

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE WHEELING BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSIONERS
JULY 8, 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 1:01 PM.

Deputy Clerk Henneberry called the Roll:

Present: Chairperson Al Palicki and Commissioner Jon Kolssak.

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Police Chief Joseph Kopecky, Police Commander Richard Giltner, and HR Administrator Alyssa Arneson.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) Special minutes of June 1, 2026

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

Final Resolution: Motion approved.

Ayes: Chairperson Palicki, Commissioner Kolssak

3. CITIZEN CONCERNS & COMMENTS - None

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

5. NEW BUSINESS - None

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

- a) Review of Executive Session Minutes of April 29, 2026*
- 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 Interviews]

Final Resolution: Motion approved; the open meeting recessed at 1:03 PM.

Ayes: Chairperson Palicki, Commissioner Kolssak

*The minutes of the Executive Session meeting held on April 29, 2026, will be approved at the next meeting.

[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 3:10 PM.

7. ACTION ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Chairperson Palicki, seconded by Commissioner Kolssak, to proceed as follows:

1. Strike the following candidates from the Police Department Pool as they have withdrawn, failed to respond to our correspondence regarding next steps in the hiring process, or have been found ineligible during the vetting process: Justin Baraley Chakchay, Jacob Johnson, Arturo Ochoa Beltran, Tomasz Pikul, Anthony Rivas Duarte, and Tiger Weber.
2. Strike the following candidates from the Firefighter Eligibility Roster as they have withdrawn, failed to respond to our correspondence regarding next steps in the hiring process, or have been found ineligible during vetting: Elias Hernandez and Nathan Cwiakala.
3. Extend conditional offers of employment to Kevin Michalik and Sammy Nolan.
4. Retain Erik Rodriguez-Flores in the Police Department Pool.

Final Resolution: Motion approved.

Ayes: Chairperson Palicki, Commissioner Kolssak

8. COMMUNICATIONS

Chairperson Palicki mentioned pay increases in a neighboring police department and that Lake Zurich is bringing Fire and Police training to local high schools.

In response to a question from Commissioner Kolssak, Deputy Clerk Henneberry stated that there is no update on a third Commissioner following the retirement of David Schlaak.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Kolssak, seconded by Chairperson Palicki. The motion was carried by voice vote, all ayes. The meeting adjourned at 3:13 PM.

Jon Kolssak, Secretary

Wheeling Board of Fire and Police Commissioners

Approved July 21, 2026