



## 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  
GEOFF PLUMMER, COMMISSIONER  
DAVID GRING, COMMISSIONER

### Michigan City Fire Merit Commission Meeting Minutes: April 6, 2015

President Mock called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. A quorum was noted with Commissioners Louise Mock, Charles Williams, Robert Pollock, Geoff Plummer and David Gring in attendance. Also present were Fire Chief Ronnie Martin, Commission Attorney Jennifer Koethe and City Council President Chris Schwanke.

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

A motion was made by Commissioner Pollock to accept the minutes from the March 2, 2015 meeting. Commissioner Gring 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll Call was done with **5 ayes 0 Nays, All Approved.**

**Awards-** Fire Chief Ronnie Martin thanked the commission for moving the awards ceremony up on the agenda.

Capt. Walker came down along with Patrick Gordon. There thanked Steve Moore and John Sheets for a benefit that was held for Patrick Gordon. Capt. Walker stated that this benefit would not have been possible without the help of these two.

Howard Fuller came down and read the events that took place of a fire at the home of Fred and Dax Adrian. Fred was presented with the Life Saving Award saving the life of his son Dax during this fire. Fred spoke to the commission thanking everyone for their hard work that day.

### **Communications/Claims-**

Payroll for the month of April 2015 was \$926.67 plus \$500.00 for attorney fees. Commissioner Pollock made a motion to accept the payroll and Commissioner Plummer 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll Call was done with **5 Ayes 0 Nays, All Approved.**

Commissioner Pollock stated that the year to date budget report, we have spent 13% for 2015. However, there were going to be bills coming later in 2015 for testing.

There was some looking into the Fire Tower and it was brought up the Tower is valued at \$22,600 and the storage building is valued at \$61,000.

**Report from City Council President Chris Schwanke-** No Report

**Report from Commission Attorney Jennifer Koethe-** Jennifer stated that the hiring freeze the Mayor put on the city in 2014 did apply to the Fire Dept. She stated that the Fire Merit Ordinance states that the hiring list will be in effect for the period of time that the hiring freeze was in place.

At last month's meeting, Jennifer stated she was asked about the "Out of Rank" issue. However, as she has read the Fire Merit Ordinance, she stated that there were many issues with it. What she would like to see happen is to have a committee formed with the following breakdown: 2 members from the commission, one that represents the fire and one that represents the civil. Chris Schwanke, her the commission attorney, the Fire Chief and Deputy Chief, and two from the union. Then the ordinance can be reviewed and changes taken back by the representatives. Commissioner Gring suggested that President Mock ask for Volunteers from the commission and if no one volunteers, then they will be assigned. A motion was made by Commissioner Pollock to ask for volunteers and Commissioner Plummer 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll Call was done **4 Ayes 1 Nay, Motion Carries**

Firefighter Randy Novak then asked since the union has a large number of members, can the representative number be changed from 2 to 4? Commissioner Gring made a motion to change the firefighter's representative number from 2 to 4. Commissioner Plummer 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll Call was done **5 Ayes 0 Nays, Motion Carries.**

City Council President Chris Schwanke then stated he was concerned that the City Council was not represented. Jennifer Koethe reminded him that the council still will play a big part. There was more conversation about can any council member come sit in and Jennifer Koethe reminded them that this was a closed meeting and the only ones that could attend were the committee members. Commissioner Gring did make a motion to add another City Council member to the committee but there was not a 2<sup>nd</sup> so the motion was dead.

Commissioners Williams and Plummer volunteered to represent the Commission on the committee.

**Report from Union Local 475-** Nothing to report except that there was going to be a union meeting the next day and that Spencer Walker would make sure the union knew to get 4 people to represent them on the committee.

**New Business-** No Report

**Old Business-** No Report

**Report from Chief Martin-** Chief Martin requested 3 names from the recruitment list. Commissioner Williams made a motion to provide Chief Martin with these names and Commissioner Pollock 2<sup>nd</sup> **5 Ayes 0 Nays, Motion Carries**

On April 24, 2015 Michael Drubert will be retiring. With that Chief Martin asked the commission to promote a Driver/Operator. A motion was made by Commissioner Gring to promote a firefighter to Driver/Operator and Commissioner Pollock 2<sup>nd</sup> **5 Ayes 0 Nays, Motion Carries**

It was then stated that with the three new names, that will bring the department to 78.

There were a few anniversaries Chief Martin wanted to recognize: Doug Bolka on April 4, Marlin Garner on April 8, Jeff Cox on April 8, and Michael Drubert on April 24.

Chief Martin read a letter from the Chief of the Long Beach Fire Department thanking MCFD for their help.

And lastly, Chief Martin wanted to welcome back Patrick Gordon.

**Public Comment-** Randy Novak thanked the commission attorney, Jennifer Koethe, for a great job she is doing. He did ask if the attorney could explain the hiring freeze and if the commission violated the ordinance? Jennifer Koethe just stated that the ordinance needs a lot of work.

Spencer Walker asked the commission about footage that was shot during the agility testing. Could this be used as a benefit? Commissioner Pollock suggested that maybe it could be used for the class at the High School or Ivy Tech? Chris Schwanke did ask if approval needed to be given by the people in the footage. Jennifer Koethe did state that it is always a good idea to get approval.

**Commission Comment-** No Report

**Motion to adjourn was made by Commission Pollock and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Plummer Ayes 5; Nays 0 motion carries.**

**Next meeting is scheduled for Monday May 4, 2015 at 5:00 pm.**

*Louise Mock*

Louise Mock, President

