

RESOLUTION NO. 2-2024

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE VALPARAISO FIRE TERRITORY, OPTING OUT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MERIT SYSTEM FOR THE VALPARAISO FIRE TERRITORY PURSUANT TO INDIANA CODE SECTION 36-8-3.5-5.5

WHEREAS, pursuant to Indiana Code 36-8-3.5-5.5, an eligible Fire Territory will establish a merit system for its members unless, not later than December 31, 2024, the Board of Directors of the Valparaiso Fire Territory adopts a resolution opting out of the establishment of a merit system which is also approved by a majority of the active full-time, paid members of the fire department.

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Valparaiso Fire Territory ("VFD") is an eligible fire department as defined by Indiana Code 36-8-3.5-5.5(b). VFD has more than twelve (12) active full-time, paid members providing fire protection services to a geographic area that has a resident population of at least twenty thousand (20,000) people.

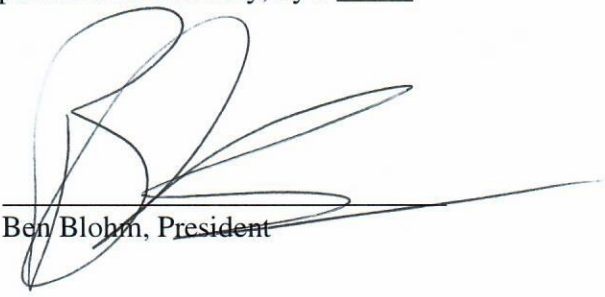
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Valparaiso Fire Territory, that the Fire Territory **opts out** of the establishment of a merit system as allowed by Indiana Code 36-8-3.5-5.5(e).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to Indiana Code 36-8-3.5-5.5(e), the active full-time, paid members of VFD shall now conduct a vote upon whether to opt in or out of the establishment of a merit system as follows:

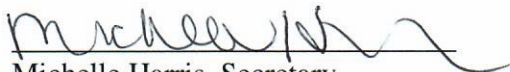
1. The vote shall take place within sixty (60) days after the adoption of this Resolution.
2. The VFD Chief shall give all active members of VFD no less than three (3) weeks' advance notice as to the date, time and process to vote to approve or opt out of the merit system. Notice sent by way of the VFD email system is acceptable.
3. The VFD Chief shall ensure that notice is posted in prominent places in all VFD stations. The notice must designate the time, place and purpose of the vote. Any issues relating to the voting process shall be addressed and resolved by the VFD Chief and VFD Union President. The Fire Territory Attorney may assist, as needed.
4. A copy of this Resolution shall be distributed to each VFD member.
5. Only active members of VFD may vote.

6. If a majority of the active members of VFD vote to accept a merit system, the merit system will be established on January 1, 2025. If a majority of the active members of VFD vote to opt out of the merit system, a merit system will not be established.
7. Nothing in this Resolution shall affect the provisions of any VFD General Order and/or the terms of VFD's Collective Bargaining Agreement.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Valparaiso Fire Territory, by a _____ vote, this 16th day of October, 2024.


Ben Blohm, President

ATTEST:


Michelle Harris, Secretary