



MICHIGAN CITY FIRE MERIT COMMISSION

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MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA 46360
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LOUISE MOCK, PRESIDENT
, VICE PRESIDENT
ROBERT POLLOCK, SECRETARY
GEOFF PLUMMER, COMMISSIONER
CHARLES WILLIAMS, COMMISSIONER

Michigan City Fire Merit Commission Meeting Minutes: June 2, 2014

President Mock called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. A quorum was noted with Commissioners Louise Mock, Robert Pollock and Charles Williams all in attendance. Commissioner Geoff Plummer was absent. Also present were Councilman Chris Schwanke, Attorney Pamela Krause and Fire Chief Ronnie Martin.

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 May 5, 2014 meeting. Commissioner Williams 2nd. **Ayes 3 Nays 0; motion carries.**

Communications/Claims-

Claims-Commissioner Pollock stated the payroll for June 2014 was \$1,276.67.

There was a claim for emergency books for \$1,585.50 that Fire Chief Ronnie Martin stated have been received and the bill was being submitted to the controller's office.

Commissioner Williams made a motion to accept and Commissioner Pollock 2nd. **Ayes 3 Nays 0; motion carries.**

The Commission wanted to thank the controller's office for providing a copy of the budget on where the commission stands from January 1, 2014 to May 31, 2014. A recap of all budgets from 2010 – 2013. And then Commission Pollock asked that this detail be mailed to the commissioners and not emailed.

Commissioner Pollock asked Councilman Schwanke when would there be a budget meeting since so many commissioners were new to the commission and because of that, so much information has been lost and they would like to learn. Councilman Schwanke stated that his only concern was that if all four commissioners were present at the same time for a budget meeting, would that be considered a meeting and require a public notice? Attorney Pamela Krause stated that she agreed it would be considered a meeting and would require a public notice. Councilman Schwanke stated that he suggested just Commissioners Mock and Pollock attend the budget meetings then when they are scheduled. However, they are not set up yet.

Report from Commission Attorney- Attorney Pamela Krause stated that she has contacted City Attorneys John Espar and Amber Lapaich regarding what changes needed to be made on the ordinance that was submitted back in December of 2013. Her question to them both was what part does the city have issues with and not want to move forward with. Both said that they have had no conversations about the ordinance with anyone. Councilman Schwanke stated that he has had conversations with the mayor and that the mayor does not support the ordinance as it is written, that the council attorney does not support it as it is written and he does not support it as it is written. That the Fire Merit cannot make changes to the ordinance at this time. Pamela Krause asked what sections needed to be looked at because the commission does not know where the problems are at and Commissioner Mock reminded everyone that the changes have not happened.

Commissioner Pollock stated that if changes have not happened yet that he would like to add that maybe it needs to be relooked at anyway because something needed to be added about unhealthy eating habits while at the fire academy. The city ordinance states they get \$50 a day to spend on food as they wish, but they are not spending it wisely. That he wanted to see the firefighters eating healthier. Councilman Schwanke asked if they had to turn in receipts and the answer was no, but that they were anyways. Firefighter Spenser Walker asked who's budget was this coming out of and the Commissioner Pollock responded the commissions. Councilman Schwanke stated that to change the ordinance for the healthy eating habits, the ordinance would have to change for the whole city.

Report from Union Local 475- They wanted to report that on June 11th there was going to be a vote and hopefully by the next meeting a new commissioner would be on the commission.

New Business- No Report

Old Business- No Report

Report from Chief Martin- Chief Martin wanted to start off by saying that Wayne Township has a very good academy. He does understand that Commissioner Pollock has concerns about the healthy eating habits the new firefighters have while at the academy. He would like to show a video at some point of all what the new firefighters go through during their training down there, and wanted them to always remember that they deserve the best academy. They have both just past their EMT portion of the academy and are not into the Fire portion.

An update on Marcus Thompkins is he was promoted to 1st class firefighter on May 22. Chief Martin is asking the commission to approve this.

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to accept and Commissioner Williams 2nd. **Ayes 3 Nays 0; motion carries.**

On June 12 Joseph Wray will retire after 34 years of service. Chief Martin is asking the commission to accept the promotion of a captain, Lieutenant, driver/operator effective June 12. And also for the next name to replace for a firefighter.

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to accept and Commissioner Williams 2nd. **Ayes 3 Nays 0; motions carries.**

Promotional material for the September 20, 2014 testing has been purchased and handed out. Sarah Smith has been informed.

As of May 15, 2014 Mark Baker has been promoted to Fire Marshal.

Public Comment- Spencer Walker stated that if a firefighter gets \$50 they should be able to buy what they want while at the academy. And if a new candidate is hired, they should be able to test, the commission should not hold that from them.

Commission Comment- No Report

Motion to adjourn was made by Commission Pollock and 2nd by Commissioner Williams. Ayes 3; Nays 0 motion carries.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 7, 2014 at 5:00 pm.