

Starke County Sheriff's Office
Merit Board Meeting Minutes
4/30/2024

Opening:

Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Brad Hazelton. Meeting was held at Starke County Justice Center, in the downstairs squad room.

Present:

Merit Board Members: Brad Hazelton, Tom Belork, Denise Cultice, and Bret Hansen

Sheriff's Department: Sheriff Jack Rosa, Chief Deputy Jack Hudgens, Matron April Wilhelm, Deputy Chad McDonald

Approval of previous meeting minutes: motion to approve made by Denise Cultice, second by Bret Hansen, all approved.

Old Business:

Per the previous meeting, the rules & regulations need to be revised due to the levels of ranks being inaccurate, rules that are outdated or have been updated, and page numbers being out of sequence. Matron Wilhelm stated that these are being revised and would be provided as completed.

New Business:

Deputy PJ McKee completed his one-year probationary period on 04/10/2023 and needs to be approved for a merit officer position. Motion made by Bret Hansen, second by Tom Belork, all approved.

Sage Kluge didn't pass the academy and subsequently resigned.

Deputy Ashley Vandemark has been assigned to the DEA. She will be working part-time until the department has enough coverage to allow her to go into a full-time position with the HIDTA initiative.

Sheriff Rosa advised that the department is allowing the officers to switch their uniforms to black pants and shirts, but that is at their own expense. In addition, and also at their own expense, deputies will be allowed to wear cowboy hats with class B uniforms.

Sheriff Rosa announced that he had hopes of hiring a part-time officer to assist with paper service and animal control issues. This position could be paid from the jail budget. Additionally, the Sheriff advised that he has long-term hopes to work more closely and assist with the county animal shelter.

Brad Hazelton stated that there had been discussion regarding a clothing allowance for the officers which it seemed wasn't being provided. Matron Wilhelm advised that the clothing allowance was in the budget. Each new hire is provided two long-sleeve shirts, 2 short-sleeve shirts, and 2 pairs of pants.

Adjournment: After the end of the previous discussion, the open meeting was closed and immediately moved on to the executive meeting. All approved.