

Minutes of the La Porte City Fire Department

Merit Commission

October 4, 2023

The Merit Commission met in person at Fire Station 1. Present were commission members, Dr. James Edwards, Josh Huelat, Alison Zoll and Ian Eldridge. Chief Andy Snyder, Assistant Chief Kelly Burke and City Councilwoman Julie West were also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

A motion to accept the minutes from September was made by Josh Huelat and seconded by Alison Zoll.

Old Business –Mid-year performance ratings will be completed by Monday October 9th. End of year performance ratings have been distributed to the officers. The deadline is December 10th.

Jason Heckathorn's application was received and forwarded to Human Resources. The background check came back clean, he has been contacted and is interested in moving forward with the process. He is scheduled to meet with Chief Snyder Friday October 6th.

There was discussion regarding lowering the hiring age to 18. South Bend Fire started hiring at the age of 18 approximately 5 years ago. Chief Andy Snyder said he will reach out and invite Assistant Chief of Training Roark to the next meeting.

Dr. James Edwards made a motion to set the dates for the promotional interviews for October 25th & 26th at 6 PM; Alison Zoll seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. James Edwards made a motion to set the date for the mental aptitude testing for April 13th, 2024; Josh Huelat seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business – Chief Snyder stated as of May 1st the Governor signed a bill that raised the maximum age of hire from 36 to 40. The rules and procedures need to be changed to reflect the new law. Jason Heckathorn turned 36 on June 25th, since state law supersedes the Merit Commission Rules and Procedures, he is eligible to be hired.

Dr. James Edwards made a motion to adjourn, Josh Huelat seconded at 7:02 PM.

Recorded by Dawn Prater

Alison Zoll Merit Commission Secretary