

Rock Island County Merit Commission Meeting

May 7, 2025 Meeting Minutes 10:00 A.M.

Rock Island County Justice Center- 502 Jury Deliberation Room

1317 3rd Avenue Rock Island, IL 61201

Merit Commission Attendees: John Callas, William Kauzlarich, and John Callas (via Zoom)

Absent: N/A

Public: Sheriff Darren Hart, Capt. Mindy Meyers, Capt. Eric Holton, Capt. Justin Chisholm and LeAnn Ziegenhorn

Commissioner Hass called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Kauzlarich seconded; all were in favor.

A roll call vote was taken.

John Callas, William Hass and William Kauzlarich

TOTAL YES 3

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

1) OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner Kauzlarich motioned to approve the minutes from the March 5, 2024 meeting, Commissioner Callas seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken.

John Callas, William Hass and William Kauzlarich

TOTAL YES 3

TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

2) CLOSED SESSION

The Rock Island County Merit Commission may enter a Closed Session for the following:

5 ILCS 120/2 (c) (1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.

Commissioner Callas motioned that the Commission go into closed session for personal matters. Commissioner Kauzlarich seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken.

John Callas, William Hass, and William Kauzlarich

TOTAL YES 3
TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

Commissioner Callas made a motion to come out of closed session, and Commissioner Kauzlarich seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

John Callas, William Hass and William Kauzlarich

TOTAL YES 3
TOTAL NO 0

Motioned carried.

3) NEW BUSINESS

A. Certification of Test Results and Eligibility List for Deputy Sheriff Candidates

Commissioner Callas motioned for candidates Hunter Wright, Ethan Tatge, and Gilbert Fox who passed the physical agility test and scored 70% and above on the written test, be placed on the eligibility list. Commissioner Hass seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken.

John Callas, William Hass, and William Kauzlarich

TOTAL YES 3
TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

B. Deputy Sheriff Inductions (Justin Smith)

New Sheriff's Deputy Justin Smith was introduced to the Merit Commission. Deputy Smith graduated from the academy on April 25, 2025. He is currently in the FTO program.

C. Lateral Applicant Interviews- Cassie Teske, Devin Teske, Samuel Little and Derrick Boyd

The Merit Commissioners interviewed four lateral candidates for the Sheriff's Office. Cassie Teske is a lateral candidate, currently employed with the City of Rock Island Police Department. Devin Teske is a lateral candidate, currently employed with the City of Rock Island Police Department. Samuel Little is a lateral candidate currently employed with the Colona Police Department. Lastly, Derrick Boyd is a lateral candidate currently employed with the Henry, IL. Police Department.

Commissioner Hass motioned to approve all the lateral candidates. Motion died due to no seconded motion. Commissioner Callas motioned to approve candidates Cassie Teske, Devin Teske and Sam Little, and the denial of candidate Derek Boyd. Commissioner Kauzlarich seconded.

TOTAL YES 3

TOTAL NO 0

Motioned carried.

- D. Set Deputy Sheriff Test Date (June 7, 2025) Commissioner Kauzlarich motioned with consent from all Commissioners.
- E. Discuss Revision of Merit Commission Rules, Regulations, Policies and Procedures. Discussion was tabled until after the new legislative labor management provisions impacting exempt employees were decided by the State.
- F. Merit Commission Letters of Tenure- Deputy Malik Gilmore and Deputy Levi Stropes have both reached their one-year tenure with the Sheriff's Office.
- G. Bills to Consider

Commissioner Kauzlarich motioned to pay the invoices postage to return testing materials. Commissioner Hass seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.

John Callas, William Hass, and William Kauzlarich

TOTAL YES 3
TOTAL NO 0

Motion carried.

4) Next Meeting Date: August 7, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. (tentative)

5) Adjournment:

Motion made by Commissioner Kauzlarich, seconded by Commissioner Callas.

A voice vote was taken and the motion carried for adjournment.