

Minutes of the March 5, 2007 Michigan City Fire Merit Commission Meeting

Chairman John Skierkowski called the meeting to order and asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of State Senator Anita Bowser.

A quorum was noted as present with John Skierkowski, Chris Chatfield, Louise Mock, John Stimley, and Bart Lombard in attendance. Others present included Chuck Oberlie, Ralph Martin, Pamela Krause, Dave Koss, Kyle Kazmarczak, and Kathy Dubie.

On a motion by Bart Lombard and a second by Louise Mock the amendment to the February 5 minutes was approved. On a motion by Louise Mock and a second by John Stimley the February 5 minutes were approved as amended.

Communications: Secretary Mock read a letter from Chief Martin stating that 16-year firefighter Chris Martin is resigning from the department. On a motion to accept by Bart Lombard the resignation was accepted.

There was no New Business.

Old Business: Bart Lombard asked Mayor Oberlie the status of the hiring freeze for the fire department. Mayor Oberlie explained that currently there are six vacancies/anticipated vacancies. Extra money has been provided in the 2007 budget to allow for hiring of firefighters prior to the vacancies occurring.

John Skierkowski distributed contact lists and the current eligibility list (to be shared with the members of the City Council).

Bart Lombard asked Chief Ralph Martin to step to the podium. Chief Martin, who is retiring, was thanked for his cooperation and years of service to the citizens of Michigan City. Chief Martin thanked the Commission and said the transition from three to five commissioners went very smoothly. Mr. Lombard added that it is good to have input from the administration, union, and public. Mayor Oberlie added remarks and appreciation for Chief Martin's service. Mayor Oberlie added that the position of fire chief will be posted and everyone will have the opportunity to submit an application.

Chris Chatfield reported that there is a 40 point discrepancy in the evaluation form which needs to be corrected. Dave Koss added that Sarah Smith is concerned about this discrepancy. The evaluations cannot move forward until this is resolved.

Bart Lombard encouraged those present to stay for the workshop, which will immediately follow the meeting. A representative from Stanard will discuss the hiring process in which they participated.

On a motion by John Stimley and a second by Chris Chatfield the meeting was adjourned.

Louise Mock, Secretary

by: Kathy Dubie, Recording Secretary