



MICHIGAN CITY FIRE MERIT COMMISSION

100 MICHIGAN BOULEVARD
MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA 46360
219-873-1570
, PRESIDENT
CHARLES WILLIAMS, VICE PRESIDENT
EDWARD ZAKNOEN, SECRETARY
ROBERT POLLOCK, COMMISSIONER
RICKY JACKSON, COMMISSIONER

Michigan City Fire Merit Commission Meeting Minutes: January 7, 2019

Vice-President Williams called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. A quorum was noted with Commissioners Charles Williams, Edward Zaknoen, Bob Pollock and Ricky Jackson in attendance. Also present was Attorney Cory Schoffner.

At this time, Vice-President Williams asked all present to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Also, at this time Vice-President Williams thanked Mrs. Mock and Mr. Vance for their time on the commission.

Election-Discussion ensued among the commissioners and it was decided to TABLE the election of President until later when all commissioners could be present.

Approval of Minutes- A motion was made by Commissioner Pollock to accept the minutes as presented which are December 3, 2018 Regular Meeting, December 3, 2018 Special Meeting and the December 7, 2018 Special Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Zaknoen. **Motion Carried 4-0.**

Communications/Claims- Commissioner Pollock made a motion to accept the claims and payroll for December 2018. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Zaknoen. **Motion Carried 4-0.**

Commissioner Pollock gave an update on the budget stating the commission used 95% of their budget for 2018. Commissioner Pollock made the motion to accept the budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Commission Zaknoen. **Motion Carried 4-0.**

Report from City Council Representative- Absent

Report from Commission Attorney- inaudible.

Report from Union Local 475- President Mike Neulieb addressed the commission in regards to there are two (2) nominees for the Republican Representative for the Fire Merit seat that is

vacated; the election will be an election on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 in the Clerk's Office; however, Mr. Neulieb did address concerns regarding if the candidate was valid since he voted as a Democrat in the last primary election and not Republican. Further discussion ensued regarding who would be the one that could confirm what this nominee is considered; It was determined that the County Board of Election would be who could determine this candidate's eligibility.

Report from Fire Chief Randy Novak- Fire Chief Randy Novak was not present, however, Tony Drzewiecki was present. Mr. Drzewiecki stated the following:

- Battalion Chief Daryl Westphal retired on January 3, 2019 with 36+ years of service
- With this retirement, there is now an opening for a Battalion Chief, Captain, Lieutenant, and Driver/Operator.
- Recently there were five (5) Probationary Firefighters hired on December 26, 2018. Recently, one resigned. Since this resignation, the next name was contacted but he refused, so then the next name was contacted.
- The Academy started January 7, 2019.
- No anniversaries in January

New Business-Commissioner Zaknoen addressed the commission stating that a letter was received from the Firefighter that resigned asking to retract the letter. There was further discussion about the retraction letter and expenses.

Commissioner Zaknoen stated that he will be picking up the Promotional Test from Sarah Smith and will be allowing the firefighters to view them.

Kyle Kazmierczak addressed the commission to clarify that everyone can view the test but only the 11 that filed appeals can act on them. The commission agreed that was correct.

Rob Steinborn asked the Commission if the time to file an appeal was over and the answer to that was yes, the time has expired.

Shannon Borders brought up why did he not receive his scores. Discussion ensued regarding that there was confusing since he signed up for the test on the first sign up sheet but not the second. At this point, Commissioner Pollock stated that everyone needed to make sure if a second signup sheet was posted, to sign up due to budget issues, adding that only two additional test booklets are ordered and if someone does not sign up, it could cause an issue.

Old Business- Discussion ensued among the commissioners and attorney regarding and appeal from the summer of 2018. It was asked that the commission attorney contact the firefighter's attorney to see if a date can be set for a hearing and if not, they will be dropped.

Public Comments- Mike Neulieb, Union President addressed the board with regards why the Administrative Office moved so quickly to the next hire on the hiring list. Commissioner

Zaknoen stated that due to the academy already starting and communication between the commission and secretary it was ok'd to move to the next name on the list.

The commission set an Executive Session and Special Meeting for Thursday, January 10, 2019 at 4:00 PM to discuss the retraction of the resignation letter.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Pollock at 5:58 pm and seconded by Commissioner Zaknoen Motion Carried 5-0.

Next Meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 4, 2017 at 5:00 PM.