



MICHIGAN CITY FIRE MERIT COMMISSION

100 MICHIGAN BOULEVARD
MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA 46360
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RICKY JACKSON, PRESIDENT
CHARLES WILLIAMS, VICE PRESIDENT
ROBERT POLLOCK, COMMISSIONER
GREG DEUTSCHER, COMMISSIONER

Michigan City Fire Merit Commission Meeting Minutes: May 3, 2021

President Jackson called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. At this time, President Jackson called all in attendance to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. A quorum was noted with Commissioner Williams and Commissioner Pollock all in attendance. Also in attendance was Fire Chief Doug Legault and Commission attorney Cory Shoffner. Commissioner Deutscher was not in attendance. A note was made that John Stimley has put in his letter of resignation.

Approval of Minutes- A motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Pollock. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Williams. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Communications/Claims- Commissioner Pollock made note that because there was no April meeting, the commission needed to approve fees from April as well. The fees were \$500 for the attorney, and \$750 total for the five commissioners- adding up to \$1,250 total. A motion was made by Commissioner Pollock and seconded by Commissioner Williams. **Motion carried 3-0.**

The commission then moved on to approve the fees for May- \$500 for the attorney, \$750 total for the five commissioners, resulting in \$1,250 total. Commissioner Pollock stated that the commission will be a month behind until December. A motion was made by Commissioner Pollock and seconded by Commissioner Williams. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Pollock then moved on to the budget report- as of this point, roughly 20% of the budget has been used for 2021, or \$6,358. He then noted that there are currently 80 firefighters, including one at the fire academy, meaning that one more is needed to reach 81. However, Commissioner Pollock also noted that Chief Legault reminded him of three upcoming retirements, meaning three future hires will be needed to reach 81 and four total hires having to attend the academy. Commissioner Pollock mentioned that it costs around \$175 per student for the fire academy, \$1,500 per student for mileage and food, and \$1,200 per student for the EMT course as well as \$200 per student for the physical agility test.

Looking ahead to 2022, a rough budget estimate was made regarding promotional testing. Assuming that the same testing facilities are used, the exams will be \$1,000, \$6,000 for URE

Consulting, and \$2,000 for grading the exams. In addition, Commissioner Pollock noted that there may be a need for additional agility testing and academic testing.

Report from City Council Representative- No report.

Report from Commission Attorney- No report.

Report from Union Local 475- Union President Taylor brought up a question regarding an update on Commissioner Deutscher's viability from the March meeting, President Jackson noted that there has not yet been an update regarding the situation. President Jackson also asked about a replacement for former Commissioner Stimley, to which Union President Taylor stated that it was being worked on.

Report from Fire Chief Doug Legault- Chief Legault recognized the retirement of Driver/Operators Doug Bolka and Brad Neulieb. Due to these retirements, the Chief stated that the department will need to promote two individuals to the Driver/Operator role. A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Pollock and was seconded by Commissioner Williams.

Motion carried 3-0.

Following this, Chief Legault made note that two probationary firefighters, Victoria Armstrong and Joshua Hughes, will need to be promoted to firefighters as of March 23, 2021. A motion to promote the two probationary firefighters as of March 23 was made by Commissioner Pollock and was seconded by Commissioner Williams. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Due to recent retirements, the department is now sitting at 80 firefighters. Chief Legault asked for the next name on the hiring list. He also noted that there will be three more retirements soon and will also need to pick the next names on the hiring list at that time.

April Department Anniversaries:

Lieutenant Tom Frontcakas	32 years
Captain Mark Baker	23 years
Operator/Spec. Tony Stahoviak	10 years
Operator Brian Smith	9 years
Deputy Chief Frank Rebac	9 years
Firefighter Robert Hooper	9 years
Operator Matthew Miller	9 years
Firefighter Marcus Thompkins	8 years
Firefighter Jacob Kubath	2 years

May Department Anniversaries:

Operator Brandon Lee	12 years
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Regarding previous comments in March's meeting of installing a baby box, Chief Legault stated that the box would need to be placed in a very specific location. This location happened to be at

the new hospital. However, according to the Safe Haven law, any citizen can surrender an infant to a fire station without question.

Chief Legault let the commission know that probationary firefighter Chris Gaines is currently attending the fire academy until the end of May. He also pointed out that the department hired probationary firefighter Scott Manns, and it has been determined that he does not need to attend the academy due to already having all his certifications. A motion to accept was made by Commissioner Pollock and was seconded by Commissioner Williams. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Old Business- No report.

New Business- Commissioner Williams stated that there are currently 32 applications. A motion to allow for promotional testing on May 22, 2021 at 8:00am was made by Commissioner Williams. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Pollock. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Commissioner Williams stated that out of the 32 applicants, 21 were White, 5 were Black, 2 were Hispanic, 2 were female, 1 was Native Indian, and 1 was Pacific Islander. He also stated that the need for Black firefighters has still not been met.

Public Comment- No report.

Commission Comment- No report.

With no other business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Pollock and was seconded by Commissioner Williams at 5:20pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 7th, 2021 at 5:00pm.