



## 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

### Michigan City Fire Merit Commission Meeting Minutes: February 1, 2021

President Jackson called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. A quorum was noted with Commissioners Charles Williams and Bob Pollock in attendance. Commissioner Greg Deutscher was in attendance via phone call. Also present was Attorney Cory Shoffner and Fire Chief Doug Legault.

At this time, President Jackson asked all present to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes-** Discussion ensued to collect the minutes from December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting as soon as possible, as discussed by President Jackson.

**Communications/Claims-** Discussion ensued regarding how payroll will be handled as well as how secretaries will be handling minutes.

Commissioner Pollock gave an update on commission pay regarding January's payment – Greg Deutscher \$150, Ricky Jackson \$150, Robert Pollock \$150, John Stimley \$150, Charles Williams \$150, adding up to \$750.00. Commissioner Pollock also discussed January's attorney fees, which added up to \$451.25, he also asked to approve February's fees for the same amount. Combining commissioner pay and attorney fees, this added up to \$1,652.50.

Commissioner Pollock gave an update on the commission budget as of 12/31/2020, stating the commission has used \$25,756.35 out of a possible \$31,944.65, or 55% of the budget; reasoning for this is due to the lack of a second agility testing and the lack of a second academic testing. There was also no practice for the agility test and no individuals were sent through the academy as originally scheduled. Commissioner Pollock stated that he did talk to the controller's office about encumbering the balance.

Commissioner Pollock made the motion to accept the budget report. The motion was seconded by President Jackson. **Motion carried 4-0.**

**Election of Officers-** President Jackson made the motion to postpone the vote for officers until Commissioner Stimley is able to meet in person. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams. **Motion carried 4-0.**

**Report from Commission Attorney-** President Jackson made the motion to rehire Attorney Cory Shoffner for 2021. Commissioner Pollock seconded the motion. **Motion carried 4-0.**

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

**Report from Union Local 475-** Discussion ensued regarding the election for a new commissioner. Barrett Taylor noted that the clerk's office handled some of the process. He also noted that there was only one nomination. President Jackson and Barrett Taylor briefly discussed getting Commissioner Stimley set up and in contact with Chief Legault so he can be notified of future meetings

**Report from Fire Chief Randy Novak-** Chief Legault noted that the Fire Department responded to 3,549 calls in 2020; in 2019, the number was 3,300 calls. A shift responded to 1,166 calls, B shift responded to 1,229 calls, and C shift responded to 1,145 calls. The Fire Department conducted approximately 10,671 hours of training in 2020, and 7,373 in 2019.

Chief Legault asked for approval to not have Probationary Firefighter Jenkins participate in the Fire Academy and EMT class. Chief Legault, former Deputy Chief Belue, and Training Officer Weiss believe Firefighter Jenkins already received excellent training prior to joining MCFD and does not need to attend the academy or EMT class. President Jackson made the motion to approve Chief Legault's request. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Chief Legault also requested that Probationary Firefighter Reczek skips the Fire Academy. Chief Legault, former Deputy Chief Belue, and Training Officer Weiss believe Firefighter Reczek received adequate fire training prior to joining MCFD. He will still need to attend an EMT class. President Jackson made the motion to accept Chief Legault's request. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Due to driver/operator Belue transferring, Chief Legault asked to promote a department member to said role. Commissioner Williams made the motion to approve Chief Legault's request. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pollock. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Chief Legault asked the commission for a probationary period extension for a firefighter's training. Commissioner Pollock made the motion to accept the chief's request. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams. **Motion carried 4-0.**

Chief Legault reminded the commission that Frank Rebac has been promoted to Deputy Chief to replace Andrew Belue.

The chief also informed the commission that the training department has built a basement fire training facility at the training center on Hitchcock Road.

Chief Legault made note that on February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Firefighter Steve Garner will retire after 35 years of service to the department.

Department Anniversaries:

Captain Randy Dibble	34 years
Captain Dave Nespo	32 years
Driver/Operator Alan Kreighbaum	30 years
Captain Chris Kosakowski	29 years
Firefighter Brandon White	11 years
Firefighter Eugene Hanas	4 years
Firefighter Jacob Irvin	3 years
Firefighter Chris Zibutis	3 years
Firefighter Chris Milcarek	3 years
Firefighter Kyle Gish	3 years
Firefighter Logan Kaletha	1 year

**Old Business-** Commissioner Williams notes that there are currently 19 applications on file. Discussion ensued regarding advertisements in the newspaper for hiring, President Jackson suggested no longer running said advertisements to save money.

**New Business-** Commissioner Pollock suggested adding a Fire Academy in Michigan City.

Discussion ensued regarding training costing money for new hires, President Jackson suggested the commission/department paid for training.

**Public Comment-** Barrett Taylor and Chief Legault briefly discussed newly hired Firefighters being able to forego the Fire Academy and EMT training.

**Commission Comment-** President Jackson reminded Chief Legault about the food giveaways and the situation in which he sent out firefighters to help with a last-minute incident where the commission was short-staffed; approximately 400 cars were given food in 45 minutes.

**With no other business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Jackson at 5:35 pm and seconded by Commissioner Pollock. Motion Carried 4-0.**

**Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 1, 2020 at 5:00 PM.**