village of Westchester

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Board of
Fire and Police
Commissioners

Commission Chair
Thomas B. McCarthy III

Commissioner
James E. O'Shea

Commissioner
James R. Pedersen

MEETING MINUTES FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSION MEETING March 6, 2024

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present were Commissioners McCarthy, O'Shea and Pedersen. Also present was Police Chief Dan Babich, Deputy Chief Mike Fellers, Assistant Village Manager John Schwarz, Fire Chief Mike Mavrogeorge and Commission Attorney Mike Jurusik.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Pedersen made a motion, seconded by Commissioner O'Shea, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 7, 2024, and the Special Meeting Minutes of February 15, 2024 and February 22, 2024. The motion, before being passed was amended to approve the Regular meeting minutes of February 7, 2024 and to table the special meeting minutes of February 15, 2024 and February 22, 2024 on the advice of Attorney Jurusik, to better reflect the wording on adjourning of the executive session.

NEW BUSINESS:

The first item of new business was discussing the possibility of having fire candidates start training at the FD before officially obtaining their paramedic license. Chief Mavrogeorge, spoke and said due to the financial liability and contractual issues this would not be possible at this time. There was a public participation comment from Fire Lieutenant Biskup recommending that the Commission somehow streamline the hiring process for firefighter, possibly by not having as many steps in the hiring process, specifically 2nd interview. Commissioner Pedersen then commented that the 2nd interview was a crucial part of the hiring process as this interview is completed after a background investigation and polygraph test are completed, giving the Commission better insight into the candidate's history. Commissioner O'Shea then commented that it is also difficult to speed up the process when most applicants have not obtained a paramedic license yet and the BFPC must slow the process to wait for them to obtain this license to continue in hiring them. Commissioner O'Shea also requested to know what the process is in other towns and their hiring steps to see what the Westchester BFPC is doing differently in this process.

OLD BUSINESS:

Under old business was firefighter testing, a motion was made by Commissioner McCarthy to approve the Initial List for firefighter, which was seconded by Commissioner O'Shea. The motion passed unanimously, and the list was approved. There is 1 candidate on this list and Commissioner McCarthy explained they have started his background and polygraph but are waiting to 2nd interview him as he does not take the paramedic test until May. The next item to discuss was the previous fire testing of 2023, which had 1 candidate remaining on that list, which the Commission waited to process due to this candidate also not having his paramedic license. The Commission Assistant has reached out to this candidate to get his background and polygraph scheduled and has been unsuccessful in getting a response. This candidate will have until the end of the week to respond, at which time the BFPC will consider him no longer interested.

Next item was the Fire captain Promotional Exam, Commissioner McCarthy made a motion which was seconded by Commissioner Pedersen to approve the Final Fire Captain Promotional Exam List. This motion passed unanimously and was approved. This list will expire on March 6, 2027.

The final items to discuss were for police testing, Commissioner McCarthy explained that Ezio Van Pratt has been cleared for hire by the Commission and is scheduled to start the academy in April, also that candidates Brasher and Wilson have gone for their psychological exams and the Commission is awaiting results. Finally, the education requirements for police officer were discussed. At this time, the BFPC as well as Chief Babich have agreed to leave the minimum education requirements at 30 college credit hours.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Lieutenants Eric Biskup and Sean O'Connor

RECESS TO EXECUTIVE SESSION:

A motion was made by Commissioner McCarthy to recess to executive session in accordance with 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) for the purpose of discussing: Appointment, Employment, Compensation, Promotion and Discipline of Village Employees. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pedersen and then the motion passed by a roll call vote taken with 3 "yes" votes and zero "no" votes. The BFPC members then recessed into executive session at 7:42pm.

RETURN TO MEETING:

Commissioners McCarthy, Pedersen and O'Shea returned to and reconvened the meeting after the conclusion of the executive session at 8:57 pm.

INFORMATION ONLY:

Next Meeting: April 3, 2024

Fire: Entry Level Firefighter List (Initial List Approved)

Fire: Captain Promotional List (Expires: March 6, 2027)

Fire: Lieutenant Promotional List (Expires August 24, 2025)

Police: Entry Level Police Officer Expires October 4, 2025)

Police: Sergeant Promotional List: (Expires February 7, 2027)

Commission Terms: James O'Shea (Expires May 2024) Thomas McCarthy (Expires April 30, 2025) James Pedersen (Expires April 30, 2026)

ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner McCarthy made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Pedersen, to adjourn the meeting at 8:57pm.