

Minutes of the April 2, 2007 Michigan City Fire Merit Commission Meeting

Chairman John Skierkowski called the meeting to order. Commissioners present were John Skierkowski, John Stimley, Louise Mock, and Bart Lombard. Commissioner Chris Chatfield was absent. Others present included Pamela Krause, Councilman Jankowski, Howard Fuller, Randy Novak, Randy Dibble, Councilwoman Boy, Jeff Bruder, Kyle Kazmerczak, Mayor Oberlie, Dave Koss, and Kathy Dubie.

On a motion by Bart Lombard and a second by Louise Mock the minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.

Communications: A letter from City Attorney John Espar was read. He requested a current agreement between the commission attorney and commission. Attorney Pamela Krause distributed the proposed agreement and obtained signatures from the commissioners. This document will be forwarded to Mr. Espar. Bart Lombard suggested that the commission begin the process of seeking interested attorneys for 2008 so that a decision can be made at the December meeting.

New Business: Howard Fuller discussed the commission's responsibility to make promotions when vacancies occur. He was reassured by John Stimley that all promotions made are dated as of the vacancy date. Mayor Oberlie added that the number of positions by rank was established through the yearly budget. Randy Novak (acting chief) added that there currently are not any vacancies to fill through retirement. Councilman Jankowski told Mr. Fuller that the City Council did reaffirm this through passage of the budget. Further discussion ensued. Attorney Krause added that the ordinance requires the commission to create a new promotional list every two years even if no vacancies exist.

Jeff Bruder said the training officer should be an assistant chief. After further discussion, Attorney Krause said that the position of training officer does not get filled by the commission. Bart Lombard moved to table this matter to allow the involved parties to work out a solution and bring the matter back to the commission at its July, 2007, meeting. John Stimley seconded the motion and added that the chief appoints (does not promote) an individual to the position of training officer. The motion to table passed.

Old Business: Randy Novak and Dave Koss discussed the hiring process. John Skierkowski said that Shelly Dunleavy was proceeding with background checks on the top four candidates. They will be sent letters to ensure they continue to be interested. Mr. Skierkowski added that the process is being followed correctly.

Dave Koss said that Sarah Smith finalized the evaluation document after meeting with firefighters and it is anticipated that the evaluations will now be used for more than promotions. However, the corrected document has not been approved by either the Council or Commission. Randy Novak expects the evaluations to be completed by April 15.

Bart Lombard asked how current commission information can be placed on the city's website. Mayor Oberlie suggested working with the staff of the City Clerk to resolve this.

On a motion by Bart Lombard and a second by John Stimley the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Mock, Secretary

by: Kathy Dubie, Recording Secretary