



MICHIGAN CITY FIRE MERIT COMMISSION

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MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA 46360 219-8731570

BART LOMBARD, PRESIDENT
JOHN STIMLEY, VICE PRESIDENT
LOUISE MOCK, SECRETARY
JOHN SKIERKOWSKI, COMMISSIONER
KEITH HARRIS, COMMISSIONER

Minutes of the March 1, 2010, Michigan City Fire Merit Commission Meeting.

President Bart Lombard called the meeting to order. A quorum was noted as present with Commissioners Bart Lombard, Keith Harris, John Stimley, John Skierkowski, and Louise Mock in attendance. Others present included Attorney Pam Krause, Councilwoman Pat Boy, Chief Dave Lamb, and Secretary, Gale Neulieb.

On a motion by Keith Harris, second by Louise Mock the minutes of the February 1, 2010 meeting were approved. **Motion 5-0.**

Commissioner Mock stated there were no communications.

President Lombard advised that he received a letter from Matthew Field, representing the News Dispatch on February 23, 2010 requesting information regarding a disciplinary action that took place in 2009 and that the Commission would address this matter under attorney reports.

Attorney Krause addressed the letter received on February 23, 2010, advising she spoke to the City Attorney and stated she emailed Mr. Field the following day, regarding his request; sending a copy to each Commissioner. Attorney Krause advised that she had not received any further requests from Mr. Field's.

President Lombard stated that he didn't receive a copy of that correspondence and asked Attorney Krause to please resend to him for his files.

Attorney Krause commented that she had received amendments to the fire merit ordinance from Attorney Amber Lapaich.

President Lombard asked if Attorney Krause received a letter from Attorney Ulfert regarding him not representing Firefighter Stimley.

Attorney Krause stated that she requested that information but as to date has not received it.

Commissioner Harris requested that Attorney Krause draft a letter regarding this matter for the Commission's files.

Council Liaison Boy presented the Commission with a copy of amendments made to the fire merit ordinance.

Discussion ensued among, President Lombard, Chief Lamb, Commissioner's Mock, Harris, Stimley, Skierkowski, Council Liaison Boy and Attorney Krause regarding proposed amendments.

Keith Harris made a motion to remove the fire merit ordinance for discussion from the TABLE, second by John Skierkowski and approved. **Motion 5-0**

Council Liaison Boy advised the Commission what the proposed amendments were; discussion ensued among the Commission, Chief Lamb, and Attorney Krause. The following issues regarding the proposed amendments would be addressed before going to the Council:

Under Section 54-142. Application for employment.

Proof of Michigan City residence as defined in Sec. 54-156 if residency is being claimed, and proof of military service if such exists

Under Section 54-156. Determination of final rating.

(4) Military service: Two percent (**Documents providing proof** of residency And military service are to be provided with completed application as described in Sec. 54-152(a)

Under Section 54-161 Medical Examination. At the Chief's request, if an applicant FAILS the examination the Fire Pension Board will pay the total bill.

Under Section 54-162. Training of new appointees.

(b) if academy is available within a **reasonable area**.

Under Section 54-172. Qualifications for promotion.

(1) Driver operator: two years as a member of the department and maintain a Valid **CDL license**;

President Lombard addressed the Commission regarding the written test for probationary firefighters beginning in May.

Councilwoman Boy stated she could have the amendments made, and questions addressed by the April Commission meeting; giving a copy to Chief Lamb and the Firefighters Union Reps. prior to the next meeting.

President Lombard, Commissioner's Skierkowski, Harris, Mock, Stimley and Councilwoman Boy discussed the process to take regarding presenting the amendments to the Council and what the unions process would be to address any concerns regarding any proposed amendments.

Keith Harris stated that he would contact the County Veteran's Office regarding the

matter of Military service discharge papers status and would advise Ms. Boy, of his findings.

President Lombard thanked Commissioner Harris, Councilwoman Nelson and Boy, Attorney Lapaich, Attorney Krause, Chief Lamb and everyone that participated in the workshops for their hard work and time regarding the proposed amendments to the fire merit ordinance.

Council Liaison Boy advised the Commission that she contacted TaTanesha Clark, Human Rights Director regarding scheduling a meeting to discuss recruiting woman as probationary firefighters to our fire department.

Sarah J. Smith, MBA, LaPorte, Indiana presented a proposal to the Commission regarding the 2010 Promotional Examinations and In-Class Training. Ms. Smith advised the amount would be the same as 2009; \$ 4,200.00.

John Skierkowski made a motion to accept the proposal as presented in the amount of \$4,200.00, scheduling the promotional examination for Saturday, September 25, 2010 at the Fire/Police Training Center, second by John Stimley and approved. **Motion 5-0**

President Lombard requested three disciplinary actions of January 20, 2010, January 25, 2010 and February 2, 2010 be put on the next agenda (April 5, 2010).

Chief Lamb addressed the Commission regarding an applicant's medical pass/fail information, advising that he spoke to the Fire Pension Board and since they pay for the test, it is their responsibility to keep the applicants records private.

President Lombard asked Chief Lamb to ask the Fire Pension Board to site the code where the Fire Merit Commission can not have access to an applicant's medical records.

A discussion ensued among President Lombard, Commissioner Skierkowski, and Attorney Krause regarding this matter.

Chief Lamb reported on the status regarding CPAT equipment and that the equipment should be ready by August 1, 2010.

President Lombard stated that after August 1, 2010 the Commission would no longer have to contract out the agility test.

Chief Lamb reported on the Fire Academy evaluations he received regarding the three new Probationary Firefighters; Javan Lee, Andrew Belue, and Brandon White.

Chief Lamb presented a letter received from the Ron and Stacy Deutscher family, thanking the fire department for a job well done on Sunday, January 17, 2010 at the Blue Chip Casino, when the elevator malfunctioned.

Chief Lamb announced that Training Officer Butcher will be holding CPR classes the first week in April at the Fire/Police Training Center. Chief Lamb advised that if someone would like to attend the class and is not a City employee the cost would be \$7.95 per person.

President Lombard advised Councilwoman Boy that she could announce that the Fire Department is taking applications for probationary firefighters at the next Council meeting (March 2, 2010). President Lombard stated that applications can be obtained at the Personnel Office at City Hall.

Chief Lamb advised there would be two (2) openings in 2010 and (7) openings in 2011 for probationary firefighters due to men retiring.

President Lombard stated the next Fire Merit Commission meeting would be held on April 5, 2010.

President Lombard asked if there were any more comments or questions and hearing none, a motion by Commissioner Skierkowski, second by Commissioner Mock the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.