



MICHIGAN CITY FIRE MERIT COMMISSION

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

Michigan City Fire Merit Commission Meeting Minutes: November 3, 2014

President Mock called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. A quorum was noted with Commissioners Louise Mock, Robert Pollock, Geoff Plummer, Charles Williams and David Gring all in attendance. Also present were Fire Chief Ronnie Martin, Attorney Pamela Munsey, 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 Gring to accept the minutes from the September 8, 2014 meeting. Commissioner Pollock 2nd. **5 Ayes 0 Nays, Motion Carries**

A motion was made by Commissioner Gring to accept the minutes from the October 20, 2014 meeting. Commissioner Pollock 2nd. **5 Ayes 0 Nays, Motion Carries**

Communications/Claims-

Claims-Commissioner Pollock stated the payroll for November 2014, which included attorney fees was \$1,426.27. Commissioner Plummer 2nd. **5 Ayes 0 Nays, Motion Carries.**

Commissioner Pollock also stated that we have used 55.57% of our budget for 2014 and to please getting any billings ASAP. A review was also done on next year's budget and the commission does have a 14.5% reduction. Where the commission's budget for postage increased, the Contractual Services account decreased. The commission purposed a 10% reduction. Next year will be tight but Commissioner Pollock stated he would go to the Controller's office each month to get an update. Commissioner Gring asked why did the commission not know about the budget meeting? Councilman Chris Schwanke stated that he did not run it, that the council does not reduce anything, that it is done by the Mayor or Controller. Commissioner Pollock added that he got the invite to the budget meeting in October in the mail, however the budget meeting was held in September. Commissioner Gring asked if we could appeal this and Commissioner Pollock stated we could as long as it was done by the 1st of the year. Chris Schwanke reminded everyone that every department was asked to cut money and they would see a decrease somewhere. Commissioner Pollock stated that the Fire Commission was cut an additional \$2,000 in addition to the 10%.

Chief Martin then asked the commission about the two candidates that had gone for training at Wayne Township where the expense reports reimbursements were and it was answered that one was being paid on November 3 and the other on November 17.

Commissioner Gring asked where were we at on the EMT school and Chief Martin responded that he is looking but has not found anything yet. Commissioner Plummer asked if he could help look and Chief Martin responded yes. Chief Martin stated that our issues are with the state on P.I. and Commissioner Gring asked if we had anyone that could or wanted to do it? Chief Martin responded No, that no one was interested.

Councilman Chris Schwanke reminded everyone of the workshop following the meeting.

Report from City Council Liaison- No Report (everything he wanted to address was done so previously)

Report from Commission Attorney- No Report

Report from Union Local 475- The union asked the commission to follow the ordinance as written.

New Business- None

Old Business- The attorney Pamela Munsey was asked about section 54-176 Temporary appointments at the last meeting. She said the last time it was modified was in 1992 and this section needed to be looked at during the workshop.

Commissioner Gring stated that at the last meeting there were 4 vacancies to be filled. Pamela Munsey stated there are no vacancies at this time. Chief Martin added that it is the commission's job to provide him with a list. That Chief Martin comes to the commission and ask when there is a spot to be filled, at this time there is no vacancies and it seems like we go over this all the time. Commissioner Gring stated that he thought he saw a list that had number of Captains and so on.

Report from Chief Martin- Mr. Kelly was the one he had asked the commission to not hold responsible because he had not gotten his EMT certification within a year of being hired. The reason being an EMT school was not available. At this time, Mr. Kelly is in compliancy and the Chief Martin would like the commission to make Mr. Kelly a 1st Class Firefighter effective August 16, 2014.

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to accept. Commission Williams 2nd. **5 Ayes 0 Nays, Motion Carries.**

The District 1 academy will be completed on November 14, 2014. It has been a great academy with \$0 cost to the city. They brought in instructors from down state. Every week the instructor has emailed Chief Martin with what has happened that week and he has sent that email to all the commissioners.

Recently, the AKS has announced that starting in the Fall of 2015 there will be a Fire Science Program. This is very beneficial to the children in High School and the department. The children can go to a volunteer department from age 18-21 and get any certifications and training they need, then at 21 can apply for the Michigan City Fire Department. There will be an open house and Chief Martin invited the commission to attend as they should be a big part in getting the children involved starting in high school.

Public Comment- Sharon Carnes wanted to thank Chief Martin, the council for the workshop going to be held on November 3 at 6:00pm. Sharon also stated that with the new applicant testing, the commission should consider having tutorials for the new applicants just like they do for the promotional testing.

Commission Comment-Commissioner Plummer will get back with the Chief about any EMT school information he can find.

Chief Martin wanted to add that he did not attend the last meeting on October 20, however he did watch it on TV. He stated his dissatisfaction with how everyone handled themselves. He reminded everyone the main goal is to be a better department. Don't air out your dirty laundry for everyone to see. He asked that the commission know the ordinance and that the union work together with the commission. Always remember there is no I in Team!

Motion to adjourn was made by Commission Pollock and 2nd by Commissioner Plummer, Ayes 5; Nays 0 motion carries.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 1 at 5:00 pm.