

**AGENDA**  
**FIRE MERIT COMMISSION**  
**Monday, November 25, 2024**  
**3:30 P.M.**

**Council Chambers**

**Municipal Building, 229 S. Second Street, Elkhart, IN 46516**

<https://signin.webex.com/join>

MEETING NUMBER (Access Code): 2311 192 5641 MEETING PASSWORD: Fire24  
JOIN BY PHONE: 1-415-655-0001

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll call**
- 3. Approve Agenda**
- 4. Approve Minutes- Regular Meeting October 28, 2024**
- 5. Fire Department**
  - Promotions: Inspector-Gene Sanders, Captain-Cory Wise, Adam Kuspa, Lieutenant- Matthew Girard, Ryan Chris, Michael Nemes, Medic Lieutenant- Joseph Clawson, Shawn Gordon, Nicholas Lievore, Driver/Operator- Chris Schelle, Jason Gour, David Blankenship, Lane Stevens, Andrew Gray, Tyler Heck, Phil Miles, Derek Englehart, Marcus Perez, Medic Driver/Operator-Tia Garnett, James DeWitt, Joshua Patterson**
  - Pinning Ceremony**
- 6. IAFF Local 338**
- 7. Approve 2025 Fire Merit Commission Meeting Dates**
- 8. Public Participation**
- 9. Adjournment**

FIRE MERIT COMMISSION  
Monday, October 28, 2024

President Mandy Leazenby called a regular meeting of the Fire Merit Commission (FMC) to order at 3:30 p.m., Monday, October 28, 2024. Clerk Nancy Wilson called the role. Commissioners Mandy Leazenby, Regina Fultes, Doug Bowlby, and Jim Rodino were present. Bunita Fields-Buggs was absent.

1. AGENDA

On motion by Jim Rodino, seconded by Doug Bowlby and carried 4-0, the agenda was approved as presented.

2. MINUTES

On motion by Doug Bowlby, seconded by Jim Rodino and carried 4-0, the minutes from the Regular Meeting on September 23, 2024 were approved.

3. FIRE DEPARTMENT

Request to Hire

Chief Rodney Dale requested permission to hire Blake Jones. He satisfied all local and state requirements to become a member of the Elkhart Fire Department. On motion by Doug Bowlby, seconded by Jim Rodino and carried 4-0, the FMC hired Blake Jones as a member of the Elkhart Fire Department effective October 28, 2024.

Chief Rodney Dale requested permission to hire Jacob Sullivan. He satisfied all local and state requirements to become a member of the Elkhart Fire Department. On motion by Regina Fultes, seconded by Jim Rodino and carried 4-0, the FMC hired Jacob Sullivan as a member of the Elkhart Fire Department effective October 28, 2024.

Chief Rodney Dale requested permission to hire Kyle Peterson. He satisfied all local and state requirements to become a member of the Elkhart Fire Department. On motion by Regina Fultes, seconded by Doug Bowlby and carried 4-0, the FMC hired Kyle Peterson as a member of the Elkhart Fire Department effective October 28, 2024.

Chief Rodney Dale requested permission to hire Edward Brown. He satisfied all local and state requirements to become a member of the Elkhart Fire Department. On motion by Jim Rodino, seconded by Regina Fultes and carried 4-0, the FMC hired Edward Brown as a member of the Elkhart Fire Department effective October 28, 2024.

Chief Rodney Dale requested permission to hire Colin Gifford. He satisfied all local and state requirements to become a member of the Elkhart Fire Department. On motion by Doug Bowlby, seconded by Regina Fultes and carried 4-0, the FMC hired Colin Gifford as a member of the Elkhart Fire Department effective October 28, 2024.

Chief Rodney Dale requested permission to hire Jonathan Coleman. He satisfied all local and state requirements to become a member of the Elkhart Fire Department. On motion by Regina Fultes, seconded by Jim Rodino and carried 4-0, the FMC hired Jonathan Coleman as a member of the Elkhart Fire Department effective October 28, 2024.

