



MICHIGAN CITY FIRE MERIT COMMISSION

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MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA 46360
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MICHAEL NEULIEB, VICE PRESIDENT
ROBERT POLLOCK, SECRETARY
GREG DEUTSCHER, COMMISSIONER
DESIREE NICHOLS, COMMISSIONER

Michigan City Fire Merit Commission Meeting Minutes: July 11th, 2022

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

Approval of Minutes- A motion to approve June's minutes was made by Commissioner Deutscher. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Nichols. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Communications/Claims- Commissioner Pollock begins with asking for a motion to approve the attorney fee for July. A motion to approve July's attorney fee of \$500 was made by Commissioner Nichols and seconded by Commissioner Deutscher. **Motion carried 3-0.**

A motion to approve the Commissioners' payroll for June, including former President Andrew Sperling who recently resigned, was made by Commissioner Nichols and was seconded by Commissioner Deutscher. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Pollock then discusses the budget, in which 53.6% has been used. Discussion of the budget report continues.

Report from City Council Representative- A discussion ensues regarding the location of the Fire Merit Commission monthly meetings.

Report from Commission Attorney- Ms. Shoffner discusses the issue of the commission being a month behind on payroll that was mentioned at a previous meeting. In discussion with the city's payroll department, she learned that other commissioners are paid the same way- a month late with the exception of December. She then follows up with discussion of the drug and alcohol policy, noting that a public meeting will need to be scheduled regarding this topic.

Report from Union Local 475- Union President Barrett Taylor congratulates Lieutenant Craig Krivak on his retirement. He then follows this with discussion of former President Sperling's resignation and the handling of the keys for the commission filing cabinets.

Report from Fire Chief Doug Legault- Chief Legault briefly thanks Andrew Sperling for his months of service and work toward the commission.

July Department Anniversaries

Captain John Mellen 28 years
Captain Barrett Taylor 19 years
Lieutenant Christian Bietry 13 years
Driver/Operator Jenna Tepavceвич 7 years
Public Information Officer Nick Pabon 7 years
Training Officer William Sonntag 7 years
Firefighter Christopher Blake 5 years
Executive Secretary Jenny Clouse 5 years

On June 24th, 2022, Lieutenant Craig Krivak retired after 21 years of service. Chief Legault thanks him for his years of service to the department and the city. He requests a motion to be made to accept his retirement. A motion to accept Lieutenant Krivak's retirement was made by Commissioner Deutscher and was seconded by Commissioner Nichols. **Motion carried 3-0.**

On July 2nd, 2022, Captain Randy Dibble retired after 35 years of service, to which Chief Legault thanks him for his service. He requested that a motion be made to accept his retirement. A motion to accept Captain Dibble's retirement was made by Commissioner Deutscher and was seconded by Commissioner Nichols. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Discussion regarding the promotional and hiring lists ensues. Chief Legault suggests that the commission schedules a special meeting to discuss this further. Discussion about the lists continues.

Old Business- No business.

New Business- No business.

Public Comment- Discussion of the location of the commission meetings begins again. Commissioner Nichols notes that this is the first time that the commission has heard of individuals having any sort of issues with the location of the Fire Merit Commission meetings.

Driver/Operator Greg Fletcher notes that he had sent in a letter in the months prior regarding his promotional status, to which he states that Ms. Shoffner had never replied to him. Conversation ensues.

Driver/Operator Steve Stimley brings up the topic of the merit ordinances, specifically the drug and alcohol policy. Discussion begins.

More discussion regarding the drug and alcohol policy continues.

Commission Comment- Commissioner Pollock notes that the date for the Physical Agility Test for new hires will be August 20th, 2022. The practice dates will be August 3rd, 6th, and 10th.

With no other business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Pollock. The motion was seconded by Commissioner at 5:32pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 1st, 2022, at 5:00pm. A special meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, July 19th, 2022, at 10:00am.