



MICHIGAN CITY FIRE MERIT COMMISSION

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

ANDREW SPERLING, PRESIDENT
ROBERT POLLOCK, COMMISSIONER
GREG DEUTSCHER, COMMISSIONER
MICHAEL NEULIEB, COMMISSIONER
DESIREE NICHOLS, COMMISSIONER

Michigan City Fire Merit Commission Meeting Minutes: March 7, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm by Commissioner Pollock. A quorum was noted with Commissioner Neulieb, Commissioner Sperling, and newly added Commissioner Desiree Nichols were all in attendance. Commissioner Deutscher was absent. Also present was Fire Chief Doug Legault. At this time, all in attendance were asked to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Election of Officers- Commissioner Neulieb made a motion to nominate Commissioner Sperling as the commission president. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pollock. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Approval of Minutes- Commissioner Neulieb made a motion to approve the February meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pollock. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Communications/Claims- In terms of claims, Commissioner Pollock discussed the payments for the Fire Merit Commission. With the payment being \$150 for each commissioner, and there being five commission members total, the cost came out to \$750. Commissioner Pollock made a motion to approve the payments. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Neulieb. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Commissioner Pollock, in addition to the commission payroll, added the \$500 attorney fee to the monthly budget. Following this, Commissioner Pollock made a motion to approve the payment for the attorney. The motion was seconded by President Sperling. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Due to a situation with the budget system, the commission decided to review February's budget report at the April meeting alongside March's budget.

Report from City Council Representative- No report.

Report from Commission Attorney- Ms. Shoffner reminded all in attendance that there is a special meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 9th, 2022 from 9:00am until 12:00pm regarding the commission ordinance.

Report from Union Local 475- Union President Taylor recalls last month's meeting and publicly apologized to Councilman Paul Przybylinski for how he reacted in return to Councilman Przybylinski's statements.

On February 22nd, 2022, President Taylor received a phone call from Chief Legault regarding an attorney who is investigating whether Commissioner Deutscher is allowed to serve on the commission. President Taylor stated that the attorney was hired by the mayor, and would like to discover whether the city's money is being used or if the mayor's own money is being used toward this situation.

Discussion then ensues regarding the promotional testing material between President Taylor and Commissioner Pollock.

Report from Fire Chief Doug Legault- Chief Legault began his report by welcoming Commissioner Nichols to the Fire Merit Commission.

Department anniversaries for March:

Battalion Chief Howard Fuller	38 years
Captain Dennis Wantland	33 years
Captain Scott Kaletha	19 years
Deputy Chief Michael Jasnieski	19 years
Driver/Operator Shannon Borders	10 years
Driver/Operator Jason Weiss	10 years
Driver/Operator Sean Baker	8 years
Firefighter Kyle Neulieb	4 years
Firefighter Joshua Hughes	2 years
Firefighter Victoria Armstrong	2 years
Firefighter Scott Manns	1 year

Chief Legault recognized and congratulated Union President Taylor on being promoted from lieutenant to captain, Anthony Stahoviak for being promoted from driver/operator to lieutenant, and Robert Hooper for being promoted from firefighter to driver/operator.

As of March 3rd, 2022, Probationary Firefighter Scott Manns has completed his requirements to be promoted to firefighter. Chief Legault asks for a motion to promote him from probationary firefighter to firefighter. President Sperling makes a motion to promote Scott Manns from probationary firefighter to firefighter as of March 3rd, 2022. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Neulieb. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Chief Legault states that, in October of 2021, he asked for promotion positions in the administrative office. He notes that, because of this promotional move and the lack of a replacement promotion, the department is down to 23 drivers on shift. The department needs

to have 24 drivers on shift. Chief Legault asked that a motion be made to promote the next driver. President Sperling made a motion to promote the next driver in order to meet the required 24 drivers on shift. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Nichols. **Motion carried 4-0.**

As of last order of business, Chief Legault reminded those in attendance that, as stated by Ms. Shoffner, there is a special meeting scheduled on Wednesday, March 9th, 2022 at 9:00am to discuss ordinance changes.

Old Business- Discussion ensued regarding the incident involving 3 firefighters on November 5th, 2020. Commissioner Neulieb decided that an executive session was needed to discuss the outcome regarding these 3 individuals. President Sperling stated that he would work with Chief Legault to figure out a date for the executive session.

New Business- No report.

Public Comment- No report.

Commission Comment- Commissioner Pollock noted that the county council was discussing a type of tax- a half percent tax that would eventually go toward first responders. Discussion ensues regarding this specific tax in terms of military members and veterans.

Commissioner Neulieb discusses the extension for department applications. The original date was extended to April 15th, 2022, and the commission is currently looking at sixteen applications.

Discussion briefly ensues the testing date between Chief Legault and Commissioner Neulieb.

With no other business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by President Sperling at 5:18pm. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pollock.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 4th, 2022 at 5:00pm.