The Police Civil Service Commission of Michigan City, Indiana, held its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, March 14, 2011 in the Council Chambers at City Hall, located at 100 E. Michigan Blvd., Michigan City, Indiana.

DETERMINATION OF QUORUM
A quorum was present to conduct business.

CALL TO ORDER
Commissioner Michael Palmer called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS
Present: Commissioners John Pliske, Deloise Howse and Michael Palmer.

Also present: Chief Mark Swistek, Captain Mark Harris, Councilwoman Pat Boy, Attorney Pam Krause.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Commissioner Pliske moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 10, 2011, and a Special Meeting held on March 17, 2011 seconded by Commissioner Palmer. Motion carried 2-0.

OLD BUSINESS

PROBATIONARY OFFICER REPORTS
Captain Mark Harris reported for the following:
♦ Probationary Officer Yoder is continuing his training at the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy and graduates tomorrow April 15th. He will report to Shift 3 on 4/18/11 to begin Phase IV of the FTO program with his primary FTO Officer Steven Forker.
♦ Probationary Officer Bass completed Phase II of the FTO program and is currently at the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. He began his training at the academy the last week of March.
♦ Probationary Officer Hood is completed Phase II of the FTO program and is currently in Phase 3 of the FTO program on Shift 2 with his FTO being Officer Kay Pliske.
♦ Probationary Officer Theodore Comer has completed Phase I of the FTO program and is currently in Phase II on Shift 3 with his primary FTO Officer Greg Radiger.
♦ Probationary Officer Joshua Farmer is nearing completion of his training with the Division of Professional Standards and will be assigned to a shift to begin his FTO program in the coming weeks.

POLYGRAPHS
Commissioner Palmer advised there are no polygraphs scheduled.

BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS
Commissioner Palmer advised there was one applicant in the background investigation phase and his completed report will be reviewed at the end of the meeting.

PHYSICAL/PSYCH
Asst. Chief Richardson stated there will be a local pension board meeting on Monday April 18th at 2:30 p.m. to review the Physical & Psych results for applicant Michael Elkins Jr.

PERF
Commissioner Palmer advised there were no PERF reports received.

PAST PERFORMANCE COMPLETED RATING REPORTS
Commissioner Palmer stated Captain Harris turned in all the reports. Will get scores out hopefully next week Monday or Tuesday. For those wanting to appeal their scores they have 10 days from the date their score was mailed.
Commissioner Palmer thanked everyone involved especially Capt. Harris with the nice graphs and thorough report. The Commissioners will post the curve once the letters are mailed. Again he thanked Capt. Harris for coordinating the changes. Looks as though the changes made are working. Obviously there is still some tweaking that needs to take place. He also thanked all the members of the Board of Commanders as well as all supervisors and officers for their cooperation.

Commissioner Pliske acknowledged to Capt. Harris a good job.

Chief Swistek concurred with the comments made and stated that they will need to keep it maintained and in check. A lot of work was done on their part to make it better. He also questioned when the bell curve will be processed. He stated the changes made are beneficial.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**
- Letter from Spencer Flavin.
- Copies of letters from Chief Swistek to Officer Timothy Hazel, Sergeant Steven Westphal and Dylan Travis for being nominated for the Officer of the Month Award. Officer Dylan Travis was chosen as the recipient of the March award.
- Copies of letters from Chief Mark Swistek to Lt. Cary Brinkman, Corporal Jeffrey Piotrowski, Officer Thomas Bunton and Officer Byron Hurt awarding them their "20" year service pin with the Michigan City Police Department on March 11, 2011.
- Copies of letters from Chief Mark Swistek to Cpl. Anthony McClintock awarding him a "15" year service pin with the Michigan City Police Department effective March 11, 2011.
- Letter from Chief Mark Swistek requesting the Probationary Officer Michael Oberle be removed from probationary status and upgraded to First Class Patrolman effective March 15, 2011.
- Copies of letters from Mayor Charles Oberlie and Chief Mark Swistek congratulating Probationary Officer Michael Oberle for attaining the status of First Class Patrolmen.
- Copy of staff meeting minutes for March.
- Weekly emails from probationary officers.
- Monthly newsletter from Chief Swistek.
- Copy of memo of transfer from Chief Swistek effective April 12th.
- Copy of letter from a citizen to Officer Bryan Maxey for his assistance with an out of town visitor who became ill.
- Claims submitted for payment totaling $300.00.

