

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE WHEELING BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSIONERS
FEBRUARY 19, 2026 @ 1:00 PM
WHEELING VILLAGE HALL
ADMINISTRATION CONFERENCE ROOM
2 COMMUNITY BOULEVARD, WHEELING, ILLINOIS**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Palicki convened the meeting of the Wheeling Board of Fire and Police Commissioners at 1:00 PM.

Deputy Clerk Henneberry called the Roll:

Present: Chairperson Al Palicki, Commissioner Jon Kolssak, Commissioner Dave Schlaak

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Police Chief Joseph Kopecky, Director/Assistant Village Manager Marisol Leyva, and HR Administrator Alyssa Arseson were also present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) Special minutes of January 13, 2026

Chairperson Palicki motioned to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Kolssak.

Final Resolution: Motion approved.

Ayes: Chairperson Palicki, Commissioner Kolssak

Abstain: Commissioner Schlaak

Commissioner Schlaak abstained because he was not present at the January 13, 2026, meeting.

3. CITIZEN CONCERNS & COMMENTS - None

4. NEW BUSINESS-None

5. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Commissioner Kolssak, seconded by Chairperson Palicki, to recess to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing:

- a) Review of Executive Session Minutes of January 13, 2026 (vote to approve will be taken in open session)
- b) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of a specific employee(s) of the Village of Wheeling. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1). [PD Lateral Interviews]

Final Resolution: Motion approved; the open meeting recessed at 1:01 PM.

Ayes: Chairperson Palicki, Commissioner Kolssak, Commissioner Schlaak

[Reconvene from Executive Session]

Motion by Chairperson Palicki, seconded by Commissioner Kolssak, to reconvene into open session. Motion carried by roll call vote, all ayes; the open meeting was reconvened at 2:30 PM.

6. ACTION ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Kolssak, seconded by Chairperson Palicki, to approve the executive session minutes of January 13, 2026, as presented.

Final Resolution: Motion approved.

Ayes: Chairperson Palicki, Commissioner Kolssak

Abstain: Commissioner Schlaak

Commissioner Schlaak abstained because he was not present at the January 13, 2026, meeting.

ADDITIONAL ACTION ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a) Motion by Commissioner Kolssak, seconded by Chairperson Palicki, to strike the following names from the Firefighter Eligibility Roster: Max Wojciechowski, Joey Rattin, and Thomas Senft, based on findings from the post-conditional offer process. Strike Armend Tavic from the Police Eligibility Pool based on findings during the vetting process.

Final Resolution: Motion approved.

Ayes: Chairperson Palicki, Commissioner Kolssak, Commissioner Schlaak

- b) Motion by Chairperson Palicki, seconded by Commissioner Kolssak, to extend a conditional offer of employment to Melissa Recendiz and Eduardo Perez Santos.

Final Resolution: Motion approved.

Ayes: Chairperson Palicki, Commissioner Kolssak, Commissioner Schlaak

OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

Chairperson Palicki congratulated Joseph Kopecky on his promotion to Police Chief.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Kolssak, seconded by Chairperson Schlaak. The motion was carried by voice vote, all ayes. The meeting adjourned at 2:33 PM.

Jon Kolssak, Secretary

Wheeling Board of Fire and Police Commissioners

Approved February 26, 2026