



MICHIGAN CITY FIRE MERIT COMMISSION

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MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA 46360
219-873-1570
LOUISE MOCK, PRESIDENT
CHARLES WILLIAMS, VICE PRESIDENT
ROBERT POLLOCK, SECRETARY
PATRICK VANCE, COMMISSIONER
EDWARD ZAKNOEN, COMMISSIONER

Michigan City Fire Merit Commission Meeting Minutes: December 5, 2016

President Mock called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. A quorum was noted with Commissioners Louise Mock, Charles Williams, Robert Pollock, Patrick Vance and Edward Zaknoen all in attendance. Also present was Commission Attorney Jennifer Koethe, City and Fire Chief Randy Novak.

At this time, President Mock asked all present to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Election of Officers- Commissioner Pollock made the motion to reelection Louise Mock as the Commissioner President. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vance and carried as follows: **AYES: MEMBERS Mock, Williams, Pollock, Vance and Zaknoen (5). NAYS: (0). Motion Carries.**

Commissioner Pollock made the motion to reelection Charles Williams as the Commissions Vice-President. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vance and carried as follows: **AYES: MEMBERS Mock, Williams, Pollock, Vance and Zaknoen (5). NAYS: (0). Motion Carries.**

Commissioner Williams made the motion to reelection Commissioner Pollock as the Commission Secretary. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vance and carried as follows: **AYES: MEMBERS Mock, Williams, Vance and Zaknoen (4). ABSTAIN: Pollock (1). NAYS: (0). Motion Carries 4-0, Abstain 1.**

A motion was made by Commissioner Pollock to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vance and carried as follows: **AYES: MEMBERS Mock, Williams, Pollock, and Vance (4). ABSTAIN: Zaknoen (1) NAYS: (0). Motion Carries 4-0, Abstain 1.**

Communications/Claims- Commissioner Pollock made a motion to accept the payroll and attorney fees as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vance and carried as follows: **AYES: MEMBERS Mock, Williams, Pollock, Vance and Zaknoen (5). NAYS: (0). Motion Carries.**

Commissioner Pollock updated the Commission on the Budget asking that all bills be submitted so that they may be paid out of the 2016 budget.

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to accept the Budget report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vance and carried as follows: **AYES: Mock, Williams, Pollock, Vance and Zaknoen (5). NAYS: None (0). Motion Carries.**

Report from Council Liaison Sharon Carnes- No report

Report from Commission Attorney- Attorney Koethe addressed the commission by first welcoming Commissioner Zaknoen.

There is now a vacancy on the Review Committee for the ordinance and asked if Commissioner Zaknoen was willing to fill that vacancy.

Commissioner Pollock made the motion to allow Commissioner Zaknoen to fill the vacancy on the Review Committee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams and carried as follows: **AYES: MEMBERS Mock, Williams, Pollock, Vance and Zaknoen (5). NAYS: (0). Motion Carries.**

Attorney Koethe then addressed the Commission that since the minority list is now down below three (3) names, the commission would need to advertise again.

Commissioner Williams made the motion to advertise again for Minority Firefighters. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pollock and carried as follows: **AYES: MEMBERS Mock, Williams, Pollock, Vance and Zaknoen (5). NAYS: (0). Motion Carries.**

Further discussion ensued between the commissioners and Attorney Koethe regarding Commissioner Pollock wanted to look at other possible ways to advertise; there were concerns about cost; Attorney Koethe gave suggestions such as Work One, "What's New La Porte" website and radio.

Tony Drzewiecki addressed his concerns about the commission not setting a date to end the acceptance of applications.

Mike Neulieb, Union President addressed the Commission stating his concerns about setting the date to end acceptance of applications.

Commissioner Vance made a motion to schedule a special meeting to discuss this. At this time, Attorney Koethe suggested not to wait on setting this date. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pollock and carried as follows: **AYES: MEMBERS Mock, Williams, Pollock and Vance (4). ABSTAIN: Zaknoen (1). NAYS: (0). Motion Carries.**

Attorney Koethe addressed the Commission suggesting that the Commission set up a review board to look at all the incoming applications and application review process.

Commissioner Pollock made the motion to set up an application review board. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vance and carried as follows: **AYES: MEMBERS Mock, Williams, Pollock, Vance and Zaknoen (5). NAYS: (0). Motion Carries.**

President Mock stated that she and Attorney Koethe will look at this process together, Commissioner Zaknoen also volunteered to help with this project.

Report from Union Local 475- Mr. Neulieb addressed the Commission stating he would like to congratulate Mr. Zaknoen; asking what the % of minorities was; how many ethnic groups are there to pick from; what % does a person have to be to be concerned in this ethnic group and can an employee change their ethnic group once they are employed

Attorney Koethe addressed Mr. Neulieb's questions and concerns.

Tony Drzewiecki further explained that since the department has to hire a certain amount of minorities, when they were hired they didn't have all the ethnic groups to pick from; was it possible to allow the firefighters to change their ethnic group now.

Discussion ensued between Mr. Neulieb and Attorney Koethe regarding new Firefighters have the EMT certification.

Report from Fire Chief Randy Novak- Chief Novak addressed the Commission with an update on Nick Pabon who will be finishing the academy on December 23, 2016 and start shift work on December 25, 2016. He will graduate from the academy in February and Chief Novak will provide the commissioners with the graduation date.

Chief Novak congratulated the following firefighters on their retirement:

Driver/Operator Harry Hoffmaster 12/20/16

Captain Dave Koss 12/22/2016

With these two retiring the following promotions will occur:

Firefighter Frank Rebac to Driver/Operator 12/20/16

Lieutenant Doug Legault to Captain 12/22/2016

Driver/Operator Rob Schaffer to Lieutenant 12/22/2016

Firefighter Drew Belue to Driver/Operator 12/22/2016

Commissioner Pollock made the motion to accept the promotions pending the retirements. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Vance and carried as follows: **AYES: MEMBERS Mock, Williams, Pollock, Vance and Zaknoen (5). NAYS: (0). Motion Carries.**

At this time, Chief Novak asked that everyone keep Training Officer Scott Kaletha in their thoughts and prayers as he lost his father.

Finally Chief Novak wanted to welcome Commissioner Zaknoen and then Commissioner Plummer.

New Business- None

Old Business- None

Public Comment—Tony Drzewiecki addressed the commissioner with his concerns about the Promotional Test Score.

Discussion ensued between Mr. Neulieb and Commissioner Williams regarding when the scores will be posted correctly and what will appear on the posting.

Commission Comment- Commissioner Pollock wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Commissioner Vance asked that everyone refer to Commissioner Pollock as the Commission Secretary and Jenny Clouse as the stenographer so there was no confusion as to who was supposed to be doing what job.

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Pollock at 6:04 PM and seconded by Commissioner Vance. Ayes 5 Nays 0; Motion Carries.

Next Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 3 2016 at 5:00 PM.

Louise Mock, President