

STATE FIRE COMMISSION MEETING

• Stonewall Jackson Conference Center / Resort • Roanoke, WV •

December 7, 2016

The official business meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Chairman Carl Sizemore.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Present

Dave Camp, Carl Eastham, Doug Estep, Phil Hart, Thomas Keefer, Doug Mongold, Jim Oldaker, Ted Shriver, Carl Sizemore, and Virgil White.

Commissioners Absent

Grant Gunnoe, Robert Miller and Vic Stallard.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Consideration of New Fire Department Evaluation System –

Marshal Tyree spoke in regards to the funding application forms and evaluation. He stated the forms utilized today are approximately 5 years old and there has been a concern regarding safety codes for Volunteer and Part Paid Departments.

Marshal Tyree stated he had called the Treasurer's Office in regards to understanding what that office might need from the WVSFMO in regards to reassuring a Department is okay. Marshal Tyree was instructed and referred to 8-15-8a and noted that all 4 items must be met. Marshal Tyree stressed a Department must meet the needs to protect the Commission as a whole and the Fire Departments can be assured they are safe and the Firefighters are able to complete their duties safely. He pressed that the public is assured of safety and efficient equipment.

Marshal Tyree and Counsel Connolly spoke regarding the affidavits from the Fire Chief and Governing Body. The Governing Body meaning the President of the Fire Department Board, etc. Counsel Connolly noted that the evaluation is actually non color coded. Only the SFMO will have a color copy of the evaluation.

Commissioner Mongold inquired about Departments ever receiving a color coded copy and stated that they could perhaps self-evaluate. Commissioner Mongold noted a this seems like big change and feels the Departments would need the opportunity to see and address the evaluation so they as a Department can be prepared and ready for their evaluation when the times comes.

Discussion evolved around the color means and it was emphasized that RED areas are critical life safety issues.

Commissioner Mongold asked questions regarding equipment requirements, more specifically for tankers. Counsel Connolly read aloud the rule. It was noted that an error is found on the evaluation form that states 4 SCBA but rather it should state 2 for tankers. The change will be made by Fire Department Service WVSFMO staff and an updated version provided during the Committee Meeting on Thursday, December 8, 2016.

Counsel Connolly detailed much of the work that a workgroup and the WVSFMO had put into this evaluation process and paperwork.

Commissioner Mongold brought discussion to the table regarding air packs and testing. Perhaps establishing a timeframe after an evaluation to have certain items or equipment be scheduled for service and completed. Commissioners discussed and suggested approximately 30 days after the evaluation.

Discussion evolved around there are only being 2 vendors within the state of West Virginia that perform and do SCBA Flow Testing. Assistant Fire Marshal Scott stated that the vendors are very good about working the Departments. He noted that Departments that are scheduled for evaluation usually get bumped up on the waitlist or perhaps even day of evaluation site visit.

Commissioner Mongold discussed the requirement of annual affidavits. He asked about how many of the 440+/- Fire Departments do not return these forms. Marshal Tyree quoted a little under 100. Marshal Tyree explained and the requirement thereof is of code and not the WVSFMO. It is also a requirement of the Treasurer's Office and State Auditor's Office.

A member of audience spoke and questioned the affidavit and if the treasures office or auditors are willing to accept such affidavit. Counsel Connolly stated and Marshal Tyree quoted and briefed the Treasurer's Office agreement.

Commissioner Oldaker posed the question in regards to the color coding - Red means exactly what? Counsel Connolly explained that where the red falls determines what immediate closure is. Discussion evolved around the topic.

Commissioner Oldaker discussed that if a department fails because of something a department is not in control of such as testing annually and there only being 2 vendors to complete the entire 440 departments within the state, Commissioner Oldaker feels citizens are at risk and not covered.

Commissioner Mongold suggested the WVSFMO perhaps make a form that says the Department is working with such company for testing annually. YEARLY rather than annually. Perhaps the Departments have YEARLY agreement / contract between fire department and vendor.

It is noted the Commission took a brief recess.

Commissioner Mongold noted that counsel Connolly can't find if the requirement of annually or yearly. But will continue to do research.

Commissioner Mongold discussed Assistant State Fire Marshal Scott visiting the Department's verse 4 or 5 assisting. Commissioner Mongold expressed concern that inspections need to do inspections and Fire

Department Services complete Fire Department Service duties. Discussion evolved around Inspector Holben. Commissioner Mongold discussed that there are inspection areas that need inspected and the departments recognize and value Assistant State Fire Marshal Scott as the evaluator. Commissioner Mongold detailed that this is just his thoughts and concerns and opinion in the outstanding job Assistant Fire Marshal Scott performs and completes.

Commissioner Mongold discussed cascading and perhaps adding yellow instead of red for referral to Commission. Marshal Tyree suggested making the question state "Scheduled? YES ... Okay. No ... Something else?"

Discussion evolved around the point system and 70 being the threshold. Deputy Fire Marshal Casto spoke and detailed the point system at 75 and the overall average rather than by individual category.

Commissioner Mongold stated consensus category is individually assessed – 70%.

Discussion in regards to documentation of yearly SCBA testing or annual agreement and the wording change thereof within the evaluation. Again it is noted that WVSFMO staff will make the changes and present to the Committee Thursday, December 8, 2016.

Additional changes to the evaluation include Annual Pump Test, Hose Test Flow Test – Date of Test.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING:

Next Committee Meetings will take place Thursday, December 8, 2016 at the Stonewall Jackson State Park / Resort in Roanoke, WV beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Next regularly scheduled Commission Meeting will take place Friday, December 9, 2016 at the Stonewall Jackson State Park / Resort in Roanoke, WV beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Future meetings are set for February 9th and 10th at WV State Fire Marshal's Office in Charleston, WV and April 20th and 21st in or around Twin Falls, WV.

ADJOURN:

Commissioner Camp made a motion to adjourn at 8:21 p.m. Second by Commissioner White. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.
