

Minutes of the La Porte City Fire Department

Merit Commission

March 1, 2023

The Merit Commission met in person at Fire Station 1. Present were commission members, Miles Fettinger, Dr. James Edwards, Ian Eldridge, and Alison Zoll. Chief Andy Snyder, Assistant Chief Kelly Burke, and Battalion Chief Doug Biernacki were also in attendance. Josh Huelat attended by phone.

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 PM.

A motion to accept minutes from February was made by Dr. James Edwards and seconded by Ian Eldridge.

Old Business – Chief Andy Snyder reported that Cameron Watt was hired and began his orientation February 13th. Patrick Roy was offered a position and accepted, Brandon Young was offered a position and accepted, and both began orientation February 27th. Orientation consists of 8-hour day shifts at Station 1. South Bend Fire is allowing us to start an academy with them so all three will attend together beginning March 13th, 2023. Spencer Leda made it through the background check and is currently at Public Safety Medical.

There was discussion regarding hiring lateral transfers and how that could be implemented with the current hiring list. Discussions will continue but potential changes would not be effective until the next hiring list.

Battalion Chief Doug Biernacki attended the meeting to discuss the recommendations from the Union regarding the implementation of a minimum score for promotional testing. A copy of his original email to the Merit Commission was given to each member. After discussion of the scoring percentages for the Promotional Eligibility List, Chief Snyder stated he would investigate the possibility of adjustments to the percentages and report back at the next meeting.

New Business – Chief Andy Snyder reported the testing company ESCI had confirmed they will do the promotional testing but had not yet sent a contract. Promotional dates will be May 8th & 9th for Mechanic, Fire Inspector & Training Chief. May 15th & 16th for Captain & Battalion Chief. Chief Snyder will follow up with ESCI to confirm the testing dates and get a contract.

Dr. James Edwards made a motion to adjourn, Alison Zoll seconded at 7:39 PM.

Recorded by Dawn Prater

Alison Zoll Merit Commission Secretary