**The September 14, 2023 meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by President, Andrew Dale.**

**Members Present: President, Andrew Dale, Vice President, Linda Gray, Secretary, Andrew Popp, Mike Whited. Others present: Deputy Chief, Robert Mead, Attorney, Rebecca Hollowell, and Recording Secretary, Samara White.**

**Approval of August 10, 2023 Meeting Minutes: Having reviewed the minutes, Linda Gray moved to accept the minutes as presented, Andrew Popp seconded, and the commission accepted the minutes with unanimous vote.**

**Business from Deputy Chief, Burford:**

**1 Year Evaluation for Trey Baer: Deputy Chief, Burford presented the MFMC with Trey Baer’s first year evaluations. After reviewing Trey Baer’s evaluations deemed as excellent, Deputy Chief, Burford, requested for the MFMC to retain Baer as permanent Firefighter, with Muncie Fire Department. As of September 26, 2023, Trey Baer would become a permanent member of Muncie Fire Department with a unanimous vote from the MFMC.**

**Promotions of Captain and Lieutenant:**

**Due Captain, Mike Michael Rector’s retirement on September 11, 2023, opens a rank position of Captain. The next individual on the Captain’s promotional list is Christopher Short. Deputy Chief, Burford, requested that Christ Short would be promoted to the rank of Captain with an effective date of September 12, 2023. Mike Whited made the motion, Secretary Popp seconded and the Muncie Fire Merit Commission voted unanimously to accept to promote Christopher Short to Captain.**

**Christ Short’s promotion would open up a Lieutenants position. The next individual on the Lieutenants promotion list is Todd Pursley. Deputy Chief Burford, asked the merit commission to promote Todd Pursley with the effective date of September 12th, 2023. Mike Whited moved to accept, Secretary Popp seconded, and the Fire Merit Commission made a unanimous vote to accept.**

**Presentation of a Charging Documents:**

**Deputy Chief Burford read a statement from Chief Mead of charging documents to the MFMC. President Dale suggested that the MFMC would take the information presented under advisement and meet in an executive session before taking any formal action as necessary. Secretary Popp, moved to table this discussion, VP Grey, seconded and the MFMC came to an unanimous vote to accept.**

**Union President Chafin, expressed that he has not been presented with any documentation on the matter nor has Benjamin Renz, other than a one-page document stating that he is placed on inactive paid leave. Chafin also said there has been a thorough investigation without any communication with Benjamin Renz and himself.**

**Lateral Transfer Applications: DC Burford asked for the MFMC’s approval to start accepting lateral transfer applications. Secretary Popp moved, Mike Whited seconded, and the MFMC voted unanimously to accept.**

**Business from Attorney, Mark Ervin: None**

**Public Comments:**

**Andrew Popp, asked to withdrawal a letter of resignation from BC Wilkins.**

**Union President, Jason Chafin, spoke on behalf of a firefighter that could not attend the meeting, asking the MFMC to take in consideration changing the age requirements of applicants to meet state code. The current Merit Rules and Procedures states the age requirements being 20 ½ - 36 years of age. New state codes and regulations states the age requirements being 18-40.**

**Union President, Jason Chafin requested the Fire Merit Rules and Procedures to be revised and sent out to the union body.**

**Mike Whited, addressed last months meeting and the issue that was tabled, because there were some people confused, and some were angry. Whited stated that MFMC received two letters of request the day before and the day of the meeting; and letters of requests were something the MFMC doesn’t deal with very often. He also said the members of the fire merit commission take their jobs very seriously and they did not want to make an irrational decision that night, and that was the reasoning of tabling that discussion. Mike Whited wanted to explain, so everyone understood why they could not discuss that matter during that last meeting.**

**Motion to adjourn made by Quiana Clemens at 6:14pm, seconded by Secretary Popp, with unanimous vote to accept.**