MERRILLVILLE METROPOLITAN POLICE COMMISSION MINUTES
Merrillville Town Hall, 7820 Broadway

May 1, 2026

Regular Meeting called to order at 2:00 PM

ITEM I — PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

William Poling – Police Commissioner Chairman, Present
Petar Dragojevic – Police Commissioner Vice Chairman, Absent
Michael Rich – Police Commissioner, Present
Thomas Pawlak – Police Commissioner, Absent
W. Luther Cuttino – Police Commissioner, Present
Justin Murphy –Police Commission Attorney, Present
Konstantinos Nuses – Chief of Police, Absent
Shana Levinson – Chief's Attorney, Present
Matthew Vasel – Assistant Chief of Police, Present
Lori Sanfratello – Chief's Executive Director, Present

A quorum is present.

ITEM III — APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE April 10, 2026, REGULAR MEETING.

Commissioner Cuttino made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 10, 2026, Regular Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Rich. 3 ayes, motion passed.

ITEM V — CHIEF'S REPORT

Assistant Chief stated he had nothing at this time.

ITEM VI — INTRODUCTION AND ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS.

There was none.

ITEM VII — OLD BUSINESS

Lori Sanfratello informed the Commission that Officer DeBenedetti's Pension Disability Hearing was set for May 12, 2026.

ITEM VIII — NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Rich made a motion to Award Ofc Szany a Level I Commendation and was seconded by Commissioner Cuttino. 3 ayes, motion passed.

Commissioner Cuttino made a motion to Award Cpl. Bunnell with the Meritorious Police Duty Award and was seconded by Commissioner Rich. 3 ayes, motion passed.

Commissioner Rich made a motion to Award a Level II Commendation to Cpl. Henry and was seconded by Commissioner Cuttino. 3 ayes, motion passed.

Commissioner Rich made a motion to Adopt New General Order 23.12 Special Grant-Funded Overtime and was seconded by Commissioner Cuttino. 3 ayes, motion passed.

Commissioner Cuttino made a motion to Approve a Letter of Resignation from Probationary Ofc. Briggs and was seconded by Commissioner Rich. 3 ayes, motion passed.

Commissioner Rich made a motion to Approve a Letter of Resignation from Ofc. Espinosa and was seconded by Commissioner Cuttino. 3 ayes, motion passed.

Commissioner Rich made a motion to Extend Conditional Offers to Patrick Crowley and Brandon Casique and was seconded by Commissioner Cuttino. 3 ayes, motion passed.

ITEM IX PUBLIC COMMENT.

There was none.

ITEM X ANNOUNCEMENTS

Assistant Chief Vasel stated that May 14, 2026, at 10:00 am at the Community Center's South Lot will be the Departments Annual Inspections.

The next Police Commission meeting was set for June 5, 2026, at 2:00 pm.

ITEM XI ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Cuttino made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Rich. 3 ayes, motion passed

AS THERE WAS NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED at 2:14 pm.

Passed and adopted on this 5th day of June 2026.

Lori Sanfratello
Chief's Executive Director
Police Commission Secretary

William Poling
Police Commissioner, Chairman