

Minutes of the December 6, 2007, Michigan City Fire Merit Commission Meeting
(as amended)

Vice-Chairman Chris Chatfield called the meeting to order. Commissioners present were Chris Chatfield, Louise Mock, Bart Lombard, and John Stimley. Commissioner John Skierkowski was absent. Others present included David Lamb, Randy Dibble, Jason Miller, and Kathy Dubie.

On behalf of the nominating committee, John Stimley reported that the committee is nominating the following slate:

President	Bart Lombard
Vice-President	John Stimley
Secretary	Louise Mock

Chris Chatfield reported that he received an email from John Skierkowski giving him authority to vote in his place as a proxy vote.

The voice votes for all nominations were unanimous.

2008 Michigan City Fire Merit Commission officers are: Bart Lombard, President; John Stimley, Vice-President; Louise Mock, Secretary.

On a motion by Bart Lombard and a second by John Stimley the minutes of the November meeting were approved.

Communications: A follow-up appeal regarding his performance evaluation was received from Randall Dibble. Also received was a bill from Portage fire department for the agility testing. On a motion by Bart Lombard and a second by Louise Mock the commission agreed to forward the bill to the Board of Works for payment.

Neither Pat Boy nor Philip Jankowski was able to attend as the City Council liaisons; however, Pat Boy did provide the most current ordinance to commissioners via email. Hard copies will be mailed to John Stimley and Louise Mock from the City Clerk's office.

New Business: No report from the Commission's attorney was available.

Also, some discussion was held regarding the evaluations for Randy Novak (when he was serving as interim Chief) and Chief David Lamb. Chris Chatfield stressed that all five commissioners should be involved in these evaluations.

On a motion by Bart Lombard and a second by John Stimley the commission agreed to hold the 2008 promotional testing on September 20. Chris Chatfield reported that Sarah Smith will provide the Commission with a detailed proposal for services.

After some discussion and comments from Bart Lombard, John Stimley moved that the current attorney and stenographer be retained for 2008 at the same rate of pay as in 2007. The motion was seconded by Louise Mock and passed.

The La Porte County Republican County Chairman, Coral Laun, addressed the commission. She briefly discussed voting records of members when boards are required to have representation from both the republican and democratic parties. She asked that she be kept informed of appointments to these boards.

Old Business: 14 applicants will have their oral interviews on December 8. Bart Lombard said that the proposed ordinance, which will be heard by the City Council on December 18 would have drastic effects on the hiring process if passed. Chris Chatfield said that the Commission should continue moving forward and re-act when the Council does take further action. Mr. Lombard added that the proposed ordinance includes new weighting of the testing segments; therefore, he thinks some preliminary planning should take place. Mr. Chatfield agreed. There was some discussion about scheduling a date/time to complete the calculations.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding how to proceed, the number of firefighters planning on retiring, etc.

Chief Lamb reported that the three probationary firefighters will be graduating from the academy on December 16. They are ranked in the top 10.

Bart Lombard asked about money remaining in the 2007 fire merit budget. After a brief discussion, Chris Chatfield moved that \$1500 be transferred from contractual into office supplies to allow Mr. Lombard to purchase a variety of items needed by the Commission. John Stimley seconded the motion, which passed.

The Commission agreed to hold an executive session at 6:00 p.m. on December 20, 2007, to hear the appeal of Randall Dibble regarding his performance appeal.

On a motion by Bart Lombard and a second by Louise Mock the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Louise Mock, Secretary

by: Kathy Dubie, Recording Secretary