



CITY FIRE MERIT COMMISSION

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BART LOMBARD, PRESIDENT
JOHN STIMLEY, VICE PRESIDENT
LOUISE MOCK, SECRETARY
JOHN SKIERKOWSKI, COMMISSIONER
KEITH HARRIS, COMMISSIONER

Minutes of the June 7, 2010, Michigan City Fire Merit Commission Meeting.

President Bart Lombard called the meeting to order. A quorum was noted as present with Commissioners Bart Lombard, Keith Harris, John Stimley, John Skierkowski, and Louise Mock in attendance. Others present included Attorney Pam Krause, Councilwoman Pat Boy, Chief Dave Lamb, Deputy Chief Randy Novak, Tony Drzewiecki and Recording Secretary, Gale Neulieb.

On a motion by Keith Harris, second by John Stimley the minutes of the May 3, 2010 meeting were approved as amended. **Motion 5-0.**

John Stimley made a motion to pay Access LaPorte County, \$750.00 for training video copies, and pay Van Ausdall & Farrar Inc. \$187.97 for tapes for recording meetings second by John Skierkowski and was approved. **Motion 5-0.**

Gale Neulieb, Recording Secretary advised the Commission that the Board of Public Works and Safety paid the Stanard claim in the amount of \$2,875.80 for the tutorial that took place on May 13, 2010 and the testing booklets that was used for the written exam on May 15, 2010.

John Stimley made a motion to pay Gale Neulieb, Recording Secretary for an additional forty-six hours @ \$12.00 for extra work done regarding the process of the 2010 applicants, second by Louise Mock and approved. **Motion 5-0.**

Council Liaison Boy reported on the meeting she had with Mayor Oberlie and TaTanisha Clark, Executive Director/EEO Officer, presenting the following report to the Commission;

Fire Department Numbers:

With a employed civilian population over 16 years of 14254 for Michigan City, IN (per 2000 census)

75.8% are classified as white
19.9% are classified as African-American
4.3% are classified as "other"

So for a Fire dept. of 81 individuals
62 should be white
16 should be African-American
3 should be "other"

The last numbers Ms. Clark gave were broken down by race and gender. These numbers reflect a breakdown by race only.

President Lombard stated for the record; the Commission has been operating under the Ordinance provided through the 1978 Consent Decree advising the employment status of the Michigan City Fire Department to date.

Discussion ensued among Chief Dave Lamb, Commission President Lombard, Attorney Krause, Commissioners Stimley, Skierkowski, and Council Liaison Boy.

President Lombard advised the Commission that he received a form from the NAACP requesting information/statistics on the 2010 applicants received. President Lombard asked Attorney Krause to contact Ms. J. Chumley regarding their request.

Council Liaison Boy advised that Councilwoman Nelson would be scheduling a Council, Public Health and Safety Committee meeting to address the proposed Fire Merit Ordinance that was tabled at the April 20, 2010 Council meeting.

Attorney Krause had nothing to report.

President Lombard addressed the Commission regarding a disciplinary action dated April 28, 2010 received from the Chief's office.

Commissioner Skierkowski requested information/facts regarding the disciplinary action advising it is hard to rule on matter if the Commission does not receive more information.

Attorney Krause addressed Commissioner Skierkowski concerns stating that a short meeting could be scheduled prior to a Merit Commission meeting to receive more details regarding any disciplinary action that was to be addressed on the agenda.

Fire Chief Lamb stated that he would get the information requested by the Commission regarding the disciplinary action to Gale Neulieb, Recording Secretary.

Commissioner Skierkowski made a motion to **TABLE** the disciplinary action dated April 28, 2010 until the July 12, 2010 Commission Meeting, second by Commissioner Mock and approved. **AYES: Skierkowski, Mock, and Harris (3). NAYS: Stimley, Lombard(2). Motion approved 3-2.**

Chief Lamb addressed Commissioner Stimley's question regarding if additional time for the disciplinary action dated April 28, 2010 was an issue.

President Lombard presented the proposed 2011 budget to the Commission stating that the 2011 budget was due June 30, 2010 asking for the Commission's advice.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stimley to submit the budget the same as 2010, second by Commissioner Skierkowski and approved. **Motion 5 – 0.**

President Lombard addressed the Commission about reviewing and updating the Fire Department requirements/application posted on the emichigancity.com web page.

Commissioner Skierkowski stated that he would make an appointment with Shelley Dunleavy, Personnel Director to make these changes on the Fire Merit Commission's web page.

President Lombard asked Commissioner Skierkowski to review the MCPD application that they send out to their recruits and report back to the Commission.

President Lombard addressed the Council regarding who could attend the Promotional Exam that will be taking place Saturday, September 25, 2010.

Commissioner Skierkowski advised that the Commission would make schedule for the Commissioners to attend the Promotional Exam being held on Saturday, September 25, 2010.

President Lombard commented on the ability tests that will take place on August 7 & 8, 2010 advising there are seventy-seven applicants to be tested.

Chief Lamb suggested that we schedule two sessions each day.

President Lombard advised that the letters to the seventy-seven (77) applicants had been sent to them already. President Lombard suggested that after the next Fire Merit Commission meeting in July (July 12, 2010) to schedule a workshop immediately following the meeting to discuss the ability tests that are going to take place on August 7 & 8, 2010.

Chief Lamb asked the Commission to help with the expenses to build the wooden maze which would be used during ability testing.

Discussion ensued among Chief Lamb, President Lombard, and Commissioners, Stimley, Skierkowski, Mock and Lombard.

Commissioner Skierkowski made a motion for the Commission to authorize the completion and reimbursement for the cost of the maze apparatus for the ability test not to exceed \$2,000.00, second by Commissioner Harris and approved. **Motion 5 – 0.**

Keith Harris reported on the status of the written tests of new applicants on May 15, 2010.

Chief Lamb advised that on July 1, 2010 Christian Bietry will successfully complete his probationary period and be promoted to a First Class Firefighter.

Keith Harris made a motion to promote Probationary Firefighter Christain Bietry to First Class Firefighter on July 1, 2010, second by Louise Mock and approved. **5 - 0**

Chief Lamb reported the three probationary firefighters at the academy advising they are all doing well, that on June 27, 2010 they will be graduating from the academy.

Chief Lamb stated that Assistant Chief Brandon Brooks has retired with thirty-two years of service effective May 22, 2010.

President Lombard complimented on the retirement party given for Assistant Brooks, wishing him well from the Commission.

Chief Lamb stated that Deputy Chief Chuck Greis will be retiring this month also.

Chief Lamb advised President Lombard that he would get copies of each job description on the fire department to each Commissioner, per his request.

Council Liaison Boy addressed the Commission regarding the monies for the CPAT testing and the 2011 budget.

Chief Lamb asked the Commission to hold the July 12, 2010 workshop at the training facility to observe the process of the construction for the agility testing apparatus.

President Lombard addressed Tony Drzewiecki's, President of Local 475 questions regarding the hiring list for 2011.

Discussion ensued among President Lombard, Chief Lamb, Commissioner Harris and Tony Drzewiecki, President of Local 475.

There were no comments from the Commission.

The Fire Merit Commission meeting will be held on Monday, July 12, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. in the Emergency Operation Center, City Hall and that a workshop will follow at the new Training Facility, 1021 Hitchcock Street.

President Lombard asked if there were any more comments or questions and hearing none, a motion by Commissioner Harris, second by Commissioner Stimley and Skierkowski the meeting was adjourned at 5:42 p.m.