ILLINOIS STATE POLICE MERIT BOARD
MINUTES
2nd QUARTER BOARD MEETING – April 15, 2026

Present were Illinois State Police Merit Board Chairman Tim Touhy, Member William Stiehl, Member Dr. Raymond Garcia, Executive Director Emily Fox, and Chief Legal Counsel Daniel Dykstra. Member Dr. Linda Flowers and Member Dr. Chala Holland attended by audio conference and did not take part in voting.

Colonel J.W. Price, Illinois State Police, Abby Sgro, ISP Deputy Chief Legal Counsel, and Mr. Bruce Bialorucki, Illinois Troopers Lodge also attended the meeting in person.

The meeting was held at the Merit Board Office, 531 Sangamon Avenue East, Springfield, Illinois. Chairman Touhy opened the meeting at 10:30 AM.

Chairman Touhy asked the Board Members and guests to introduce themselves.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the 1st Quarter Board Meeting minutes held on January 14 2026.

Executive Director Fox updated the Board on the Applicant Process. The deadline to apply for Cadet Class 154a – traditional was October 1, 2025. After testing, 251 backgrounds were initiated. After background review, 133 applicants were invited to interviews. A total of 115 applicants were Certified. Cadet Class 154a is scheduled to start in June 2026. The deadline to apply for Cadet Class 154b – lateral was February 1. 495 applicants were invited to participate in testing. 102 passed the PFIT, 25 failed the PFIT, 368 were no shows. Out of the 102 who passed the PFIT, 84 passed the recruitment exam and 73 had their background initiated. Background review and interviews are scheduled for Junea and July, with the class starting in October.

We are currently accepting applications for Cadet Class 155 – traditional which is set to begin in June 2027. The deadline to apply for CC155 is June 1. PFIT and Recruitment Exam testing will be conducted on June 6, in Burbank, and May 16 and June 9 in Springfield. Background Review and interviews are scheduled to be conducted in October and November, with the class starting in February 2027.

Executive Director Fox updated the Board on the 2026 Promotional Process. The 2026 reading lists have been published for target Sergeant and Master Sergeant candidates. Test sign-up will be open from May 1 through May 31. The promotional exams are currently being developed, and testing will be conducted in September.

Executive Director Fox updated the Board on the revisions to Merit Board policy MB03. The policy revisions align with the administrative rule changes approved by the Board in October 2025. The policy is being updated to align with the now adopted administrative rules.

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The Board voted unanimously to go into closed session.

Chairman Tim Touhy, Member William Stiehl, Member Dr. Raymond Garcia, Executive Director Emily Fox, and Chief Legal Counsel Daniel Dykstra attended the closed session portion of the meeting in person.

The Board discussed the Trooper John Faulkner Joint Motion and Settlement Agreement.

The Board discussed the Trooper Hawkins matter.

Chief Legal Counsel Dykstra updated the Board on the Discipline Report.

Chief Legal Counsel Dykstra updated the Board on the status of cases in Administrative Review

The Board discussed keeping the January 14, 2026, closed meeting minutes confidential.

The Board voted unanimously to go out of closed session and return to open session.

The Board voted unanimously to accept the Joint Motion & Settlement Agreement in the Trooper John Faulkner matter, suspending Trooper Faulkner for 120 days.

The Board voted unanimously to adopt the Hearing Officer's Recommended Findings and sustain the Director's 8-day suspension of Trooper Jason Hawkins.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the revisions to Merit Board Policy MB03.

The Board voted unanimously to keep the January 15, 2026, closed meeting minutes confidential.

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Cynthia L. Bryant, Secretary