Swearing-in Ceremony

Chief Rodney Dales swore the new Fire Fighters in as follows: "I do solemnly



FIRE MERIT COMMISSION  
Monday, October 28, 2024

swear to faithfully execute the duties as a Probationary Recruit for the Elkhart Fire Department for the next 18 weeks; to selflessly serve the citizens and members of the Elkhart Fire Department with respect, honor, and integrity. I will uphold the mission of the of the Department, the Constitution of the United States of America, the State of Indiana, and the laws, Ordinances, rules and regulations of the City of Elkhart and the Elkhart Fire Department". He congratulated them. The FMC took a recess for photos and family time.

Pinning Ceremony for Division Chief William Sullivan

Division Chief William Sullivan was pinned by his wife. Congratulations Chief Sullivan.

4. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Regina Fultes, seconded by Doug Bowlby and carried 4-0, the City of Elkhart, Indiana Fire Merit Commission was adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ Mandy Leazenby, President

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ Doug Bowlby, Secretary

Elkhart Fire  
500 East Street  
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Fax: (574) 522-1023  
[Fire.Admin@Elkhartfire.org](mailto:Fire.Admin@Elkhartfire.org)



**Rodney Dale**  
*Fire Chief*

**Kristi Sommer**  
*Assistant Fire Chief*

November 25<sup>th</sup> 2024

Fire Merit Commission  
Municipal Building  
229 S. Second Street  
Elkhart, Indiana 46516

RE: Gene Sanders

Dear Commissioners:

I am recommending the promotion of Gene Sanders to the position of Inspector. Gene has satisfied all of the requirements to obtain the position.

Respectfully,

Rodney Dale  
Fire Chief

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*Fire Chief*

Kristi Sommer  
*Assistant Fire Chief*

November 25<sup>th</sup> 2024

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RE: Cory Wise

Dear Commissioners:

I am recommending the promotion of Cory Wise to the position of Captain. Cory has satisfied all of the requirements to obtain the position.

Respectfully,

Rodney Dale  
Fire Chief

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*Fire Chief*

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*Assistant Fire Chief*

November 25<sup>th</sup> 2024

Fire Merit Commission  
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RE: Adam Kuspa

Dear Commissioners:

I am recommending the promotion of Adam Kuspa to the position of Captain. Adam has satisfied all of the requirements to obtain the position.

Respectfully,

Rodney Dale  
Fire Chief

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**Kristi Sommer**  
*Assistant Fire Chief*

November 25<sup>th</sup> 2024

Fire Merit Commission  
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RE: Matthew Girard

Dear Commissioners:

I am recommending the promotion of Matthew Girard to the position of Lieutenant. Matthew has satisfied all of the requirements to obtain the position.

Respectfully,

Rodney Dale  
Fire Chief

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November 25<sup>th</sup> 2024

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RE: Ryan Chris

Dear Commissioners:

I am recommending the promotion of Ryan Chris to the position of Lieutenant. Ryan has satisfied all of the requirements to obtain the position.

Respectfully,

Rodney Dale  
Fire Chief



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November 25<sup>th</sup> 2024

Fire Merit Commission  
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229 S. Second Street  
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RE: Michael Nemes

Dear Commissioners:

I am recommending the promotion of Michael Nemes to the position of Lieutenant. Michael has satisfied all of the requirements to obtain the position.

Respectfully,

Rodney Dale  
Fire Chief

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November 25<sup>th</sup> 2024

Fire Merit Commission  
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RE: Joseph Clawson

Dear Commissioners:

I am recommending the promotion of Joseph Clawson to the position of Lieutenant. Joseph has satisfied all of the requirements to obtain the position.

Respectfully,

Rodney Dale  
Fire Chief

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RE: Shawn Gordon

Dear Commissioners:

I am recommending the promotion of Shawn Gordon to the position of Lieutenant. Shawn has satisfied all of the requirements to obtain the position.

