



MICHIGAN CITY FIRE MERIT COMMISSION

100 MICHIGAN BLVD.

MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA 46360 219-8731570

KEITH HARRIS, PRESIDENT

JOHN SKIERKOWSKI, VICE PRESIDENT

LOUISE MOCK, SECRETARY

Bart Lombard, COMMISSIONER

JOHN STIMLEY, COMMISSIONER

Minutes of the October 3, 2011 Michigan City Fire Merit Commission Meeting.

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

Commissioner Lombard made a motion to approve the September 6, 2011 drafted minutes, second by John Skierkowski, the minutes of the September 6, 2011 meeting were approved. **Motion 4-0.**

Commissioner Lombard made a motion to pay the October payroll in the amount of \$1,417.67, and Stanard for the tutorial held on September 22, 2011 in the amount of \$871.94, second by Commissioner Skierkowski and approved. **Motion 4 – 0.**

Commissioner Mock read the following letter received from Mayor Oberlie on September 11, 2011:

As a result of conversation to the validity of the 1978 Consent Judgment, I requested the Corporation Counsel, City attorney, Human Rights Commission Attorney and Fire Merit Commission Attorney to review said document and render an opinion on the validity and enforceability of said document. Attached hereto is a letter of opinion signed by the four attorneys

A hope this clarifies in everyones' mind the continuing existence of the Consent Judgment and our necessity of pursuing objectives and goals of said document.

President Harris moved to address "B" under "New Business" on the agenda.

Deputy Chief Randy Novak introduced the three probationary Fire Firghters that graduated from the Academy and President Keith Harris swore them in: Probationary Fire Fighters Adrea Glover, Robert Yates and Anthony Stahoviak, presenting them with a certificate from the Commission and invited their family members to pin on their badges. Deputy Chief Novak advised the Commission where the three would be stationed.

Councilwoman Boy addressed the Council regarding the proposed amended Fire Merit Ordinance.

Discussion ensued among President Harris, Commissioners Lombard, Skierkowski, that was discussed at the Special meeting held prior to the regular meeting.

President Harris stated that he would email the list of changes that were discussed at the Special Meeting to Councilwoman Boy.

Attorney Krause had nothing to report.

President Harris addressed the Commission regarding the four(4) appeals received regarding their evaluations scores.

Gale Neulieb, Recording Secretary advised the date the appeals were received.

Deputy Chief Novak asked if the hearing could be scheduled after the next meeting November 7, 2011, that he felt that the appeals could be resolved before going to a hearing.

President Harris, Commissioners Lombard and Skierkowski stated their comments and concerns regarding Deputy Novak's request.

Attorney Krause advised that she agreed with Commissioner Skierkowski to TABLE these appeals until the next Commission meeting (November 7, 2011) to address the appeals then schedule their hearing at next Commission meeting in November if it needed to be.

President Harris stated that he would mail each Commissioner a copy of the firefighters evaluation scores that filed appeals for their review.

Commissioner Skierkowski made a motion to schedule the hearing for November 7, 2011 at 4:00 p.m., second by Commissioner Lombard and approved. **Motion 4 – 0.**

The Commission requested Attorney Krause to send correspondence to the Fire Fighters that appealed their evaluation advising them of the date and time the hearing is scheduled for.

TaTanesha Clark, Executive Director/EEO Officer addressed the Commission regarding what the percentage of minority requirements are for our Fire Department, presenting the Commission with a report she calculated from the 2000 U.S. Census and the number of firefighters on the department.

Discussion ensued among President Harris, Commissioner Lombard, Skierkowski and Ms. Clark.

President Harris reported on the testing held on September 24, 2011 advising there were eighteen (18) eligible applicants, twelve (12) attended the tutorial, eleven (11) were present for the written exam, one failed the agility test and five (5) passed both the written and agility tests, giving a total of seven (7) on the minority list for hire.

Commissioner Lombard stated he was glad to see more Michigan City residents applying for employment on the Fire Department.

Commissioner Lombard addressed the Commission regarding the 2011 budget balance stating that the Fire Department/administration has saved the City money by building the training facility on Hitchcock Road.

Deputy Chief Novak thanked "B" Shift for helping the Commission with the agility testing on September 24, 2011.

Deputy Chief Novak stated the department was finishing up on an agreement so the firefighters annual wellness physical would be done at each fire station.

Deputy Chief Novak stated that October is fire prevention month, advising the Exchange Club would be presenting the 2011 Fire Fighter of the year award at their next meeting.

Commissioner Lombard commented on the letter received from Mayor Oberlie regarding the consent decree, advising he was not going to challenge its validation.

President Harris commented on the consent decree stating that the Fire Merit Ordinance is what the Commission should be concerned with.

Virginia Martin, 4851 E. U.S. Hwy. 12, addressed the Commission regarding the proposed amendment changing the number of points from 15 to 10 for applicants being a Michigan City resident, in Section 54.156 stating her concerns, asking why they wanted to change the amount.

Discussion ensued among Commissioners Lombard and Skierkowski and Ms. Martin.

Ronnie Martin, 218 Woodview Street, M.C.F.D., addressed the Commission regarding making so many amendments/changes to the Fire Merit Ordinance through the years and not everyone being on the same page regarding so many changes being made.

Discussion ensued among Commissioners Skierkowski, Lombard, Deputy Chief Novak, and Tony Drzewiecki (M.C.P.D.) regarding addressing the Consent Decree so frequently.

Tony Drzewiecki announced the Fire Department and Local 475 Firefighters Association were seeking the public's support with October being National Breast Cancer Awareness Month by selling t-shirts again this year and the shirts would be available on Monday, October 10, 2011 to purchase at the administration office, 2510 E. Michigan Blvd., Monday through Friday.

President Harris asked if there were any more comments or questions and hearing none, a motion by Commissioner Lombard , second by Commissioner Mock the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.