

## Merit Commission Meeting Minutes

August 11, 2022

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

Members present: Mike Thew and Troy Hawk. Absent: Deputy Jason Peterson. Also present were Sheriff Terry Wagner, Chief Deputy Ben Houchin, and Sergeant Drew Bolzer.

Motioned by Hawk to approve the minutes from May 31, 2022. Seconded by Thew. Motion carried, 2-0.

Sergeant Bolzer presented the lateral eligibility list. As per previous discussions, the general eligibility list approved at the May meeting was vacated. There were viable 6 applications. Four candidates either withdrew or were disqualified prior to the oral board interviews. Two applicants were presented on the eligibility list for certification. Thew motioned to approve. Seconded by Hawk. Motion carried, 2-0.

Chief Houchin gave an update on referral bonus. The pilot period would begin September 1, 2022 for one year. Any employee from Lancaster County Sheriff's Office can refer an applicant for a deputy position. If the applicant names the referring employee on their application, is hired, and both the referring employee and the referred new hire are still employed after six (6) months, the referring employee will receive \$1,000.00. If both are still employed after one (1) year, the referring employee will receive an additional \$1,000.00. Excluded from this program would be Sheriff, Chief Deputy, and the captain, sergeant, and training deputy in the Professional Standards division.

Sheriff Wagner gave staffing updates. Deputy Cameron Stroeh resigned. Two lateral hires were hired from the most recent certified list – Deputy Alysson Peters and Deputy Lance Sprouse. Deputy Taylor Muirhead-Castaneda has completed the FTO program and is now working solo patrol duties.

The next meeting has been tentatively scheduled for September 29, 2022.

Moved by Hawk to adjourn. Seconded by Thew. Meeting adjourned at 0830 hours.