Michigan City Fire Merit Commission Meeting Minutes: May 6, 2019

Vice-President Williams called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM. A quorum was noted with Commissioners Charles Williams, Edward Zaknoen, Bob Pollock, Ricky Jackson and Greg Deutscher all in attendance. Also present was Attorney Cory Schoffner and Fire Chief Randy Novak.

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

**Election of President**- A motion was made by Commissioner Pollock that Commissioner Williams move to the position of President; Commissioner Williams declined.

Commissioner Zaknoen made the motion that Commissioner Jackson become president. The motion was second by Commissioner Pollock. **Motion Carried 5-0.** Commissioner Jackson will be President.

**Approval of Minutes**- Commissioner Pollock made the motion to approve the minutes from the February 12, 2019 Special Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jackson. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

Commissioner Pollock made the motion to approve the minutes from the February 25, 2019 Special Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jackson. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

Commissioner Pollock made the motion to approve the minutes from the March 25, 2019 Special Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jackson. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

Commissioner Zaknoen made the motion to approve the minutes from the April 1 Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jackson. **Motion Carried 4-0, 1 Abstained.**
A motion was made by Commissioner Pollock to approve the April 18, 2019 Executive Session Minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jackson. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

A motion was made by Commissioner Pollock to approve the April 23, 2019 Executive Session minutes, removing Commissioner Williams signature from the minutes as he was not present. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jackson. **Motion Carried 4-0, 1 Abstained.**

**Communications/Claims-** Commissioner Pollock made a motion to accept the claims and payroll for April 2019. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Zaknoen. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

Commissioner Pollock gave an update on the commission budget stating 56% has currently been used; Commissioner Pollock was planning on going in front of the mayor and council to ask for an additional $12,000.00 to cover cost for 2 recruits at the academy in the fall, their meals while at the academy and upcoming applicant testing.

Commissioner Pollock stated he is working on the 2020 budget and two things he did want to address was he was placing in the budget $25,000 for 5 recruits due to retirement or resignation and the promotional test as Commissioner Jackson was working on a new way to handle this.

Commissioner Zaknoen made the motion to accept the budget report. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jackson. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

**Report from City Council Representative-** Absent

**Report from Commission Attorney-** Attorney Schoffner stated that she was trying to get the remaining hearing scheduled at this time and would report back.

**Report from Union Local 475-** No Report

**Report from Fire Chief Randy Novak-** Chief Novak announced the recruits would be graduating on June 4, 2019 at 7:00 am central time from the fire academy in South Bend, explaining the reason for the early graduation was because the it was the only time the Mayor was available.

Chief Novak gave an update on the Leadership Class that was held at Blue Chip Casino April 30, May 1, and May 2 stating he was very well attended.

May Anniversaries are:

Chief Novak announced that Jacob Kubath started today, April 1, 2019 and stated he hoped to attend the academy in the fall.
There was an announcement about the ISO rating stating only ¼ of the departments in the country achieve a rating of a 2.

**Old Business**- Commissioner Williams addressed the Commission regarding Appeal #1 on April 18:

Discussion ensued among the commissioners with Commission Pollock making the motion to suspend the person who appealed pay down to a Firefighter for 89 days effective May 7, Chief Novak is to update the commission regularly. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jackson. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

Commissioner Williams addressed the Commission regarding Appeal #2 on April 23:

Commissioner Pollock made the motion to uphold the suspension. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Zaknoen. Discussion ensued among the commissioners. **Motion Failed with a vote of 1-4.**

At this time Commissioner Zaknoen made the motion to reduce the suspension by 50%. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jackson. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

**New Business**- None

**Public Comment**- Mark Baker addressed the commission regarding concerns he had about his promotional test stating he had not heard back from a letter her wrote to the commission on April 15; and the five (5) questions that were reviewed for the person that passed him on the promotional test.

**Commission Comment**- Commissioner Pollock addressed the commission about picking a written test day for the upcoming applicants.

A motion was made by Commission Pollock to set the written test date as Saturday, August 17, 2019. The motion was seconded by Commission Jackson. **Motion Carried 5-0.**

**Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Jackson at 5:35 pm and seconded by Commissioner Pollock Motion Carried 5-0.**

**Next Meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 3, 2019 at 5:00 PM.**