

**Minutes of the  
La Porte City Fire Department  
Merit Commission  
April 1, 2020**

The La Porte City Fire Department Merit Commission met telephonically on April 1, 2020, due restrictions being in place to address the Covid-19 pandemic. Present were Commission members, Dr. James Edwards, Edward Gondeck, Miles Fettinger and Gary Travis. Also present was Chief Andrew Snyder .

The meeting was called to order by President Edwards at 6:41 pm. The minutes from the March, 2020 meeting were read and approved.

Chief Snyder opened the meeting, reporting that the City Council had not yet appointed a replacement for Darrell Crites, who resigned effective last month.

Chief Snyder also reported that he had contacted ESCI, the company that provided the tests for the recent promotional examinations. They indicated that they could send copies of the various tests, the correct answers and each candidate's responses. He planned to contact them soon regarding delivery of the materials in order to schedule a test review date for interested candidates.

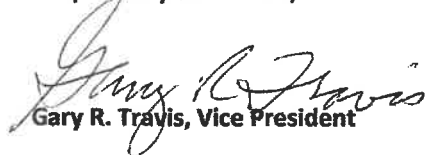
President Edwards provided an update on the new Firefighter candidate application process. Seventeen applications had been returned at the time of the meeting. The application date for submission was extended to May 1st, given the complications created by the Covid-19 mitigation efforts. Dr. Edwards shared that several of the applicants did not include transcripts of their high school records or GPA, reporting difficulties obtaining them with the school corportations being closed. In addition, several had earned GED/TASC certificates, instead of high school diplomas. A motion to suspend the requirements for a high school transcript, GPA and high school diploma until the next testing session in 2022 was made and unanimously approved. It was also decided that applicants with incomplete applications would be allowed to test but would not be eligible for employment until they provided all required information.

President Edwards indicated that the written test was scheduled on May 9th at 8:00 am. Letters were sent to the applicants, informing them of the date and location. Applicants are to report no later than 7:45 am. Dr. Edwards had reserved a conference room at the Holiday Inn Express in La Porte, IN, for \$150, after the school corporation cancelled all reservations through the current academic year. He had also contacted Professor John Coggins, regarding the change in plans. He confirmed his availability.

Chief Snyder shared that signs, informing the public that applications for employment with the La Porte Fire Department were being accepted, had been posted at the Main Fire Station and Eastside.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm. The next monthly meeting will be on May 6, 2020 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Gary R. Travis, Vice President