



## MICHIGAN CITY FIRE MERIT COMMISSION

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MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA 46360  
219-873-1570  
ANDREW SPERLING, PRESIDENT  
MICHAEL NEULIEB, VICE PRESIDENT  
ROBERT POLLOCK, SECRETARY  
GREG DEUTSCHER, COMMISSIONER  
DESIREE NICHOLS, COMMISSIONER

### Michigan City Fire Merit Commission Meeting Minutes: April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm by President Sperling. All in attendance were asked to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. A quorum with President Sperling, Commissioner Neulieb, Commissioner Nichols, Commissioner Pollock all in attendance. Commissioner Deutscher and Chief Legault were absent. Also in attendance was commission attorney Cory Shoffner and Deputy Chief Michael Jasnieski.

**Election of Officers-** Commissioner Nichols made a motion to nominate Commissioner Neulieb for the role of Vice President. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pollock. **Motion carried 3-1.**

Commissioner Nichols also made a motion to nominate Commissioner Pollock as the secretary for the commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Neulieb. **Motion carried 3-1.**

**Approval of Minutes-** Commissioner Pollock made a motion to approve the minutes from the March monthly meeting. Commissioner Nichols seconded the motion. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Commissioner Nichols made a motion to approve the minutes from the executive session on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Neulieb. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Commissioner Neulieb made a motion to approve the minutes from the executive session on March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Nichols. **Motion carried 4-0.**

**Communications/Claims-** Commissioner Pollock discusses the commissioners' pay consistently being a month behind. Commissioner Pollock made a motion to approve the payment of the commissioners and the attorney. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Nichols. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Discussion ensues regarding the budget report. As of February, 8.4% of the budget was used. Commissioner Pollock discusses past invoices being paid as well. 14.8% of the budget has been used and was rounded up to 15%. Following this, Commissioner Pollock discussed money that is

available in the budget for things such as badges, books, etc. President Sperling continued talking about the testing books. According to Commissioner Pollock, the money was in the budget to pay for said books.

**Report from City Council Representative-** No report.

**Report from Commission Attorney-** No report.

**Report from Union Local 475-** Union President Barrett Taylor discusses ordinance changes. He suggested that there should be another meeting to discuss the changes again.

**Report from Deputy Chief Michael Jasnieski-** Deputy Chief Jasnieski first discussed the performance evaluations. Discussion ensues regarding the evaluations.

April department anniversaries

Captain Mark Baker – 24 years  
Lieutenant Anthony Stahoviak – 11 years  
Operator Brian Smith - 10 years  
Deputy Chief Frank Rebac – 10 years  
Operator Robert Hooper – 10 years  
Operator Matthew Miller – 10 years  
Firefighter Marcus Thompkins – 9 years  
Firefighter Jacob Kubath – 3 years

Deputy Chief Jasnieski congratulated Dwayne Brown on his promotion to Driver/Operator. After the last meeting, he was promoted to this position.

Deputy Chief Jasnieski then briefly mentions that the study material has been ordered and delivered.

**Old Business-** President Sperling mentions the situation regarding the three firefighters (labeled A, B, & C). Mayor Duane Perry stepped up to make a comment on the situation. Mayor Perry stated that it is a priority for the commission to upkeep the department in the eye of the public rather than union loyalty. He then stepped back and seated himself. Commissioner Neulieb stated that he believes that the firefighters are being reprimanded for the same incident three times now. Although it is not considered triple jeopardy by the commission attorney, Commissioner Neulieb stated that he feels as though that is what it seems like. He also noted that he believes that Chief Legault should have waited so that these individuals should have only been written up one time for this singular incident. Commissioner Neulieb believes that there has already been too much done to these firefighters, he also mentioned that he will not make a motion to do more on the situation regarding these firefighters.

President Taylor joins in on the conversation, stating that the firefighters were written up despite not everything not being brought to light. Discussion regarding this topic continues.

President Sperling states that Firefighter A received a 3-day suspension on January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021 as well as a 5-day suspension on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. On March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 that individual received 5-day suspension, totaling to 13 days. No comments or motions were made by the commission.

Regarding Firefighter B, President Sperling states that this individual received a 5-day suspension on January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and on February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021. This totals to 10 days. Again, no comments or motions were made by the commission.

On February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, Firefighter C was issued a 5-day suspension, and a 2-day suspension on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022. This totals to 7 days of suspension. Once more, no comments or motions were made by the commission.

Commissioner Neulieb states that since no motions were made, the situation should be done and over with.

**New Business-** Commissioner Neulieb briefly discussed the testing and hiring situation.

**Public Comment-** No comment.

**Commission Comment-** No comment.

**With no other business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by President Sperling. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pollock at 5:28pm.**

**Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 at 5:00pm.**