

Lancaster County Sheriff Office
Merit Commission Meeting
October 12, 2023

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

Members present: Deputy Jason Peterson, Mike Thew, and Troy Hawk. Also present were Chief Deputy Houchin, Captain Vik, Sergeant Bolzer, and Deputy Gress.

Motion by Hawk to approve the minutes from October 12, 2023. Second by Thew. Motion carried, 3-0.

An action item was on the agenda to certify a lateral eligibility list. There was one qualified candidate that applied but ultimately withdrew so there was no list to certify.

Per recommendations of the Merit Commission members at the September 28, 2023, meeting, Sergeant Bolzer asked the county attorney to review the use of previous TABE test scores for Deputy Sheriff candidates, eliminating the need for the applicant to re-take it. The attorney determined it was acceptable to utilize earlier test results, provided they were received directly from the testing agency and not from the applicant. Moved by Thew to approve this practice for future hiring cycles. Seconded by Hawk. Motion carried, 3-0.

Chief Houchin provided staffing updates. Three deputies have indicated future resignation/retirement plans, Deputy Hopper has retired, one deputy continues to be on extended military deployment, and another has orders for deployment mid-2024. Two deputies are currently on FTO and are anticipated to complete training in the near future. Two offers of employment have been extended to applicants hired from the most recent eligibility list and will begin academy training after the first of the year.

The next meeting has been scheduled for January 23, 2024.

Moved by Hawk to adjourn. Seconded by Thew. Meeting adjourned at 0828 hours.