

**Lancaster County Sheriff's Office**  
**Merit Commission Meeting Minutes**  
November 4, 2021

Meeting was called to order at 0815 hours. Peterson pointed out the Open Meetings Act, which was posted by the door of the meeting room.

Members present: Deputy Jason Peterson, Mike Thew and Troy Hawk. Also present were Chief Deputy Ben Houchin, Captain John Vik, Deputy Cameron Stroeh and County Attorney Jenifer Holloway.

Motioned by Thew to approve the minutes from October 7, 2021. Seconded by Hawk. Motion carried, 3-0.

Discussion regarding concerns about having two active, concurrent, certified lists of eligible applicants. Vik explained that there would be only one active list at a time; each list (currently certified law enforcement, or those eligible for re-activation or reciprocity, vs. non-certified candidates) would need to be extinguished prior to the Merit Commission certifying the next eligibility list.

Advertising would take place in different cycles, specifying whether for "lateral hire" or general applications. No persons without a current, active law enforcement certification would be considered during a lateral hire cycle unless eligible for reciprocity or re-activation in the State of Nebraska. If a currently certified law enforcement candidate were to apply during a cycle for general applications, they would be subject to the same written, physical, Personal History Statement, and oral examinations as the general public, and would be scored and rated as equally as the general applicant for the eligibility list presented to the Merit Commission for certification. If a currently certified law enforcement candidate were to apply during a lateral hire cycle, they would be subject only to Personal History Statement review, oral board interviews. All applicants, regardless of certification status, would need to pass an extensive background investigation, polygraph, psychological and physical examinations.

Tentative date for the next Merit Commission meeting was set for December 13, 2021.

Moved by Thew to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 0910 hours.