



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: February 4, 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 and Fire Chief Randy Novak.

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

Approval of Minutes- A motion was made by Commissioner Pollock to accept the minutes as presented which are January 7, 2019 Regular Meeting; January 10, 2019 Executive Session and January 10, 2019 Special Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jackson.

Motion Carried 4-0.

Communications/Claims- Commissioner Pollock made a motion to accept the claims and payroll for January 2019 which was less \$150.00 for one commissioner. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Zaknoen. **Motion Carried 4-0.**

Commissioner Pollock gave an update on the budget stating the commission has used 38% of their budget so far in 2019; Commissioner Pollock explained this was because the biggest bill, the South Bend Fire Academy bill for \$15,000.00 has come through and been paid; other expenses until the end of May beginning of June will be the meal and travel expenses for these recruits. 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 Fire Chief Randy Novak- Chief Novak gave an update on the five recruits at the South Bend Fire Academy, they are Tia Free; Randall Hallett, Austin Swistek; Brian Gonzalez and Jory Palmer adding that all are doing well and currently in the EMT portion of the academy. They will be graduating the end of May beginning of June but if any of the commissioners

would like to take a ride over to the academy, please let Chief Novak know and he will make arrangements for the commissioners.

Chief Novak wanted to personally announce the retirement of Daryl Westphal and along with Tom Zawacki there was a total of 80+ years of services to the department.

Chief Novak gave an update that there was a Driver/Operator class held in September 2018 for every fireman to help them with upcoming promotions to Driver/Operator. Adding that April 16, 17 and 18 there will be an Officers Training class in conjunction with Clay, Laporte and South Bend Fire Departments.

Anniversaries this month:

Captain Randy Dibble	32 Years
Captain David Nespo	30 Years
Captain Dennis Wantland	30 Years
D/O Alan Kreighbaum	28 Years
Captain Chris Kosakowski	27 Years
D/O Drew Belue	9 years
FF Brandon White	9 Years
FF Eugene Hanas	2 Years

Chief Novak also stated that Jacob Irvin; David Rinconeno; Michael Hamby; Chris Zibutis; Kyle Gish and Chris Milcarek all completed their 1-year probation and would like to ask the commission to promote them to 1st Class Firefighters on February 20, 2019.

Commissioner Pollock made motion to allow the above-mentioned individuals to be promoted to 1st Class Firemen on February 20, 2019. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jackson. **Motion Carried 4-0.**

Chief Novak stated with one more firefighter leaving April 1, 2019, Chief Novak asked the commission permission to move ahead with the hiring process with the next name on the list with hopes there will be a fire academy in the fall. Give just a little information that four have resigned with 9-11 years on the job in addition to those that have retired and there are 30 that can retire that are currently working. Chief Novak updated the commission in regards to a workshop that was held in January with the City Council and MCPD.

Lastly, Chief Novak wanted to commend the firemen for an outstanding job the past week in the terrible weather conditions.

Commission Comment- Commissioner Jackson made the motion to allow Chief Novak to proceed with the hiring process for the next applicant. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pollock. **Motion Carried 4-0.**

(Councilman Ron Hamilton Jr. arrived)

Commissioner Jackson announced that Councilman Hamilton Jr. was present and that hopefully he could help the Chief with the sign on bonus or anything that needed to be done to get transfers to our department.

Commissioner Pollock added that he would like to also see something added for anyone with military experience.

Commissioner Zaknoen addressed that anyone who filed an appeal for their Promotional Test should be receiving an email as the appeals are scheduled for February 11 and 12.

Old Business- None

Union Local 475- None

Commission Attorney- None

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Pollock at 5:20pm and seconded by Commissioner Zaknoen Motion Carried 4-0.

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