



Village of Arlington Heights
Board of Fire and Police Commissioners
Virtual Meeting

February 1, 2022
4:30 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. **In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting is being held virtually, which permits the public to fully participate via their computers or using their phones.**

To participate in the virtual meetings, please follow these instructions: 2-1 FP

Individuals who wish to comment or ask a question on an item on the Agenda may either participate virtually or send an email to the Village at klivingston@vah.com. Please limit emails to 200 words or less. To be shared at the meeting, the email must be received by noon on February 1, 2022.

II. ROLL CALL

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Minutes of December 30, 2021
B. Minutes of January 10, 2022

IV. CLOSED SESSION

- A. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1): appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel.
B. Conduct oral interviews for position of Police Officer

V. OLD BUSINESS

VI. NEW BUSINESS

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Persons with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services, such as an

American Sign Language interpreter or written materials in accessible formats, should contact David Robb, Disability Services Coordinator, at 33 S. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005, (847)368-5793 (Voice), (847)368-5980 (Fax) or drobb@vah.com.



**Board of Fire and Police Commissioners
2/1/2022**

Item: Minutes of December 30, 2021

Department: Human Resources

Minutes of December 30, 2021

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

Minutes of December 30, 2021

Type

Minutes

MINUTES OF THE OPEN MEETING OF THE FIRE & POLICE COMMISSION OF THE
VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS HELD IN THE BUECHNER ROOM ON
DECEMBER 30, 2021.

Chairperson Luis Ramirez-Alonso called the meeting to order at 3:00p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to conduct Certified Police Officer Interviews, vote on eligibility of specific candidates for placement on the Sergeants' promotional list, approve the final 2021 Police Sergeants promotional eligibility list, and approval of the minutes from December 7, 9, 14, 2021.

Roll call of members: Luis Ramirez-Alonso, Chairperson
Lynn Szabo, Commissioner

Also present were: Mary Rath, Fire & Police Commission Liaison (entered after 4:09pm)
Nick Pecora, Police Chief (entered after 4:09pm)
Kelly Livingston, Assistant Director of Human Resources
Greg Czernecki, Deputy Police Chief
James J. Powers, Clark Baird Smith, LLP (entered after 4:09pm)

Commissioner Lynn Szabo moved to review and approve the Open Session minutes of December 7, 2021, December 9, 2021 and December 14, 2021.

Motion was seconded by Luis Ramirez-Alonso.

Motion approved.

Roll call: Ayes: Ramirez-Alonso, Szabo Naves: None Absent: Cataldo

At 3:02p.m. Commissioner Luis Ramirez-Alonso moved to go into Closed Session per 5ILCS120/2(c) (1): appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees or legal counsel.

Motion was seconded by Lynn Szabo.

Motion approved.

Roll call: Ayes: Ramirez-Alonso, Szabo Naves: None Absent: Cataldo

At 4:09p.m. Commissioner Lynn Szabo moved to end Closed Session and go to Open Session.

Motion was seconded by Luis Ramirez-Alonso.

Motion approved.

Roll call: Ayes: Ramirez-Alonso, Szabo Naves: None Absent: Cataldo

Public Comment was taken: During the public comment period, five Police Department personnel shared their opinions about the pending Police Sergeant promotional eligibility list.

- Dan Bell, Village of Arlington Heights Police Officer. Officer Bell shared his opinion regarding the current Village nepotism policy and how he feels this policy is outdated and should be reconsidered. Officer Bell urged the BFPC to allow Officers Chojnowski and Turano's names to be added to the Sergeants promotional list.
- Patrick Chojnowski, Village of Arlington Heights Police Officer. Officer P. Chojnowski shared his opinion regarding the current Village nepotism policy, and how he feels the policy is negatively affecting him and his immediate family. Officer Chojnowski urged the BFPC to allow his name to be added to the Sergeants promotional list.

