



MICHIGAN CITY FIRE MERIT COMMISSION

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

RICKY JACKSON, PRESIDENT
CHARLES WILLIAMS, VICE PRESIDENT
ROBERT POLLOCK, COMMISSIONER
GREG DEUTSCHER, COMMISSIONER
MICHAEL NEULIEB, COMMISSIONER

Michigan City Fire Merit Commission Meeting Minutes: October 4, 2021

President Jackson called the meeting to order at 5:00pm. At this time, President Jackson called all in attendance to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. A quorum was noted with Commissioner Williams, Commissioner Deutscher, and Commissioner Pollock all in attendance. Also in attendance was Fire Chief Doug Legault and Commission Attorney Cory Shoffner. Commissioner Neulieb was absent.

Approval of Minutes- A motion to approve September's minutes was made by Commissioner Pollock. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Communications/Claims- A motion was made by Commissioner Pollock to appropriate the funds to pay the Merit Commission. With each commissioner being paid \$150 per month, the total ends up being \$750. Commissioner Pollock also motions to pay the commission attorney, which is \$500 per month. This totals up to \$1,250. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Commissioner Pollock then moves on to the budget. At this point in time, the commission has used 66% of the budget. With that being said, there is \$11,086 remaining as of September 27, 2021. Commissioner Pollock also makes note that Fire Chief Legault will have bill that will be forthcoming, adding up to \$600 for the fire academy books. In terms of the 2022 budget, Commissioner Pollock went before the city council on Monday, September 27, 2021. He states that the Fire Merit Commission has been approved by the Mayor, the City Controller, and the City Finance Committee for a total of \$44,339. This covers issues relating to the new hires, URI, and so forth. Commissioner Pollock mentions that this budget was also approved at a prior Fire Merit Commission meeting. A motion to adopt the budget report was made by Commissioner Pollock. Commissioner Deutscher seconded the motion. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Report from City Council Representative- No report.

Report from Commission Attorney- No report.

Report from Union Local 475- No report.

Report from Fire Chief Doug Legault- Chief Legault begins his report with the department anniversaries for the month of October:

Captain Rob Steinborn	27 years
Driver/Operator Brad Kreighbaum	21 years
Firefighter Joe Guncheon	3 years
Firefighter Derek Jenkins	1 year

Chief Legault then asked the commission to make a motion to approve moving Derek Jenkins from a probationary firefighter to a first-class firefighter as of October 6th. A motion to promote firefighter Jenkins was made by Commissioner Deutscher. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pollock. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Following this, Chief Legault awarded a few lifesaving awards to department members. Engine 1 responded to a call at an address in Michigan City regarding an unconscious 63-year-old male. Jacob Irvin, David Rinconeno, and Greg Fletcher took lifesaving actions before the patient was transported. A few days after this incident, a medic that responded to the call reported that, while the patient was still hospitalized, he was awake and talking with his family. Due to this, Captain Chris Furness requested that the Engine 1 crew receive life saving awards. Along with these individuals, Captain Furness also received a lifesaving award.

Lastly, Chief Legault asked the commission to consider making a motion to begin the process to adopt the city drug and alcohol testing policy into the Fire Merit Ordinance. A motion to review the policy and to consider adopting it into the Ordinance was made by Commissioner Deutscher. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pollock. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Old Business- No report.

New Business- No report.

Public Comment- Union member Steve Stimley asks the commission if they are starting a new hiring process. To this, President Jackson states that once the current hiring list reaches 3 members, then a new hiring list may be made. Mr. Stimley questions the how long the validity of the testing process lasts regarding the new hires, to which President Jackson notes that those on the list are valid for up to 2 years. Discussion ensued between those present regarding the hiring process.

Commission Comment- President Jackson once again congratulates the individuals who received the awards on a job well done.

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

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 1, 2021 at 5:00pm.