



MICHIGAN CITY FIRE MERIT COMMISSION

100 MICHIGAN BLVD., LOWER LEVEL
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 2, 2009, Michigan City Fire Merit Commission Meeting.

President Bart Lombard called the meeting to order. A quorum was noted as present with Commissioners Bart Lombard, Louise Mock, John Skierkowski, and Keith Harris in attendance. Others present included Chief Novak, Attorney Pamela Krause, Rob Steinborn, Larry Butcher, Gale Neulieb, Councilwoman Nelson, and Laura Wink, New Dispatch.

On a motion by Keith Harris, second by John Skierkowski the minutes of February 2, 2009 meeting were approved.

Louise Mock presented a memo to the Commission regarding Distribution of "City Employee" Park Stickers for 2009.

There was no report from the City Council Liaison (Angie Nelson).

There was no new business from Attorney Krause.

Discussion ensued among Attorney Krause, Councilwoman Nelson, Chief Novak and Commissioners Skierkowski, Lombard, and Harris regarding the Ethic Ordinance No. 4043 and the filing of Appendix "A" Uniform Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement.

President Lombard asked Attorney Krause to contact City Attorney John Espar addressing questions and concerns the commission has regarding Appendix "A" (Uniform Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement) and report back at the April 6, 2009 meeting.

New Business: President Lombard distributed copies of the two separate disciplinary actions taken by the Chief's office.

On a motion by Keith Harris and second by John Skierkowski the January 16, 2009 disciplinary action taken by the Chief's office was approved.

A motion was made by Keith Harris to accept the disciplinary action taken on February 2, 2009 by the Chief's office and second by Commissioner Mock. Chief Novak addressed Commissioner Skierkowski's questions regarding what specific violation was made. The motion carried by the following vote: AYES: COMMISSIONERS Mock, Harris, and Lombard (3). NAYS: Commissioner Skierkowski (1).

Keith Harris reported on the workshop in regards to removing evaluations from the promotional process. Commissioner Harris advised the next workshop will be held Tuesday, March 31, 2009 at the Fire/Police Training Center at 4:30 p.m.

Commissioner Harris advised there was an error on the promotional list which he would correct and forward to each commissioner and the Chief's office by the end of the week.

President Lombard asked the Commission's approval upon receiving the corrected promotional list, that a copy be sent to each commissioner and the Chief's office before the next meeting in April.

Chief Novak reported on the status of Probationary Fire Fighter David Briggs and advised that his first day was February 23, 2009 on "C" Shift at Station 1. Chief Novak present to the Commission the mandatory firefighters skills evaluation form that he was required to complete prior to going on a shift.

Chief Novak stated the Chief's office received the resignation letter from Firefighter/EMT Wayne Swart on March 1, 2009. Chief Novak read Wayne Swart's resignation letter stating that he was an exceptional firefighter, completing paramedic school and that he will be greatly missed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Skierkowski, second by Commissioner Harris and was approved to accept the resignation from Firefighter Wayne Swart.

Chief Novak advised that the Chief's office is requesting authorization from the Merit Commission to pursue the individual(s) on the minority list and offer employment as a probationary firefighter.

A motion was made by Commissioner Harris, second by Commissioner Mock and approved to extend the probationary employment hire to the next appropriate ranked firefighter applicant.

Chief Novak stated that the Chief's office is hoping that the next candidate would be hired by May 1, 2009 so he/she could attend the academy with probationary Firefighter David Briggs.

Chief Novak addressed President Lombard's questions regarding the procedures that take place to hire the next probationary firefighter.

Chief Novak advised the commission that the fire department is short handed with three (3) individuals on injury, Wayne Harrigan who continues to be on military leave, along with Wayne Swart's resignation and two (2) probationary firefighters going to the academy for twenty (20) weeks in May.

Chief Novak commented on the training that is beginning to take place at the new firefighter training tower and that water supply to the tower should be available soon.

Chief Novak addressed the firefighters evaluation and that they should be completed by the end of the week and he would disburse a copy to each commissioner.

Chief Larry Butcher addressed the commission regarding the process of the hiring of probationary firefighter and obtaining c-pack equipment to do the hiring procedures at our fire department. Mr. Butcher advised it would be cost efficient and possibly a profitable investment to the City.

President Lombard stated that the commission passed a Resolution in 2008 at the request of Commissioner Harris to support the purchase of necessary c-pack equipment and was forwarded to the Board of Works. President Lombard advised to look into Federal stimulus dollars through emergency management in the form of capital purchases.

Chief Novak advised that Chief Gries and he attended a grant writing seminar and they plan on looking into monies from a grant that might help purchase the c-pat equipment.

Larry Butcher stated that the c-pat program should be a certified position, which takes time for training/school; would like to have three (3) firefighters certified for this program as soon as possible.

Discussion ensued among the Commissioners, Chief Novak, and Chief Butcher regarding the number of probationary firefighters on the list and the possibility of testing being done before September, 2010.

President Lombard asked if there were any more comments or questions and hearing none, a motion by John Skierkowski, second by Keith Harris the meeting was adjourned.