

AGENDA
FIRE MERIT COMMISSION
Monday, January 25, 2021
3:30 P.M.
Council Chambers

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

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll call**
- 3. Approve Agenda**
- 4. Signature Authorization for Commission President**
- 5. Election of 2021 Fire Merit Commission Officers
President, Vice-President, & Secretary**
- 6. Minutes- December 28, 2020**
- 7. Fire Department**
 - Notification of EFD Recruit Class 02-01-2021**
- 8. Public Participation**
- 9. Adjournment**

FIRE MERIT COMMISSION
Monday, December 28, 2020

President Jim Rodino called a regular meeting of the Fire Merit Commission to order at 3:30 p.m., Monday, December 28, 2020. Clerk Nancy Wilson called the role. Commissioner Jim Rodino attended in-person. Commissioners Mandy Leazenby, Cary Miller, and Chris Schelle were present on WebEx.

1. SIGNATURE AUTHORIZATION

On motion by Chris Schelle, seconded by Mandy Leazenby and carried 4-0, the Commissioners authorized President Jim Rodino to sign approvals on behalf of the Fire Merit Commission for this meeting.

2. APPROVE AGENDA

On motion by Cary Miller, seconded by Chris Schelle and carried 4-0, the agenda was approved as presented.

3. MINUTES- November 23, 2020

On motion by Chris Schelle, seconded by Mandy Leazenby and carried 4-0, the Fire Merit Commission approved the minutes from November 23, 2020.

4. FIRE DEPARTMENT

Promotions

Chief Edgerton presented a request to promote Driver/Operator Kevin Lehmann to Lieutenant. On motion by Cary Miller, seconded by Chris Schelle and carried 4-0, Kevin Lehmann was promoted to Lieutenant effective 11-30-20.

Chief Edgerton presented a request to promote Driver/ Operator Chris Wingard to Lieutenant. On motion by Chris Schelle, seconded by Mandy Leazenby and carried 4-0, Chris Wingard was promoted to Lieutenant effective 11-30-20.

Chief Edgerton presented a request to promote Firefighter Steve Kamp to Lieutenant. On motion by Chris Schelle, seconded by Cary Miller and carried 4-0, Steve Kamp was promoted to Lieutenant effective 11-30-20.

Chief Edgerton presented a promotion for Captain Mike Hochstetler to Assistant Battalion Chief. On motion by Chris Schelle, seconded by Mandy Leazenby and carried 4-0, Mike Hochstetler was promoted to Assistant Battalion Chief effective 11-30-20.

Jim Rodino told Chief Edgerton he was contacted by the Police Department last week because they were under the impression the Truth Verification Test had been dropped from the process, and in the meantime they received submittals for testing. Chief Edgerton said that since the Commission did not drop the testing, he contacted Chief Seymore, and Chief Seymore agreed to go ahead with the testing. It is still in the program. Jim Rodino said they divided the testing up between three different Officers to expedite it, and all of the Officers heard the same remarks during the testing to the affect that they did not take it very seriously because they would be hired regardless of the outcome of the Truth Verification test. Chief Edgerton was not sure where they heard those remarks but it was not from him or his Command Staff, it could just be scuttlebutt. They are taking the testing as seriously as they possibly can. There was one individual that was sent back for a polygraph in addition to the

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Truth Verification test. They are taking it extremely serious, it is still in the program and we are using it. Chris Schelle said it concerns him that they are not going to take the job serious and he would like to know where that scuttlebutt came from. Chief Edgerton said he doesn't know where scuttlebutt comes from and he does not spend his time chasing rumors. From his standpoint as the hiring authority, they are taking it very seriously.

Cary Miller asked the Chief how many they are hiring? He said they are hiring eleven or possibly twelve. Cary asked if any of the applicants were disqualified for the truth verification test, and Chief say yes, they had a couple that were disqualified and moved on the next applicant. Chief said they get the results and apply them justly. They are hoping to present them for hire in January 2021. Chris Schelle asked to see the results of the Truth Verification tests. The Chief deferred it to Legal. Rose Rivera said she would check it and proceed from there.

Mandy Leazenby asked the Clerk to email the agenda and the minutes to an address that goes to all of the Firefighters. She noted the City website is very difficult to search. Nancy said she would do that moving forward.

Chris Schelle asked the Chief about Chief McFarland. He learned that he moved from Assistant Battalion Chief to Battalion Chief. Chief Edgerton said he was always Battalion Chief. He changed some shifts and moved him, and those are day to day operational issues.

5. 2021 MEETING CALENDAR

On motion by Mandy Leazenby, seconded by Cary Miller and carried 4-0, the 2021 Meeting Calendar was approved.

6. Public Participation

Councilman Kevin Bullard asked a question on Facebook livestream about the ambulance billing. Chief Edgerton said it is running smoothly. There have been a few wrinkles but it is coming along well. They are very easy to work with and have been very receptive to our concerns.

7. ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Cary Miller, seconded by Mandy Leazenby and carried 4-0, the City of Elkhart, Indiana Fire Merit Commission was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

_____ Jim Rodino, President

Attest: _____ Cary Miller, Secretary



January 8, 2021

To: City of Elkhart Fire Merit Board
From: Shaun Edgerton, Fire Chief Elkhart Fire Department
Re: Notification of EFD Recruit Class 02-2021

Rod Roberson
Mayor

Shaun Edgerton
Fire Chief

Rodney Dale
Assistant Fire Chief

Kristi Sommer
Assistant Fire Chief

Bette Howard
Administrative Assistant

Fire Department
500 East Street
Elkhart, Indiana 46516

Phone: (574) 293-8931
Fax: (574) 522-1023

Email:
fire@elkhartfire.org

Dear Esteemed Fire Merit Commissioners,

It gives me great pleasure in notifying you that Monday, February 1st, 2021 is the tentative start date of your EFD Recruit Class!

Thank you for your oversight and guidance through the complicated hiring process that was started nearly two years ago by Chiefs Carey and Kamp. The following is a list of the few remaining candidates that have passed each and every step of the approved testing process. They have proven themselves worthy to enter the selection phase to be considered for firefighter training for the City of Elkhart. A process that will transform this group into a hard-working and efficient team of firefighters ready to serve this great city. They will be challenged mentally and physically in all aspects of firefighting, rescue and emergency medical services.

Many of these candidates will leave their daily comforts and places of employment to take an oath to serve their fellow citizens and protect lives and property. They do so knowingly and willingly, even in the most severe of times during a global pandemic. And each step of the way, the Fire Merit Board has certified the testing processes, interviews and results that will bring the best forward to serve! Again, thank you!


It is my distinct pleasure as Fire Chief to present,

Theodore Temple,
Nickolas Mammolenti,
Terrance Sherman,
Joshua Patterson,
Brandon Bridwell,

Hunter Price,
Jakyah Qaiyim,
Michael Barry,
Drew Walters,
Andrew Belue,

I encourage you to contact me at your earliest convenience at (574) 293-8931, should you wish to review the Merit Board certified candidates.

Sincerely,


Shaun Edgerton, Fire Chief EFD