



MICHIGAN CITY FIRE MERIT COMMISSION

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

Michigan City Fire Merit Commission Meeting Minutes: October 3rd, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm by Vice President Neulieb. All in attendance were asked to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. Those in attendance were Vice President Neulieb, Commissioner Nichols, Commissioner Deutscher, Commissioner Adrian, and Commissioner Pollock. Also in attendance were Fire Chief Doug Legault and Commission Attorney Cory Shoffner.

Approval of Minutes- A motion to accept the minutes from September 12th, 2022, was made by Commissioner Pollock. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Nichols. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

A motion to accept the minutes from the special meeting on August 17th, 2022, was made by Commissioner Pollock. Commissioner Nichols seconded the motion. **Motion carried 5-0.**

A motion to accept the minutes from the special meeting on September 17th, 2022, was made by Commissioner Pollock. Commissioner Nichols seconded the motion. **Motion carried 5-0.**

A motion to accept the minutes from the special meeting on September 24th, 2022, was made by Commissioner Pollock. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Nichols. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Communications/Claims- Commissioner Pollock went over the monthly payroll, with \$500 going to Ms. Shoffner, and \$150/commissioner (\$150x5) totaling up to \$750 for the commissioners' payroll; between the two, the payment total was \$1,250. Commissioner Pollock then made a motion to approve the payment. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Nichols. **Motion carried 5-0.**

The budget report followed, with Commissioner Pollock stating that around 75% of the 2022 budget has been used. There is a remainder of \$11,909. Due to test funding for the promotional tests, there will be roughly only \$50 left in the budget afterward. Commissioner Pollock made a

motion to approve the budget report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Nichols.
Motion carried 5-0.

Old Business- Vice President Neulieb stated that the current hiring list has been depleted, therefore he made a motion to use the new hiring list. The motion was approved by Commissioner Pollock. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Vice President Neulieb briefly mentioned the executive sessions prior to the regular monthly meeting, in which the commission discussed a firefighter's suspension. Commissioner Deutscher made a motion to call for a hearing to review the suspension. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Adrian. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Commissioner Pollock made a motion to review an appeal for a firefighter's evaluation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Nichols. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Vice President Neulieb discussed the promotional test results, which are nearly complete. Once they are ready the promotional list will be completed.

Report from City Council Representative- No report.

Report from Commission Attorney- No report.

Report from Union Local 475- Union President Barrett Taylor briefly brought up the topic of evaluations.

Report from Fire Chief Doug Legault- In the month of September, MCFD had responded to 281 calls. Of those, 6 were fires, 210 were rescue/emergency medical, 7 non-fire hazardous conditions, 7 service calls, 43 good intent calls, 7 false alarms, and 1 special incident type. There was a recorded drop in Narcan use, with Narcan being used on only 6 calls last month.

Chief Legault announces that Driver/Operator Josh Allen has accepted a job with Fishers' Fire Department. He thanks him for his service, wishing him the best of luck.

October Department Anniversaries:

Captain Robert Steinborn – 28 years
Lieutenant Brad Kreighbaum – 22 years
Firefighter Joe Guncheon – 4 years
Firefighter Derek Jenkins – 2 years
Probationary Firefighter Chase Martin – 1 year
Probationary Firefighter Andrew Cass – 1 year
Probationary Firefighter Mary Catterlin – 1 year
Probationary Firefighter Logan Doperalski – 1 year

Chief Legault stated that, as of October 12th, 2022, the probationary firefighters will have completed their probationary period; they are all EMT certified and have successfully completed their Firefighter I and Firefighter II courses as well. He asks to take them off probation as of October 12th, 2022. Commissioner Pollock made a motion to remove the four firefighters from probation. Commissioner Adrian seconded the motion. **Motion carried 5-0.**

With the resignation of Driver/Operator Josh Allen, the department is still one short; therefore, Chief Legault asks for the next two names on the hiring list. A motion was made by Commissioner Deutscher to pick the next two names from the hiring list. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pollock. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Along with Driver/Operator Josh Allen's resignation, Chief Legault asks for the next name on the promotional list to fill the role of driver/operator, which would be Firefighter Kyle Neulieb to which he accepts the role.

New Business- Vice President Neulieb makes a motion to void an individual's promotional test scores due to this person bringing practice books home, giving them an unfair advantage when others could not study. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pollock. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Discussion ensues regarding the individual removing the test book from the fire station.

Public Comment- President Taylor reminds the commission that there will be, at minimum, five retirements in the early months of 2023, which will deplete the hiring list. Discussion ensues.

Commission Comment- No comment.

With no other business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Vice President Neulieb. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pollock at 5:21pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 7th, 2022, at 5:00pm.