

DeKalb County Sheriff's Merit Commission
Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 11, 2023
6:00 PM

The Merit Commission met in the Sheriff's Conference Room at the DeKalb County Sheriff's Office.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM Monday, December 11, 2023.

II. Roll Call

Commissioners present at the meeting were: Commissioners Todd Walker, Anita Turner, and Van Bomar. Also present was Sheriff Andy Sullivan.

III. Approval of Agenda

Todd Walker called for a motion to approve the agenda. Anita Turner moved and Van Bomar seconded. All were in favor. No opposition. Agenda was approved.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the previous meeting held 10/26/2023 were reviewed by Commissioners. Todd Walker called for approval of those minutes. Motion for approval was made by Van Bomar and seconded by Anita Turner. All were in favor. No opposition. The minutes from 10/26/23 were approved.

V. Public Comment

Though it was an open public meeting, no audience was present.

VI. Correspondence

No correspondence other than the commission mileage sheet and a sealed envelope with the Sheriff's Administrative points for Patrol Lieutenant.

VII. Old Business

Sheriff Sullivan advised the commission that Meagan Near from Corrections has resigned and went to McHenry County for a patrol position. Traci Kaminski is set to retire from Communications next week December 19, 2023. She has been with the department for 30+ years. Sheriff Sullivan also advised since the last meeting we have hired Bailee Highbarger for Telecommunications and she starts on December 19, 2023.

VIII. New Business

Sheriff Sullivan advised one of our Corrections applicants did not pass the background and was disqualified. A Telecommunications applicant and a Corrections applicant didn't pass the psychological exam and were disqualified. Sheriff Sullivan advised we have one Corrections applicant that is currently scheduled to take the polygraph and we are waiting for results.

Sheriff Sullivan provided the commission with a staffing update advising currently in our Patrol/Detectives Division we are down (4) positions, Corrections is down (6) positions. With the hiring of potential lateral hire this evening, that would bring it down to (5) positions. Communications would still be down (1) position even if we hire the potential lateral hire request that is being requested tonight because of Traci's retirement. Sheriff

Sullivan advised we are down a total of 11 people throughout the Sheriff's Office which is a significant struggle that continues with potentially more movement on the horizon.

It was discussed potentially reaching out to applicants with a military background to let them know we are accepting applications.

IX. Lateral Transfer Requests

Sheriff Sullivan requested a lateral transfer request for Corrections applicant Robert Palumbo. Robert has completed background/psych/ and polygraph. He currently lives in Yorkville and currently works full time for Will County Sheriff's Office (since Sept. 2022). In regards to his background interview with our Detective, it was stated Robert "presented himself as professional, personable, and excited for a new opportunity." Sheriff Sullivan asked for the Merit Commissions approval for this Corrections lateral hire.

Sheriff Sullivan requested a lateral transfer request for Telecommunications applicant Jenny Haske. She has completed the Guardian application and a sit along with our Telecommunications division last week. Jenny currently lives in Cortland and works full time at KenCom Public Safety Dispatch as a telecommunicator since 08/2021. Sheriff Sullivan asked the Merit commission approval for this Telecommunications lateral hire pending the successful completion of the background, psychological and polygraph exams.

Todd Walker asked for a motion to approve both lateral transfer requests pending the completion of any remaining tests. Van Bomar made the motion. Anita Turner seconded. All were in favor, no opposition. The motion passed.

X. Executive Session – Applicant Interviews / Promotional Testing

Todd Walker asked for a motion to adjourn into executive session. Anita Turner made a motion to adjourn into executive session to conduct the Patrol Lieutenant Interview. Van Bomar seconded. All were in favor. No opposition. The Motion was approved and adjourned into executive session at 6:11pm.

The interview process for Patrol Lieutenant was concluded. Todd Walker, Anita Turner, Van Bomar, and Sheriff Sullivan were still present. With no other executive session matters to discuss, Anita Turner made the motion to return to regular session. Van Bomar seconded, no opposition, motion passed.

XI. Adjournment

The Commission reentered regular session and with no further business to discuss Commissioner Todd Walker called for a motion to adjourn. Anita Turner made the motion which was seconded by Van Bomar. All were in favor. There was no opposition, the meeting was adjourned at 6:36 PM.