

**Village of Franklin Park  
Fire & Police Commission  
Monday, May 6, 2024  
Meeting Minutes**

**Call to order:** The meeting for the Fire & Police Commission was called to order by Commissioner Maritza Souchet at 6:00 pm.

**Roll Call / Quorum:** Present is Commissioner Maritza Souchet, Commissioner Guillermo Rios, Commissioner Irene Herrera and Secretary Dinorah Rangel. Also in attendance, Chief Mark Stewart, Commander Thomas Ferris, and Trustee Bill Ruhl.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion to approve the April 1, 2024 meeting minutes was made by Commissioner Souchet and seconded by Commissioner Irene Herrera. Motion passed.

**Communications:**

**Fire Chief Stewart:** Current list for testing has been exhausted. A new date for testing will be opened for the written testing until the beginning of June. As soon as someone passes the written exam, they will be sent to the police department for background checks. The board has been doing the oral interviews and the last time we had five candidates pass background and by the time the orals were scheduled only two candidates were left and only one showed up. After talking to the other battalion chiefs, we wanted to see if the commission would be ok with me and the other three battalion chiefs conducting oral interview for the time being to speed up the process. The bylaws do not say that the commission must conduct oral interviews. After speaking to other fire chiefs in the are doing interviews right away and hiring as they go. Waiting to do orals as one big group means we are losing candidates. By the time we did the oral interview three candidates were offered positions elsewhere. We might have to do a few interviews along the way to speed up the process to beat the other towns to get candidates, because it's the same people. Once fully staffed we can go back to normal for interviews.

For psychological testing we use COPS/FIRE and the last couple of times we have been unable to get anyone in for at least a week. The National Testing Network offers psychological testing within one to two days. They charge \$150 more, but it is a two-day turnaround versus one or two weeks. We lost two candidates because they could not get in for psychological testing. The police department does background checks and have been great they have result back in a week. Every time we hire, we are having retirements and are down four positions. The people applying are all on the same list for Schiller Park and Desplaines list and all the towns around us. Sometimes it takes a month to get through the entire process, this month it took three weeks and we still lost candidates. Also, when they go for medical exams, we are not getting results in for over week. After working with Lisa Anthony and speaking to the doctor we were able to get results in two days. We just have to keep hounding people for results. Every time we test Desplaines is testing and they beat us by 1 or 2 days with offers.

**Maritza Souchet:** If the bylaws are not being violated the commission is on board for oral interviews and psychological exams.

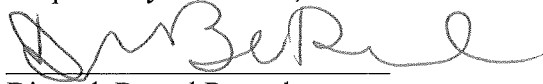
**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:** Commissioner Maritza Souchet made motion to go into Executive Session at 6:13 pm, Irene Herrera seconded. Moved into Executive Session. Motion to come out of Executive Session made at 6:18 pm.

**Public Comments:** None

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn at 6:18 p.m. made by Commissioner Maritza Souchet and seconded by Commissioner Herrera with all in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dinorah Bernal Rangel". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Dinorah Bernal Rangel