

Special Meeting Notes

Fox Valley Metropolitan Police Commission

Date: May 6, 2025

Location: Village of Little Chute VOLC Community Room

Time: 5:00 – 5:35 pm

1. Call to Order

- a. President Bruce Siebers called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm

2. Roll Call

- a. The personnel attending the meeting were as follows:
Present: Police Chief Daniel Meister, Commissioners: Paul Cooney, Sue Brown,
Mark Williamson
Absent excused: Carl Rambo, One vacant LC Member
- b. Other attendees:
Captain Jeremy Slotke, Officers Randy Lefebber, Brandon Stahmann, and Nick Uebelher, Village Administrator of Little Chute
– Beau Bernhoft, Village Administrator of Kimberly – Danielle Block

3. Public Appearances

- a. Three people spoke at the meeting. One spoke about how he had taken and informal poll of the officers currently working and they had a mixed bag of feelings regarding the hiring of a new chief. He then spoke how he personally would like to continue with the current philosophy and supports Captain Slotke. A second one spoke supporting being a part of the interview process. Finally, the last person to speak, talked about seeing how the whole process worked.

4. Approval of the minutes from the Fox Valley Metropolitan Police Commission Meeting. Dated - February 18, 2025

- a. Motion by Mark Williamson, seconded by Sue Brown; The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

5. Discussion regarding Chief Meister Retirement Notification

- a. Chief Meister talked about his decision to retire, stating that he knew he had to pick a time, and this felt like the best time for him. He feels the department is in a good position and he feels comfortable with the staff and that the department is ready. Feels the transition to Captain Slotke would be seamless. Beau Bernhoft publicly thanked him for his hard work and leadership.

6. Discussion/Possible Action on New Hiring Probationary Period

- a. Chief Meister shared how the current process works for probationary candidates. They have a 12 month period for the department to make a decision on whether they will approve a hire. If they sponsor a candidate to go to the academy, that is 4 months and then they have 3 months of field training. This only give them 5 months to make a decision on hiring.

After doing some research, other departments use an 18 month probationary period. Mark W. shared that in the past the committee has granted extensions to the probationary period. Chief Meister proposed that we change the department's probationary period to 18 months.

b. This item will be tabled to our next meeting.

7. Roll Call vote to move to Closed Session – pursuant to Wisconsin State Statute 19.85 (1) (c) regarding personal matters.

a. Motion by Paul Cooney, seconded by Mark Williamson. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

8. Return to Open Session for action on items from Closed Session

a. Motion by Paul Cooney, seconded by Sue Brown. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

b. A motion was made to appoint Captain Slotke to be interim Chief beginning on June 29th, 2025. Motion was made by Paul Cooney, seconded by Mark Williamson. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

c. It was agreed upon that our May 20th meeting would be cancelled and moved to later in June so we could be prepared for our hiring discussion.

d. Additional items that were discussed but not acted upon, but will be brought forward at our next meeting included;

- i. Reviewing our By-laws
- ii. Chief of Police job description
- iii. Timeline for Budgets discussion regarding salary for Chief of Police
- iv. Posting of the Position
- v. Probationary period for new hires
- vi. Scheduling a future meeting in Late June

9. Adjournment

a. A motion was made by Sue Brown and seconded by Mark Williamson to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

b. The meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm

Closed Session Minutes

1. Hiring process was discussed at length on the pros of why we need to have a longer probationary period. A survey of other departments showed they had an 18 month probationary period.
2. Discussed the interviewing of candidates and that would want a community meet and greet.
3. Administrators for both villages would like us to slow down the process as both boards look at their fiscal budgets and determine what they will be able to offer the new police chief for a salary.
4. Discussed posting the opening both internally and externally. And that we look at a 1.5 month posting period.