Commissioner Palmer advised the Commission received the Supervisor Evaluation reports for Capt. Kinzele and Lt. Loniewski. The remainder of the evaluations are forthcoming.

On motion of Commissioner Pliske and seconded by Commissioner Palmer, claims in the amount of $300.00 are to be paid. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Motion was made by Commissioner Pliske and seconded by Commissioner Howse to remove Probationary Officer Michael Oberle from probationary status and upgraded to First Class Patrolman effective March 15, 2011. **Motion carried 3-0.**

**QUARTERLY AWARDS PRESENTATION**
Chief Mark Swistek presented the quarterly awards for the 1st quarter of 2011. Officers Ronald Skibins and Michael McLemore were awarded a life saving award for their outstanding service on December 26, 2010 at 8:13 p.m. They responded to a call at Washington Park Pier about a female threatening to attempt suicide by jumping into the lake. They found the female on the pier and escorted her back to safety. Their quick and decisive actions no doubt helped prevent the female from taking her own life and earned them each a life saving award.
REPORT FROM CHIEF SWISTEK
Chief Mark Swistek’s comments:
♦ Earlier today we dedicated a prescription drug drop box authorized by the US Drug Enforcement Administration and a plaque all donated by the LaPorte County Triad group in the lobby of the police station for unwanted prescription drugs.
♦ On April 30th will participate in the National Prescription Pill take back initiative.
♦ April 29 and 30th will be conducting the gun exchange program for unwanted and unused handguns and long guns in exchange for gift cards. Objective is to take as many guns off the streets as well as preventing them from being stolen in a burglary. He publicly thanked the sponsors for providing the funding for the buy back.
♦ April 1st initiated Peak Patrols during Peak Hours. Transferred manpower within the department placing additional officers and manpower on the streets during peak hours.
♦ Thanked the community for using the 873-1488 crime tip hotline.

REPORT FROM ASST. CHIEF’S
Asst, Chief Richardson reported the following:
♦ Recognized the Burglary Task Force which netted over 50 arrests in relation to recent burglaries. More arrests are forthcoming.
♦ Reported that 20 illegally possessed weapons were taken off the street by shift patrols and special crime unit this past month. He applauded their efforts.
♦ Commended Capt. Harris on a job well done regarding the recent past performance meetings. Other members of the Board of Commanders came to the administration commending him on his hard work in providing the final results.
♦ Congratulated the officers receiving awards today on a good job.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS
Commissioner Palmer relayed comments he has received from the public to Chief Swistek thanking him for a job well done and not being afraid to hit problem areas head on.

Commissioner Palmer spoke to the two officers receiving the Life Saving Awards stating that he was monitoring the radio traffic the evening the call went out and how proud he was of the both of them and how they reacted without thinking of their own safety. He went on to remind them of one of the questions the Commissioners ask each applicant during their second interview. The question was would you take your life for the life another? He went on to say the Commissioners were proud they did not let them down when they were hired. He asked that they keep up the good work.

Commissioner Pliske commended the department on a great job. He also congratulated the two officers receiving awards. He acknowledged the outstanding job that Capt. Harris did with the past performance reports.

Commissioner Howse commented on how extremely proud she was of the whole department and especially to the two officers receiving the life saving awards. She was proud to see the young officers that she was a part of them joining the department and it makes her happy to see them show their bravery and how focused they are on the oath they had taken.

ATTORNEY COMMENTS
There were no comments from the Attorney.

COUNCIL COMMENT
Councilwoman Boy congratulated both officers receiving their awards.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
Chief Swistek again wanted to thank the men and women of the Michigan City Police Department for being aggressive. He will be releasing the stats for the 1st quarter of this year versus the 1st quarter of last year. With the programs in place ant the initiative in place since July its showing dividends. There was a decrease in crime in the 1st quarter compared to last year. He thanked everyone for their efforts. He asked all officers to wear there vests and to be safe. He reminded everyone that over 200 officers lost their life in 2010. He also stated he and his administration will continue to be in the community working with the officers to show they support their efforts.
Next meeting date is scheduled for May 12, 2011 at 5:30 pm in the council chambers.

The background investigation for Brian Wright was reviewed. Motion was made by Commissioner Howse and seconded by Commissioner Pliske to offer a conditional offer to hire to applicant Brian Wright. Motion carried 3-0.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:59 p.m. on motion by Commissioner Howse and seconded by Commissioner Pliske, **Motion carried 3-0.**

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John Pliske, Secretary

ATTEST:

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Michael D. Palmer, President

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Deloise Howse, Vice-President