Respectfully,

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Fire Chief

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RE: Nicholas Lievore

Dear Commissioners:

I am recommending the promotion of Nicholas Lievore to the position of Lieutenant. Nicholas has satisfied all of the requirements to obtain the position.

Respectfully,

Rodney Dale  
Fire Chief



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November 25<sup>th</sup> 2024

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RE: Chris Schelle

Dear Commissioners:

I am recommending the promotion of Chris Schelle to the position of Driver/Operator. Chris has satisfied all of the requirements to obtain the position.

Respectfully,

Rodney Dale  
Fire Chief

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RE: Jason Gour

Dear Commissioners:

I am recommending the promotion of Jason Gour to the position of Driver/Operator. Jason has satisfied all of the requirements to obtain the position.

Respectfully,

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Fire Chief

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*Assistant Fire Chief*

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RE: David Blakenship

Dear Commissioners:

I am recommending the promotion of David Blakenship to the position of Driver/Operator. David has satisfied all of the requirements to obtain the position.

Respectfully,

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Fire Chief

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RE: Lane Stevens

Dear Commissioners:

I am recommending the promotion of Lane Stevens to the position of Driver/Operator. Lane has satisfied all of the requirements to obtain the position.

Respectfully,

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Fire Chief



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RE: Andrew Gray

Dear Commissioners:

I am recommending the promotion of Andrew Gray to the position of Driver/Operator. Andrew has satisfied all of the requirements to obtain the position.

Respectfully,

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Fire Chief

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RE: Tyler Heck

Dear Commissioners:

I am recommending the promotion of Tyler Heck to the position of Driver/Operator. Tyler has satisfied all of the requirements to obtain the position.

Respectfully,

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Fire Chief

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RE: Phil Miles

Dear Commissioners:

I am recommending the promotion of Phil Miles to the position of Driver/Operator. Phil has satisfied all of the requirements to obtain the position.

Respectfully,

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Fire Chief

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Fire Merit Commission  
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RE: Derek Englehart

Dear Commissioners:

I am recommending the promotion of Derek Englehart to the position of Driver/Operator. Derek has satisfied all of the requirements to obtain the position.

Respectfully,

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Fire Chief



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November 25<sup>th</sup> 2024

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RE: Marcus Perez

Dear Commissioners:

I am recommending the promotion of Marcus Perez to the position of Driver/Operator, effective November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Marcus has satisfied all of the requirements to obtain the position.

Respectfully,

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Fire Chief

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*Assistant Fire Chief*

November 25<sup>th</sup> 2024

Fire Merit Commission  
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RE: Tia Garnett

Dear Commissioners:

I am recommending the promotion of Tia Garnett to the position of Medic Driver/Operator, effective November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Tia has satisfied all of the requirements to obtain the position.

Respectfully,

Rodney Dale  
Fire Chief

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November 25<sup>th</sup> 2024

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RE: James DeWitt

Dear Commissioners:

I am recommending the promotion of James Dewitt to the position of Medic Driver/Operator, effective November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024. James has satisfied all of the requirements to obtain the position.

Respectfully,

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Fire Chief

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Fire Merit Commission  
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RE: Joshua Patterson

Dear Commissioners:

I am recommending the promotion of Joshua Patterson to the position of Medic Driver/Operator, effective November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Joshua has satisfied all of the requirements to obtain the position.

Respectfully,

Rodney Dale  
Fire Chief



2025  
FIRE MERIT COMMISSION  
MEETING DATES

The Fire Merit Commission meets the second and fourth Monday  
of each month at 3:30 p.m., 2nd Floor, Council Chambers,  
Municipal Building, 229 S. Second Street, Elkhart, Indiana

January	13
January	27
February	10
February	24
March	10
March	24
April	14
April	28
May	12
June	9
June	23
July	14
July	28
August	11
August	25
September	8
September	22
October	13
October	27
November	10
November	24
December	8
December	22