

MICHIGAN CITY FIRE MERIT COMMISSION



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KEITH HARRIS, PRESIDENT
JOHN SKIERKOWSKI, VICE PRESIDENT
LOUISE MOCK, SECRETARY
JOHN STIMLEY, COMMISSIONER
ROBERT POLLOCK, COMMISSIONER
PAMELA KRAUSE, ATTORNEY

Michigan City Fire Merit Commission Meeting Minutes: **March 5, 2012**

President Harris called the meeting to order. A quorum was noted with Commissioners Keith Harris, John Skierkowski, John Stimley, Louise Mock, and Robert Pollock in attendance. Others present Chief Ronnie Martin, Deputy Chief Judd Rose, Attorney Pamela Krause, and Union Representative Mike Neulieb.

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to approve the Regular Commission Meeting from January 3, 2012, and second by Commissioner Mock; **Motion carries 5-0**

There were no communications; Claims for Attorney retainer for March total of \$500.00, read by Commissioner Mock; **Motioned by Commissioner Skierkowski, and second by Commissioner Stimley.**

No reports from City Council Liaison, Councilwoman Boy.

No reports from Fire Merit Commission Attorney Krause.

New Business

Application will be taken now until August 10, 2012. For testing that will take place in the fall that will create a hiring list for the year of 2013-2014. 2011 application will also be considered, so far 129 applications, 5 minorities, and 1 female. Commission will be doing an outreach to bring in more minority and female. 1 applicant will not be able to test due to turning 36 before testing next year. Several individuals will be given an option to test or not; if they make the list due to them falling off of the list 8 months later; and possible more.

Minor change in ad which states "between the ages 21 and 35 at the time of hire" given individuals at the age of 20 who could sit for the test.

Two new items added to New Business discussed in the Executive Session:

Waiver of academy for new hire & an individual appeal for his recent evaluation. Commissioner Harris, stated had been discussed during the Executive Session; motion by Commissioner Skierkowski, 2nd by Commissioner Stimley; Individual had already completed his basic EMT, Firefighter 1 & 2 prior to apply to the Michigan City Fire Department. **Roll call vote: 5 ayes – 0 nays motion carries.** Commissioner Harris will send a letter accordingly.

Evaluation appeal discussed in the Executive Meeting will be tabled until Chief Martin has a chance to review commission findings motion by Commissioner Stimley 2nd by Commissioner Pollock to table until next month; and Chief Martin will make his report then. **Roll call vote: 5 ayes – 0 nays. Motion carries.**

Old Business;

Regional Fire Academy, Commissioner Harris & Skierkowski attended the workshop last week. Deferred to Chief Martin, who explained the Regional Fire Academy for District 1, with representation from LaPorte, Portage, Crown Point, and a couple of District 1 Trainers. At the time of the presentation with the anticipation that Michigan City could be involved in a Regional Fire Academy. Chief Martin stated the cost benefits to the City of Michigan City having the Regional Academy, having the support of surrounding communities, increasing the individual training skills, and adding additional resources and personal in case of a major disaster. Chief Martin continued to explain that the Regional Academy will move the department and the city forward, and strongly support the plans to establish the academy. Chief Martin would like the commission to support this adventure, and once he has made contact with District 1 that the academy would start up soon. Commissioner Skierkowski, mention the power point that was also presented and the day by day operation along with the facilities that will be used, i.e. Michigan City Training Tower, and the Smoke House. Commissioner Skierkowski reemphasis Chief Martin's statement that the many of MCFD trainers will be used for training, as well as of communities trainers. Commissioner Skierkowski stated that he is definitely for the Academy and the use of the government funding available for it. Commissioner Harris commented on the finance stand point and stated the MCFDC sends a recruit to Westfield at approximately \$8000 per recruit; this year we would spend \$40-48,000 for 5 to 6 recruits. With the district academy it would reduce the cost to \$1000 per recruit. If there is 12 to 15 recruits from all surrounding communities into the academy the cost to all for the 9 week training would be \$0. The only cost would be for EMT training estimated at \$800/recruit with additional \$100 or so for PT attire and i.e. Commissioner Harris continued to stress the importance of having the academy in Michigan City, and would be insisting since 50% of the class being from Michigan City would have trainers involved more than just the week or so they are in Michigan City. Stating it is an advantage to our recruits to have people from Michigan City involved in their training.

Commissioner Harris stated that a motion will be need from the commission to approve the academy; Motioned by Commissioner Pollock and 2nd by Commissioner Skierkowski. Commissioner Pollock questioned/discussed the benefit for MCFD Trainers as well. Chief Martin stated the MCFD department has District 1 trainers and is the intention to utilize those trainers, and also a national instructor in fitness who resume has been sent in for consideration.

Commissioner Stimley questioned union representative Mike Neulieb and his thoughts about it he stated that it was a very good thing. Representative Neulieb questioned the 1st Responder/EMT class and the cost to send the recruits and the time frame for that training. Commissioner Harris stated the cost of \$800; Chief Martin's replied to the training time frame is roughly between 4-6 weeks. Representative Neulieb mentioned that maybe an applicant should be a 1st Responder/EMT already instead of sending them into it. Commissioner Harris stated that is something to look into. No commission comments. Roll call 5 ayes – 0 nays; Regional Fire Academy approved

Hiring list, each commissioner given a copy.

Report from Chief Martin

Chief Martin is requesting two names to add to the hiring list. Chief Martin also reported MCFD in conjunction with Russ Hatfield has starting live training, and thanked Mr. Hatfield for his assistance.

Commissioner Harris asked for a motion to submit the next two names on the list for hire to Chief Martin. **Motion by Pollock and 2nd by Skierkowski.** New hires will come from the minority list based upon the 2 to 1 ordinance requirement. New recruits will go to the new academy with a tentative date of April 16th per Chief Martin. **Commission voted 5 ayes – 0 nays.**

Commissioner Pollock committed on the presentation put on at the Marquette Mall and that his grandson's enjoyed the informative presentation. Chief Martin stated that they are working to present the Fire Department as a career choice for all, and making strives with Michigan City Area Schools and all others schools to speak to their students.

No Public comments.

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner Stimley and 2nd by Commissioner Pollock

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