

CITY OF LAWRENCE
Police Merit Commission
August 10, 2026
Lawrence Police Department Training Room
Regular Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Hendrickson, Karen Horth-Powers, Gail Gartin, Charles Wheeler, and Ronald Christensen

MEMBERS BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: None

ALSO PRESENT: Lisa Harvey

STAFF PRESENT: Lieutenant Scott Evans

STAFF PRESENT BY MICROSOFT TEAMS: None

Charles Wheeler called the meeting to order at 6:00pm and announced a quorum was present.

COMMENTS OF COMMISSION MEMBERS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Charles Wheeler entertained the motion to accept minutes as is produced. Ron Christensen made initial motion and was seconded by Robert Hendrickson. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Lieutenant Evans discussed filing of the Physical Agility Test results. Charles Wheeler entertained a motion to accept test results. Gail Gartin made initial motion and was seconded by Ron Christensen. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Four candidates will advance to the DVSA, Medical, and Psychological Exams. No Vote (Advisement Only)

Charles Wheeler entertained a motion/discussion to establish an eligibility list of four candidates who pass background checks and are deemed acceptable, then proceed to the next phase of the hiring process, including DVSA, medical, and psychological exams. Robert Hendrickson made initial motion and was seconded by Gail Gartin. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Charles Wheeler entertained a motion/discussion to request to extend conditional employment offers to four candidates who still demonstrate "good character." Initial motion made by Gail Gartin and seconded by Robert Hendrickson. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Charles Wheeler entertained motion/discussion to request that applicants who pass an updated background check and meet all requirements of the INPRS 1977 Fund become Probationary Officers to fill all four vacancies within the Department. Initial motion made by Robert Hendrickson and seconded by Gail Gartin. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

COMMENTS OF THE POLICE CHIEF: Lt. Evans thanked everyone on behalf of Chief Bigsbee.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:08pm by unanimous vote of the Board.

NEXT MTG: 6/8/26 6:00pm



Charles Wheeler, President



Lisa Harvey, Executive Assistant

These minutes are not intended to be verbatim. They are a summary of discussions held, except for the motions.