

**PIKE TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT
MERIT COMMISSION
4881 WEST 71ST STREET
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46268**

President:

Stephen Buschmann

Vice President:

Natrina DeBow

Secretary:

Russell Sipes

Members:

Steve Hendrixson

Nancy Poore

April 19, 2023
Regular Meeting

ATTENDEES:

Merit Commission – Russ Sipes, Nancy Poore, Steve Hendrixson, Stephen Buschmann

Pike Township – Chief Jeff Beam, HRM Kris Harrison

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Copies of the March 15, 2023 minutes were distributed for review. There was a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and approved.

AGENDA/NEW BUSINESS:

The meeting was called to order at 1802 hours.

The meeting began with The Pledge of Allegiance.

MISC. BUSINESS:

Chief Beam presented the 2022 Pike Township Fire Department annual report. He said that after the Commissioners review the report, he would be happy to answer any questions.

The main purpose of the meeting was to get the Merit Commission's opinion regarding promotions and a required certification. Chief Beam gave an overview of the rope rescue requirement. Starting in September 2022, for an officer or firefighter to be permanently assigned to Engine 61 they must have successfully completed a 40-hour rope rescue course. Chief Beam said that the department had offered seven rope rescue classes since 2019 and that 59 merit personnel are currently certified.

The Chief said that an issue occur if the next person on the promotion list does not have the rope rescue certification and the vacancy being filled is the officer position at Engine 61. In this case, he said that he has two options:

1. skip the uncertified person(s) on the list until he reaches a person who has the certification; or
2. promote the next person on the list and require that he/she obtain the certification within the probationary year.

President Buschmann stated that the Commission has no authority on positions, only on promotions. The Merit Commission has the authority to demote a person who does not meet the requirements of the promotion. The Fire Chief can request the demotion at any time during the probationary year and does not have to wait for the full twelve-month period.

Chief Beam stated that since the March meeting, he had promoted two Lieutenants and two Captains.

The meeting adjourned at 1825 hours.