



# City of Rolling Meadows

Board of Fire and Police Commissioners

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## City of Rolling Meadows Board of Fire & Police Commissioners

Minutes of Regular Meeting on May 9, 2022

**Present:** Tom Callard, Dave Walter

**Absent:** Ted Loesch

**Also Present:** Jeff Moxley, Fire Chief; John Nowacki, Police Chief; John Sircher, Deputy Police Chief; Rob Sabo, City Manager; Deb Austerlade, Administrative Assistant

**Call to Order:** Having established a quorum, Chairman Callard called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** Commissioner Walter made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on April 11, 2022, seconded by Chairman Callard. With no further discussion, a vote was taken. All in favor; motion carried.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Communications:** None.

### Unfinished Business

**Fire:** *Update on Fire Department Hiring* – Currently there is one candidate in the background investigation process.

**Police:** *Update on Police Department Testing* – The written test will be administered on August 20, and in light of the public's declining interest becoming a police officer, the Police Department has been actively recruiting: One of our officers attended a job fair at Harper College and answered questions about the process to become a police officer for the City of Rolling Meadows, and conscious efforts are being directed toward recruiting minority candidates.

Chairman Callard proposed that police interviews take place the week of October 10 and suggested that the Commissioners begin the process of choosing interview questions.

## **New Business**

*Discussion Regarding the Number of Commissioners on the Board of Fire & Police* – Chairman Callard reopened the topic of increasing the number of Commissioners from 3 to 4 or more. Commissioner Walter agreed that increasing the number would increase productivity. Chairman Callard stated that City ordinance dictates the number of commissioners on the Rolling Meadows board, and Mr. Sabo clarified that State Statute indicates 3 commissioners are required; however, because Rolling Meadows is a Home Rule City, we are allowed the flexibility to increase that number. Chief Nowacki understands the benefits of having more than 3 commissioners especially during times of fire and police testing. This matter will be discussed further when all 3 commissioners are in attendance.

Mr. Sabo said he would speak with the Mayor to determine whether or not he would be open to the idea of increasing the number of commissioners.

**Fire:** Chief Moxley has received the results of a recent fire service recruitment survey and will provide results to the commissioners. One interesting idea resulting from the survey is the suggestion that in order to attract more applicants, the municipality absorb the cost of the application fee. Chief Nowacki agreed that we may want to consider reducing application fees for police applicants as well.

**Police:** Chief Nowacki informed the commissioners that one of our probationary officer was let go last week. Numerous efforts to assist his progress were unsuccessful. Subsequently, the next candidates on the list have been contacted and moved to the background process.

Deputy Chief Sircher suggested that the education requirement to become a Rolling Meadows police officer be reviewed since many good candidates are eliminated simply because they do not have a college degree. Commissioner Walter agreed that many people do technical jobs without possessing a college education. Mr. Sabo inquired if any nearby communities have lowered their education requirements, and Chief Nowacki said that the City of Chicago has reduced their standard of education requirements. Chairman Callard suggested that if we want to make a change prior to the next fire department testing cycle, we should begin discussing a change in the educational requirement immediately.

Additional discussion concerning this matter will take place at future meetings.

## **Items Not on the Agenda:**

Chairman Callard suggested that a change be made to the Board's Rules and Regulations to indicate the procedure for creating a lateral hiring/accelerated entry candidate list. Mr. Sabo will look into what part the City Council may play, if any.

**Adjournment:** Having no further business to discuss, Commissioner Walter made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Chairman Callard. All in favor; motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be conducted on Monday, June 13, 2022, at 9 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deb Austerlade.



David Walter, Secretary  
Board of Fire & Police Commissioners