



MICHIGAN CITY FIRE MERIT COMMISSION

100 MICHIGAN BOULEVARD
MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA 46360
219-873-1570

LOUISE MOCK, PRESIDENT
ROBERT POLLOCK, SECRETARY
GEOFF PLUMMER, COMMISSIONER
CHARLES WILLIAMS, COMMISSIONER
DAVID GRING, COMMISSIONER

Michigan City Fire Merit Commission Meeting Minutes: August 4, 2014

President Mock called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. A quorum was noted with Commissioners Louise Mock, Robert Pollock, Geoff Plummer, Charles Williams and David Gring all in attendance. Also present was Fire Chief Ronnie Martin, Commission attorney Pamela Krause and Councilman 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 July 7, 2014 meeting. Commissioner Plummer 2nd. Commissioner Gring stated that his printer was not working, therefore he did not print them out and read them and sustained from voting to approve them. **Ayes 4 Nays 0; Motion Carries.**

Communications/Claims-

Claims- Commissioner Pollock stated the payroll for August 2014 was \$1,426.27, this also included attorney fees.

Commissioner Plummer made a motion to approve a purchase of a clock for the agility test and supplies such as gloves, tape and paint. Commissioner Williams 2nd. **Ayes 5 Nays 0: Motion Carries.**

Commissioner Williams made a motion to pay the invoice for Sarah Smith to perform the promotional testing and tutorials in the amount of \$3800. Commissioner Plummer 2nd. **Ayes 5 Nays 0: Motion Carries.**

Report from City Council Liaison- Chris Schwanke wanted to let the Commission know that the budget was coming due and the council will be having a review. He also wanted to thank the firefighters for the hard work on a couple of structure fires that have happened recently.

Report from Commission Attorney- No Report

Report from Union Local 475- No Report

New Business- Commissioner Pollock wanted to state that he has talked to the Controller's office and the commissioner has used 31.32% of their budget for 2014.

Old Business- No Report

Report from Fire Chief Martin- At a recent house fire, one of the firefighters on the scene learned that his mom had passed away while he was fighting the fire. Chief Martin asked for a moment of silence. He was very proud of his firefighters that night as they stood beside their fellow firefighter and helped him deal with this tragedy. In the end, we are all family.

Chief Martin presented the commission with the evaluations that ended June 2014 on cd format.

There was a reminder that Sarah Smith would be holding a tutorial for Promotional testing on August 5, 6, and 7 at the Ad Building located on Michigan Blvd. beginning at 6:00 PM each night.

The two current recruits are set to graduate from Wayne Township on August 22 at 6:30 pm and the Commission was invited to attend. Chief Martin would be there to give them their Badges and Oaths. They will start their shifts the following week.

The Mayor has put the department down to 78 firefighters and that is the current number right now.

On July 27 there was an incident at the Arbors Nursing Home where a 72 year old had wandered off. A crew had found him lying on the ground after they had covered about ½ mile radius. This patient had medical issues so time was important. Chief Martin thought they went above and beyond their call of duty.

Commissioner Mock reminded them that the commission is very proud of them, and the firefighters prove it all the time.

Public Comment- Sharon Carnes asked why there was no tutorial being done for new hires when it has been done in the past and why no study guides were being mailed out?

Commissioner Mock confirmed that it was just talked about tonight and they study guides were being mailed out to all that RSVP.

Spencer Walker asked about the agility testing. He wanted to make sure that the hires were going to be called or sent a letter as to when it would be scheduled. He wanted to confirm that the commission would like him to run the test. He wanted to make sure that it was just testing for minorities. He did ask if the list would expire 12/31/14 and why everyone could not be testing and attorney Pamela Krause said she would check with the city attorneys. It was then asked if a stair climber could be purchased for the training facility since they have to borrow one from the station. It was also brought up how it took a long time to get the firefighters that helped with the ladder climb and agility test paid and he didn't want that to happen again. Commissioner Pollock stated that we had an appointment to meet with the controller and that was not going to happen again.

Sharon Carnes asked if she could have a copy of the study guide mailed to her home and she stated her address.

Commissioner Plummer asked what happened to the ordinance changes that were submitted to the council? Where they all thrown out? Councilman Chris Schwanke stated that the council and mayor rejected all the changes. Several firefighters present stood up and stated that it took almost a year to approve, that they worked very hard at workshops and it was their understanding that the changes were to be brought to the commission, who would bring them to the Liaison, would take them to the council

and then to the mayor. That many firefighters took time out of their lives to work on this. Councilman Schwanke stated that the mayor, city attorney and himself did not think it was the right time for these changes. But now that the commission had a different make up, maybe it would be a good time to relook at these changes.

Commissioner Plummer asked about the hiring process. Chief Martin stated that 1 hire has cleared PERF, 1 is in PERF and 1 is a maybe. That PERF has changed its ways. There is an academy starting September 15 so at the September 8 meeting he will bring them before the board. It was also brought up why we will be using a different academy for these recruits instead of Wayne Township. Chief Martin stated cost was one. And that the EMT school issue that has been ongoing might be another good reason to look at the ordinance again.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Pollock and 2nd by Commissioner Gring. Ayes 5 Nays 0; Motion Carries.

Next Meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 6, 2014.