

**PIKE TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT MERIT COMMISSION**

**4881 WEST 71<sup>ST</sup> STREET  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46268**

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

**Members:** Steve Hendrixson  
Nancy Poore

March 18, 2026  
**Regular Meeting**

**ATTENDEES:**

Merit Commission –Stephen Buschmann, Nancy Poore, and Russ Sipes.

Pike Township – Chief Jeff Beam, HRM Jill Smith, and Lieutenant Angela Highland

**CALL TO ORDER:**

At 1801, President Buschmann called the meeting to order. The meeting began with The Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Copies of the February 18, 2026 minutes were distributed for review. President Buschmann asked for a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Secretary Sipes made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Poore and approved by all.

**AGENDA/NEW BUSINESS:**

There was one employee recommended for promotion from Probationary FF to FFI: Case Oltman. Chief Beam stated that this firefighter has completed all the necessary training and was eligible for promotion on March 10, 2026. Commissioner Poore made the motion for promotion, Secretary Sipes seconded, and all approved.

There was one employee that will have fulfilled his year as Probationary Lieutenant as of March 20, 2026: Mark Raney. Chief Beam stated that he would be eligible to have probationary status removed on March 20, 2026 and asked that the merit rank be made permanent. Commissioner Poore made the motion, Secretary Sipes seconded, and all approved.

There were two employees who were recommended for promotion from FFII to FFIII: Nathan Boomershine and Dylan Summers. Chief Beam stated that these firefighters have completed all the necessary training and would be eligible for promotion on March 27, 2026. Commissioner Poore made the motion for promotion, Secretary Sipes seconded, and all approved.

**Officer Appointment Information**

<b>Officer Name</b>	<b>Appointing Authority</b>	<b>Term Start Date</b>	<b>Term Expiration Date</b>
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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Chief Beam requested the next three names from the Lieutenant Promotion eligibility list. President Buschmann asked for a motion to present the names of Brian Hakes, JaMichael Hill, and Matthew Salmon to the Chief. President Buschmann asked that it be noted that while Dawson Bowling was the second name on the list, he would not be eligible for promotion until February 17, 2027. The motion was made by Commissioner Poore, seconded by Secretary Sipes and approved by all.

**MISC. BUSINESS:**


Chief Beam had no miscellaneous department business. President Buschmann would like to note that the first mention of Steve Hendrixson in the Merit Commission notes was April 1996, which means that next month Steve will have served 30 years on this Merit Commission board. All present thank him for his service. Also, President Buschmann will be moving out of the township and will tender his resignation as of December 31, 2026. No other business.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

President Buschmann asked for a motion to adjourn meeting at 1809. Secretary Sipes made the motion, Commissioner Poore seconded, and all were in favor.


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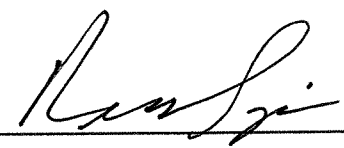
APPROVAL OF MINUTES: for March 18, 2026

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen Buschmann, President

absent  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Steven Hendrixson, Member

absent  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Natrina DeBow, Vice President

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nancy Poore, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Russell Sipes, Secretary

Signed April 15, 2026.