



MICHIGAN CITY FIRE MERIT COMMISSION

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MICHIGAN CITY, INDIANA 46360
219-873-1570

MICHAEL NEULIEB, PRESIDENT
FRED ADRIAN, VICE PRESIDENT
DOUG BIEGE, SECRETARY/TREASURER
GREG DEUTSCHER, COMMISSIONER
WILLIAM ESPAR, COMMISSIONER

Michigan City Fire Merit Commission Meeting Minutes: February 3rd, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm. All in attendance were asked to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. Those in attendance were Vice President Adrian, Secretary Biege, and Commissioner Espar. Also in attendance was Fire Chief Barrett Taylor, Union President Chris Zibutis, and Commission Attorney Cory Shoffner. President Neulieb and Commissioner Deutscher were absent.

Approval of Minutes- A motion to approve the minutes from the January meeting was made by Commissioner Espar and was seconded by Secretary Biege. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Communications and Claims- No report.

Report from City Council Representative- No report.

Report from Commission Attorney- A question from the January meeting regarding the ordinance was brought up in conversation, Ms. Shoffner noted that if an individual refuses their promotion at the time they are still able to accept it when the next opportunity comes around without having to be moved to the bottom of the promotional list (Sec. 54-175). She also stated that if an individual refuses to accept, they have three days to produce a letter of refusal.

Report from Fire Chief Barrett Taylor-

The call reports for January are as follows:

- calls; of those calls:
- 8 fires
- 313 rescues/medical calls
- 8 hazardous condition calls
- 12 service calls
- 30 good intent calls
- 21 false alarms

February Department Anniversaries:

- Captain Chris Kosakowski – 33 years
- Driver/Operator Brandon White – 15 years
- Driver/Operator Eugene Hanas – 8 years
- Firefighter David Rinconeno – 7 years
- Lieutenant Jacob Irvin – 7 years
- Driver/Operator Chris Zibutis – 7 years
- Driver/Operator Chris Milcarek – 7 years
- Driver/Operator Kyle Gish – 7 years
- Firefighter Logan Kaletha – 5 years
- Firefighter Jamie Marvel – 3 years
- Probationary Firefighter Josh Allen – 1 year

Barring any issues, Chief Taylor asked to proactively promote Mr. Josh Allen to Firefighter as of February 26th, 2025. A motion to approve Chief Taylor's request was made by Secretary Biege and was seconded by Commissioner Espar. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Following the approval, Chief Taylor notified those present that as of Monday, February 3rd, 2025, two new probationary firefighters were hired by the Michigan City Fire Department. The MAAC will be starting the academy beginning on February 17th.

Chief Taylor mentioned that Public Information Officer Tia Free had requested the purchase of a banner for public outings such as career fairs. The cost would amount to approximately \$131. A motion to consider the request was made by Secretary Biege and was seconded by Commissioner Espar. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Report from Union Local 475- Union President Zibutis notified those present that the Union is currently selling St. Patrick's Day department shirts as a fundraiser for one of the members of the MCFD.

Old Business- No report.

New Business- No report.

Public Comment- No comment.

Commission Comment- Vice President Adrian inquired about the progress of a new engine; Chief Taylor stated that there was an issue with a grant, halting the progress. Discussion ensued.

With no other business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Espar at 5:16pm. The motion was seconded by Secretary Biege. Motion carried 3-0.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 3rd, 2025, at 5:00pm.

APPROVED BY: *Mate Nehalil President merit Commission* VOTE 4/0
ON: 03-03-2025