- Michael Turano, Village of Arlington Heights Police Officer. Officer Turano shared his opinion regarding the current Village nepotism policy, and how he feels the policy is negatively affecting him and his extended family. Officer Turano urged the BFPC to allow his name to be added to the Sergeants promotional list.
- Jessica Chojnowski, Village of Arlington Heights Police Officer. Officer J. Chojnowski shared her opinion regarding the current Village nepotism policy, and how she feels the policy is negatively affecting both her, her spouse and their family. Officer J. Chojnowski urged the BFPC to allow her husband to be added to the Sergeants promotional list.
- Andrew Gatz, Village of Arlington Heights Police Officer. Officer A. Gatz shared his opinion regarding the current Village nepotism policy and how he does not believe this policy should affect Officer J. Chojnowski 's eligibility status for promotion. Officer Gatz urged the BFPC to allow Officer J. Chojnowski's name to be added to the Sergeants promotional list.

After public comment, Commissioner Ramirez-Alonso spoke about the Sergeants promotional eligibility list. Commissioner Ramirez-Alonso said that he felt the Commission should approve the final promotional list with both Officer Turano and Chojnowski's names included, but with the express understanding that their inclusion on the list is not an acknowledgement that they are currently eligible or will be eligible for appointment as a Police Sergeant when they are ultimately considered for a vacancy. Commissioner Ramirez-Alonso also indicated that he had asked for language to be inserted at the bottom of the eligibility list that clarifies the inclusion of Turano and Chojnowski does not mean they are necessarily eligible for appointment if or when a sergeant vacancy ever opens up.

Commissioner Lynn Szabo agreed with this approach, and made a motion to accept the 7-member final 2021 Police Sergeants Promotional Eligibility List that has been drafted with the following language included on the bottom: " Placement of the two highlighted individuals (Patrick Chojnowski and Michael Turano) on this Promotional Eligibility List is not an acknowledgment that they are or will be eligible for appointment as a Police Sergeant when their name is considered for a vacancy. Currently, the highlighted individuals would not be eligible pursuant to Section 1.2(I) of the Village Employee Handbook, due to their direct supervision of relatives. These two individuals are conditionally included on the Eligibility List with the understanding that they may be rejected at a later date due to their direct supervision of relatives".

Motion was seconded by Luis Ramirez-Alonso.

Motion approved.

Roll call: Ayes: Ramirez-Alonso, Szabo Nays: None Absent: Cataldo

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Lynn Szabo made a motion to adjourn Open Session at 4:30p.m.

Motion was seconded by Luis Ramirez-Alonso.

Motion approved.

Roll call: Ayes: Ramirez-Alonso, Szabo Nays: None Absent: Cataldo



**Board of Fire and Police Commissioners
2/1/2022**

Item: Minutes of January 10, 2022

Department: Human Resources

Minutes of January 10, 2022

ATTACHMENTS:

Description

Minutes of January 10, 2022

Type

Minutes

MINUTES OF THE OPEN MEETING OF THE FIRE & POLICE COMMISSION OF THE
VILLAGE OF ARLINGTON HEIGHTS HELD IN THE FIRE TRAINING ROOM AT FIRE
STATION #2 ON JANUARY 10, 2022.

Commissioner Lynn Szabo called the meeting to order at 5:00p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to conduct Firefighter Interviews as part of the background.

Roll call of members: Lynn Szabo, Commissioner
Rob Cataldo, Commissioner

Also present were: Kelly Livingston, Assistant Director of Human Resources
Dave Roberts, Division Fire Chief

Citizens to be heard / Public Comment: No one in attendance

At 5:01p.m. Commissioner Rob Cataldo moved to go into Closed Session per 5ILCS120/2(c) (1): appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees or legal counsel.

Motion was seconded by Lynn Szabo.

Motion approved.

Roll call: Ayes: Szabo, Cataldo Naves: None Absent: Ramirez-Alonso

At 5:40p.m. Commissioner Rob Cataldo moved to end Closed Session and go to Open Session. Motion was seconded by Lynn Szabo.

Motion approved.

Roll call: Ayes: Szabo, Cataldo Naves: None Absent: Ramirez-Alonso

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Rob Cataldo made a motion to adjourn Open Session at 5:41p.m.

Motion was seconded by Lynn Szabo.

Motion approved.

Roll call: Ayes: Szabo, Cataldo Naves: None Absent: Ramirez-Alonso