

STATE FIRE COMMISSION MEETING

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

December 9, 2016

The official business meeting was called to order at 09:09 a.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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to accept and approve the minutes of the October 14, 2016 meeting. Commissioner White seconded the motion. The ayes and nays have been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

• Fire Department Services Committee

Commissioner Mongold read the Committee Report from Meeting – December 8, 2016 as follows:

Call to Order

Commissioner Mongold called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Roll Call

Members present: Camp, Hart, Oldaker, Sizemore and Mongold.

Members absent: Gunnoe.

Quorum reached.

Old Business

Jefferson County 911 Dispatching Dispute Update – Assistant State Fire Marshal Bradley Scott spoke and stated that Denise with the Jefferson County Emergency Services intends to be in attendance tomorrow at the full Commission Meeting. Mr. Scott read aloud an email from Prosecuting Attorney Nathan Cochran that stated the 911 center and the local Fire Chiefs had resolved the issues that concerned the Fire Commission regarding dispatch. The 911 center is in the process of implementing the changes in

the dispatch procedure that will provide the Chiefs the equipment they request to be dispatched at fire calls.

Although the 911 center only recently received all of the information from the Chiefs that the 911 center needed to fully implement the changes, the changes have now been created and the dispatchers are being trained. The 911 center hopes to have the new procedures implemented by Thursday, December 8, 2016 evening. Mr. Cochran went on to thank the Commission for their direction and cooperation on this issue.

2016-033 Wharnclyffe VFD Update – Assistant State Fire Marshal Bradley Scott spoke and stated that he revisited the Department back in November of 2016. He detailed the evaluation and outcomes that the Department has overcome. It is the staff’s recommendation that the Department be recertified given they have met all the requirements and fixed all deficiencies.

Commissioner Camp made a motion to recommend recertification of Wharnclyffe VFD, second by Commissioner Oldaker. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Chief of Wharnclyffe spoke and stated that his relationship with Assistant State Fire Marshal Scott has been years in existence. He wanted to iterate to the Commission that Assistant State Fire Marshal Scott is a great asset to the WVSFMO. He detailed the work that Mr. Scott contributed hand in hand to helping bring this Department back to life.

New Fire Department Evaluation Updates – Commissioner Mongold noted that a special Commission Meeting was held yesterday discussing only the Evaluation. There are updates for the Commissioners however it is noted that another change needs to be completed and that is the statement that only one air pack per seat is required.

Commissioner Mongold spoke and noted that all matters would come back to the Commission regarding a Department in controversy.

Commissioner Camp suggested that the Department be made aware ahead of time of the scoring system so that they know what is expected in performance and how the scoring system will work. Commissioner Camp made a motion to recommend approval and acceptance of the new Fire Department Evaluation System understanding that the Fire Department Services Divisions uses the scores internally, second by Commissioner Hart. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

New Business

Assistant State Fire Marshal, Bradley Scott presented the Committee with the following applications for Fire Officer I and II.

Jeremy Taylor	Fountain VFD	FO2
Shawn Sampson	Scott Run VFD	FO2
Michael Poe	Grant Town VFD	FO2
Shawn Reinacher	Clearview VFD	FO2
Danny Davis	Webster Springs VFD	FO1 & FO2
Don McCourt	Webster Springs VFD	FO2

Commissioner Camp made a motion to recommend approval to the full Commission of all the aforesaid FO1 and FO2 applications, second by Commissioner Oldaker. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Mr. Scott further presented a list of departments that needed to be recertified after coming out of the 180 day period as follows.

- Hillsboro VFD
- Elk District VFD
- Tri Towns VFD
- Diana VFD
- Scott Run VFD
- Union VFD
- Cairo VFD
- Warren District VFD

Commissioner Hart made a motion to recommend recertification of following ... Hillsboro VFD, Elk District VFD, Tri Towns VFD, Diana VFD, Scott Run VFD, Union VFD, Cairo VFD, and Warren District VFD, second by Commissioner Camp. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

The Chief from Hillsboro VFD was in attendance. Assistant State Fire Marshal Scott spoke about the Department and the displacement it was in when evaluated. Since the new Chief has come about membership has increased to 25 plus and the department has made great strides. The Chief spoke and stated "We've come a long way in a short time. I appreciate you all giving us the time. Without Sparky I don't know that we would have made it. Thank you."

Randolph / Upshur Dual Aid Area Review - Mr. Bob Grandusky spoke and detailed the concerns of himself along with many citizens within his area. Cindy Hart, the Randolph County 911 Director also spoke and explained the dual aid agreement that is in place for the aforesaid areas. Ms. Hart believes the issue is that they request EMS be dispatched at the same time to all calls but the Fire Commission doesn't have authority over EMS.

