

**CITY OF MERRILL**  
**POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSION**

Wednesday, July 21, 2021 · 4:30 p.m.  
Conference Room (basement) – City Hall · 1004 E. First St., Merrill, WI

Members Present: Paul Russell (Chairman), Nicole Johnson (Secretary), Don Heyel, and Norm Hanson  
Members Absent: Lisa Gervais  
Others Present: Police Chief Bennett and City Administrator Dave Johnson

**I. Call to Order:**

Chairman Russell called the meeting to order at 4:29 p.m.

**II. Public Comment Period:**

No public comments.

Chief Bennett gave an update on the three recent hires for the dept. All three are now on staff and in different stages of training. The first is through field training, the second is in the process of completing field training, and the third has just started. The dept will be fully staffed once the three have successfully completed their training. Commissioners Russell and Johnson both made comment about interactions in public settings they have had with one of the two of the new officers. Both were very complimentary on the officers' conduct in public.

Chief Bennett then updated on the recent promotion in January and the good progress made in that area. Greg Hartwig's retirement was mentioned, and we discussed the process conducted to handle the filling of his position. The applicants were all interviewed and scored in several areas. Recommendation made by Chief Bennett to promote Pete Borchardt for the position.

Moved to allow Chief Bennett to promote Officer Borchardt (Heyel/Gervais). *Carried 4/4 vote.*

**III. Adjournment:**

Moved to adjourn at 4:51 p.m. (Heyel/Gervais). *Carried.*

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Johnson  
Secretary  
Merrill Police and Fire Commission