



MICHIGAN CITY FIRE MERIT COMMISSION

100 MICHIGAN BOULEVARD
MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA 46360
219-873-1570
LOUISE MOCK, PRESIDENT
CHARLES WILLIAMS, VICE PRESIDENT
ROBERT POLLOCK, SECRETARY
PATRICK VANCE, COMMISSIONER
EDWARD ZAKNOEN, COMMISSIONER

Michigan City Fire Merit Commission Meeting Minutes: March 6, 2017

President Mock called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. A quorum was noted with Commissioners Louise Mock, Charles Williams, Robert Pollock, Patrick Vance and Edward Zaknoen all in attendance. Also present was Commission Attorney Jennifer Koethe and Fire Chief Randy Novak.

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

Approval of the Minutes- Commissioner Vance explained that the January 3, 2017 minutes were ready at last month's meeting however, he did not hand them out in time for everyone to read. So at this time he would like to make the motion to approve the January 3, 2017 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pollock and carried as follows: **AYES: MEMBERS Mock, Williams, Pollock, Vance and Zaknoen (5). NAYS: (0). Motion Carries.**

Communications/Claims- Commissioner Pollock made a motion to accept the payroll and attorney fees as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vance and carried as follows: **AYES: MEMBERS Mock, Williams, Pollock, Vance and Zaknoen (5). NAYS: (0). Motion Carries.**

Commissioner Pollock updated the Commission on the Budget stating the \$11.95 that was listed was for Commissioners Zaknoen's name plate; also stating that the commissioner has used 25.6% of their budget as of March 3, 2017 and was concerned about the firefighters at the academy.

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to accept the Budget report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vance and carried as follows: **AYES: Mock, Williams, Pollock, Vance and Zaknoen (5). NAYS: None (0). Motion Carries.**

Report from Council President Chris Schwanke- No report

Report from Commission Attorney- Attorney Koethe advised that she was going to meeting with the two commissioners on the Review Committee after the meeting and try to schedule the next meeting.

Report from Union Local 475- No Report

Report from Fire Chief Randy Novak-Chief Novak explained that Firefighters Nona, Brown, Pabon and Allen all graduated from the South Bend Academy on February 24, 2017. There next group will graduate in May and he will make sure to get the commissioners the date.

The department did hire Gene Hanus on February 28, 2017.

Chief Novak talked about a “Safer Grant” he has applied for, stating it would help him as far as paying for salaries for 6 more firefighters taking the number from 78 up to 84.

New Business- Commissioner Vance reported that there were 8 eligible applicants scheduled to take the written test on February 18, 2017; 4 showed up and out of those 4, no one passed.

Discussion ensued between Commissioner Pollock and Chief Novak regarding advertisements and that no one of the 4 stated they saw the advertisement in the News Dispatch. They claimed they were told of the hiring/ testing by a firefighter. Commissioner Pollock wants to find a different way to get the word out to individuals.

All the commissioners included the attorney did discuss the age requirement and wording on the application.

Commissioner Vance made the motion to advertise again as soon as possible and have the cutoff date for accepting applications as March 24, 2017. The motion was seconded Commissioner Pollock and carried as follows: **AYES: MEMBERS Mock, Williams, Pollock, Vance and Zaknoen (5). NAYS: None (0). Motion Carries.**

Old Business- Firefighter Andrew Krause addressed the Board with concerns about the promotional list and promotions within the department.

Commissioner Vance brought up the reason why the City Clerk’s Office was no longer date stamping the appeals, stating once they stamp it the appeal becomes public record. Therefore he has talked to Personnel who will accept them and stamp them along with placing them in the commissions’ mailbox.

Firefighter Steve Stimley addressed the Commission with his concerns about who appoints who as far as Deputy Chief, Training Officers, Fire Marshal and so on.

Public Comment— None

Commission Comment- None

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Pollock at 5:50 PM and seconded by Commissioner Williams. Ayes 5 Nays 0; Motion Carries.

Next Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 3, 2017 at 5:00 PM.

Louise Mock, President