

PIKE TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT MERIT COMMISSION
4881 WEST 71ST STREET
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46268

President: Steve Buschmann
Vice President: NaTrina DeBow
Secretary: Russ Sipes

Members: Steve Hendrixson
Nancy Poore

February 18, 2026
Regular Meeting

ATTENDEES:

Merit Commission –Stephen Buschmann, Nancy Poore, and NaTrina DeBow.

Pike Township – Chief Aaron Bell, HRM Jill Smith and Captain Daniel Pitts

CALL TO ORDER:

At 1812, President Buschmann called the meeting to order. The meeting began with The Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Copies of the January 21, 2026 minutes were distributed for review. Vice President DeBow stated there needed to be three corrections to paragraph one. In the second sentence it should say Secretary Sipes made the motion to retain current officers instead of Secretary Sipes makes the motion to retain current officers. Also, the last sentence should say, Secretary Sipes made the motion to approve the schedule, Vice President DeBow seconded and motion approved by all instead of Secretary Sipes makes the motion to approve the schedule, Vice President DeBow seconds and approved by all. Vice President DeBow stated there was another correction needed that included a duplicate sentence about the applicant but Chief Beam and I had already removed that error. President Buschmann asked for a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Vice President DeBow made the motion to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Poore and approved by all.

AGENDA/NEW BUSINESS:

Chief Bell stated that Chief Beam has promoted Brent Goolsby to Battalion Chief in probationary status. President Buschmann stated that the commission does not need to make a motion or vote since they gave the Chief the names from the Battalion Chief promotion list at the January meeting.

Chief Bell requested that the Merit Commission provide the next three names on the Lieutenant Promotion Eligibility list. President Buschmann asked for a motion to present the names of Mark Petro, Calvin Young, and Brian Hakes to the Chief. President Buschmann asked that it be noted that while Dawson Bowling is the second name on the list, he is not eligible for promotion until February 17, 2027

Officer Appointment Information
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Officer Name	Appointing Authority	Term Start Date	Term Expiration Date
Stephen Buschmann	Pike Township Trustee	January 1, 2025	December 31, 2028
NaTrina DeBow	Pike Township Board	January 1, 2023	December 31, 2026
W. Russell Sipes	Pike Township Trustee	January 1, 2023	December 31, 2026
Steve Hendrixson	Pike Township Fire Dept.	January 1, 2025	December 31, 2028
Nancy Poore	Pike Township Fire Dept.	January 1, 2023	December 31, 2026

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and that is why he is not included in the list of three at this time. The motion was made by Commissioner Poore, seconded by Vice President DeBow, and approved by all.

There was one employee that will have fulfilled his year as Probationary Captain as of February 20, 2026: Steven Mills. Chief Bell stated that he was eligible to have probationary status removed on February 20, 2026 and asked that the merit rank be made permanent. Vice President DeBow made the motion, Commissioner Poore seconded, and all approved.

MISC. BUSINESS:

Chief Bell had no miscellaneous department business and there was no Merit Commission Business.

ADJOURNMENT:

President Buschmann asked for a motion to adjourn meeting at 1818. Vice President DeBow made the motion, Commissioner Poore seconded, and all were in favor.

Officer Appointment Information
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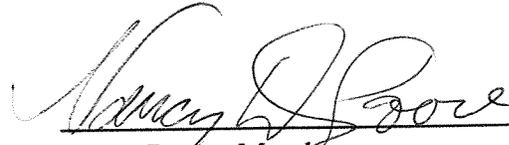
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APPROVAL OF MINUTES: for February 18, 2026


Stephen Buschmann, President

absent
Steven Hendrixson, Member

absent
Natrina DeBow, Vice President


Nancy Poore, Member


Russell Sipes, Secretary

signed March 18, 2026.