



## MICHIGAN CITY FIRE MERIT COMMISSION

100 MICHIGAN BOULEVARD  
MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA 46360  
219-873-1570  
LOUISE MOCK, PRESIDENT  
, VICE PRESIDENT  
ROBERT POLLOCK, SECRETARY  
GEOFF PLUMMER, COMMISSIONER  
CHARLES WILLIAMS, COMMISSIONER

### Michigan City Fire Merit Commission Meeting Minutes: February 3, 2014

President Mock called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. A quorum was noted with Commissioners Louise Mock, Robert Pollock, Geoff Plummer and Charles Williams all in attendance. Also present were Attorney Pamela Krause and Fire Chief Ronnie Martin. Councilman Chris Schwanke was absent.

At this time, President Mock asked all present to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Commissioner Pollock to accept the minutes from the December 2, 2013 meeting. Commissioner Plummer 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Ayes 4 Nays 0; motion carries.**

A motion was made by Commissioner Pollock to accept the minutes from the December 23, 2013 meeting. Commissioner Plummer 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Ayes 4 Nays 0; motion carries.**

#### **Communications/Claims-**

Claims-Commissioner Pollock stated the payroll and claims for February 2014 was \$1,276.67.

Communications-Commissioner Pollock read a letter from Keith Harris stating he would be resigning from the Fire Merit Commission effective Monday, January 20, 2014. (A copy of the letter is attached)

**Report from City Council Liaison, Chris Schwanke-** No report.

**Report from Commission Attorney-** No report

**Report from Union Local 475-** Union reported that they still have not found a replacement for Commissioner Harris yet. There was some confusion in the language in the ordinance about why they must be year as a Republican. The union did not understand why it said that. The commission attorney apologized and thought that the union was going to contact the union attorney on this. Commissioner Pollock asked to speak on this. He stated that the political reason was so that a person cannot party jump or shop. That a person who says they are a Democrat or Republican must vote

that no matter what. And that if there was no one running for that party at that time, they just simply needed to record a D or R by their name and they could leave.

### **New Business-**

- A) Hiring Freeze- Commission reminded everyone there is still a Hiring Freeze. Commissioner Pollock stated that he gave the commission a copy of the Mayor's hiring freeze rules.
- B) Review of Hiring list- Commissioner Pollock stated that those rules were handed out as well.

### **Old Business-** None

**Report from Chief Martin-**Chief Martin submitted to the commission bi-annually evaluations from July-December 2013.

There are three vacancies created by retirements and Chief Martin needed the commission to vote for the next three promotions. Commissioner Pollock made a motion to vote on this and both Commissioner Plummer and Williams 2<sup>nd</sup>. A roll call was taken with all commissioners voting yes to accept this effective as of the retirement dates.

An update was giving from the December 2, 2013 meeting about when Chief Martin asked for the next five names on the hiring list and one name in the hole. He informed the commission that out of those there were two that said yes, one that did not respond, one of the two that said yes came back and said no. So right now, there are two firefighters waiting for approval from PERF. Once approved by PERF he will bring their names to the board.

Chief Martin also wanted to say that on February 21, 2014 Dennis Nespo will have 25 years with the department.

At this time, Chief Martin along with Mark Baker gave the commission a definition of what the Protection Award was about. They reminded the commission that there are 6 firefighters that form a committee and will award the Protection award to who they think best deserves it. The award is a traveling award.

Mark Baker read three different stories where the situation could have been devastating, but with the firefighters fast thinking, remaining calm, and knowing how to do their job professionally the outcome was rewarding. Chief Martin award each of the firefighters involved a certificate and reminded them that no act to small or large should go unrecognized. That the public is always speaking good things about the Michigan City Fire Department.

Commissioner Mock wanted to also add that she speaks for the commission and that our Fire Department is 2<sup>nd</sup> to none. She thanked them for all they do. And reminded them and Chief Martin that the commission always wants to hear about the good things that they do.

**Public Comment-** Firefighter Howard Fuller stated that he had a review in November 2013 and was a little confused. That he had not received anything as to where his review stands and would like to know something. Commissioner Mock stated that the commission would get something to him right away.

Mike Neulieb stated that he watched that December 2, 2013 meeting and was very confused about the vote for the September 19, 2013 disciplinary action. He asked that commission adopt one way to vote, either with yes or no, raise of hands, he also asked the commission to go back and review.

Mike also talked about the performance reviews and made a few suggested.

Faye Moore Vice President of the NAACP asked with the retirees leaving, when would the next testing be? Commissioner Mock stated that the Fire Department is always taking applications however, as far as how long it takes to process an application, Shelley in personnel would be the one to ask.

The question was then brought up about the hiring freeze and the current hiring list. When was the hiring freeze started and the answer was December 26, 2013. When it is lifted will the same ratio be used and Commissioner Mock responded yes. However, it was stated that if for example the hiring freeze lasted for 6 months, the names on the list would remain on the list for 6 months past the cut off of December 31, 2014.

Operator Barrett Taylor wanted to apologize at this time for a comment he made in December and wanted his fellow co-workers and commissioners to know that he is proud to be a Michigan City Fire Fighter. Chief Martin added that he gets nothing but positive feedback about the Fire Department from the city.

John VanEtten wanted to mention as well to the gentleman concerned about hit application not getting the time it deserves on the hiring list. He stated the he had to apply to the Fire Department twice. He did not get hired the first time he applied.

**Commission Comment-** Commissioner Pollock Thanked the department for all they do and was proud of how they handled the I-94 incident. That the people of Michigan City feel good about the Fire Department. Chief Martin added that Mike Neulieb was one of the first on the scene that day on I-94. Commissioner Mock added that the commission is always proud of the Fire Department. And that the commission will always talk greatly about them.

]

**Motion to adjourn was made by Commission Pollock and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Plummer. Ayes 4; Nays 0 motion carries.**

**Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 3, 2014**