

OPEN SESSION  
MINUTES

The Lake County Sheriff's Office Merit Commission met in session on Wednesday, February 18, 2021 at the County Building, 18 County Street, Waukegan, IL with the following:

Present: Nick Gountanis, Chair  
Martin Walker, Vice-Chair  
Carmen Patlan, Secretary  
Richard Eckenstahler, Commissioner  
Lawrence Oliver, Undersheriff  
Beth Prager, State's Attorney's Office  
via Teleconference

Also Present: Alejandra Gonzalez, Executive Assistant

Session called to order at 1:30 PM by Chairperson Gountanis.

No public comment.

The Commission welcomed Mr. Richard Eckenstahler to the Board. Rick provided a brief introduction to his background.

Review of minutes (2/3); Approved. Motion to accept by Carmen Patlan, seconded by Martin Walker.

As requested from the Sheriff's Office, the board received and discussed several changes to the language in the Rules and Regulations surrounding Article VI Promotions; 6.2 Eligibility to Sergeant, as well as awarding points under veterans and education guidelines.

Current language cites:

*"To be eligible for promotion to the rank Sergeant a person must, in addition to the requirements in 6.1 of this Article, have served as a Deputy Sheriff (Grade 1) in the Sheriff's Office for at least three (3) years continuously, prior to the time of the holding of the written examination for promotion to Sergeant or in the case of lateral transfers, have served as a Deputy Sheriff in the Sheriff's Office for at least two (2) years prior to the time of holding of the written examination for promotion"*

A suggested language change to Article VI; 6.2 Eligibility – To Sergeant

*“To be eligible for promotion to the rank of Sergeant a person must, in addition to the requirements of 6.1 of this Article, have served as a Deputy Sheriff (Grade 1) in the Sheriff’s Office for at least five (5) years continuously, prior to the time of the holding of the written examination for promotion to Sergeant.”*

Changing the sergeant eligibility to five (5) years, would realign processed under Article VI; 6.5 Examination – Process, (d) that specifies the award of seniority points, citing:

*“All candidates shall then have their seniority points for years of continued and uninterrupted service with the Lake County Sheriff’s Office as a Deputy Sheriff (Grade 1), added for the purpose of determining ranking, with the seniority points calculated as follows:*

<i>5 through 7 years</i>	<i>1 point</i>
<i>8 through 10 years</i>	<i>2 points</i>
<i>11 years and over</i>	<i>3 points</i>

Current language cites; Article VI; Promotions 6.5 Examination – Process (e) Veteran’s Points

*“If the candidate declares them prior to testing, shall also be added for the purpose of determining ranking, with the veteran’s pints calculated as follows:*

*Seven-tenths (7/10) of one point for each 6 months of active military or naval service not exceeding 30 months.*

*Veteran’s Points may be used for one actual promotion only.*

A suggested language change to: Article VI; Promotions 6.5 Examination – Process (e) Veteran’s Points

*“The candidate must declare the desire to use veteran’s points, prior to testing, and if declared shall be added for the purpose of determining ranking, with the veteran’s points calculated as follows:*

*Two (2) points will be awarded for service with any branch of the US Military, to include National Guard or Reserves, as verified by the submission of the candidate’s form: DD214 or similar authorized document.*

*Veteran’s points may be used for one actual promotion only.*

Current language cites; Article VI: Promotions 6.5 Examination – Process (f) Education Points

*“Education points shall be added for the highest degree obtained, with the points as follows:*

<i>Associate’s Degree</i>	<i>1 point</i>
<i>Bachelor’s Degree</i>	<i>2 points</i>

*Master's Degree or higher*                      *3 points*

A suggested language change to Article VI; Promotions 6.5 Examination – Process (f) Education Points

*“The candidate must declare the desire to use education points, prior to testing, and if declared shall be added for the highest degree obtained for the purpose of determining ranking, with the education points calculated as follows:*

*Associate's Degree*                                      *1 point*

*Bachelor's Degree*                                      *2 points*

*Master's Degree or higher*                              *3 points*

*Education points may be used for one actual promotion only, or unless the candidate has achieved a higher degree prior to the next promotional examination to a higher rank.*

Beth will update the suggested changes and present the revisions to the Commission at the March 18<sup>th</sup>'s meeting.

The entry deputy eligibility list will expire in November of 2021. The commission has agreed to continue with the remainder of the current list, if applicable and review at a later date.

Chairperson Gountanis requested a motion to go into Executive session at 2:36 PM pursuant to Chapter 5 of ILCS ACT 120 SECTION 2(c)(1) and Chapter 5 of ILCS SECTION 2(c)(11). Motion made by Carmen Patlan, seconded by Martin Walker.

The meeting was reconvened to regular session by Chairperson Gountanis at 4:03 PM.

Meeting adjourned on motion of Nick Gountanis, seconded by Carmen Patlan.

Minutes approved 3/4/21; Motion by Carmen Patlan, seconded by Rick Eckenstahler.