Commissioner Mongold explained that the agreement would have to come between the 2 fire departments and be voluntary. Ellamore chief spoke regarding the need for dual response not with just EMS but Fire Services.

The individuals stated there was a mutual aid agreement for Randolph and Upshur County. They stated it wasn't necessarily a dual aid but a matter of send the call over then call back etc.

After in-depth discussion Commissioner Mongold suggested sending Assistant State Fire Marshal Scott up in to the area to see about the 2 fire departments and try and work through a resolution and come to an agreement for dual aid.

Commissioner Oldaker made a motion to send Assistant State Fire Marshal Scott up in to the area to see about the 2 fire departments and try and work through a resolution and come to an agreement for dual

aid and report back to the February Commission Meeting. Second by Commissioner Camp. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Bartow Frank Durbin / Cass Dispute – Assistant State Fire Marshal Scott spoke regarding a complaint that was received from Bartow, Frank, Durbin Volunteer Fire Company and Rescue squad. Chief Varner spoke and detailed how visits from the WVSFMO occurred and they established where needs were for substations and equipment and etc. back last year. New boundaries were set by the Commissioner just last December.

Mr. John Rebinski with the Cass VFD spoke and detailed the history of the area, how the purchasing of the land to build on was acquired and the building process.

Counsel Connolly spoke and identified the 2 issues at hand. He detailed law and restrictions for building a bay or building within the boundaries of another department.

Marshal Tyree explained the requirements of approval for building progress by the WVSFMO regardless if it houses EMS or a Fire Truck and that requires sprinklers.

After much in-depth discussion Cass VFD come to the understanding that the building of such in another areas boundaries was not permissible. If further building is necessary for EMS the Department must still maintain the necessary approval from the WVSFMO.

Commissioner Camp made a motion to adjourn at 10:38 a.m., second by Commissioner Oldaker. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to accept the committee's report, seconded by Commissioner Estep. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

• Sub Committee Recruitment and Retention

Commissioner Hart concluded that the Sub Committee Recruitment and Retention did not hold a Committee Meeting. Next regularly scheduled Committee Meeting is set for Thursday, February 9, 2017 at WV State Fire Marshal's Office.

No Committee Report to Report.

• Training Committee

Commissioner White read the Training Committee Report from Meeting – December 8, 2016 as follows:

Call to Order

Committee Chairman Commissioner White called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m.

Roll Call

Members present: White, Eastham, Estep, and Sizemore.

Members absent: Miller and Stallard.

Quorum reached.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Commissioner Estep. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Unfinished Business

Modular Workgroup - Commissioner White stated the Workgroup had not had the opportunity to meeting since the last Commissioner meeting and asked the group to set a date for such. A Workgroup meeting was set for Tuesday, January 17th, 2017 at the WV State Fire Marshal's Office 1st Floor Conference Room.

New Haven VFD Letter – Commissioner White read aloud the letter received and reviewed back in October. Commissioner discussed the need to train interested individuals but sometime the training becomes tiresome and overwhelming causing interested members to drop out and not complete courses ultimately leading to retention issues.

Mr. Tyler Olsen with ISO spoke in regards to Pennsylvania's training and the 5 Modules they utilize to establish and training individuals in Fire Industry from a beginner to an advanced Fire Fighter. It was suggested that Individuals from the Commission, WVU Fire Service Education among others make a visit to Harrisburg, PA and perhaps Kentucky to view the State wide training program they offer.

Further information will be reviewed and discussed during the January Workgroup meeting. Commissioner Estep made a motion that the WVSFMO write and letter in response to the New Haven VFD letter of concern, second by Commissioner Eastham. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

New Business

Staff / Counsel Updates – Nothing to update or report.

WVFSE –Mark Lambert discussed they completed a Pro Board Challenge back in November. Additional Challenges are upcoming. There is a FF1 and FF2 Pro Board Challenge to take place in Sissonville, WV this coming weekend.

RESA / WV Department of Ed – Robbie Bailey spoke and stated that the Escape Conference will take place at Pipestem State Park on February 22-26 2017. There will be a banquet on Saturday evening. Woody Williams will be the guest speaker.

WVSFA – Glen Whittington spoke that they are still seeking memberships. Training is hard. Glen feels if you don't train and keep the interest while in High School you will lose them.

Marshal Tyree spoke regarding a Fire Marshal Academy with WVU. Traditionally it's always been assumed you go to a Fire Academy with premier network courses and classes and become certified. An Academy is something in the works and wants everyone to be mindful.

Adjourn

Commissioner Estep made a motion to adjourn at 11:39 a.m., second by Commissioner Eastham. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to accept the committee's report, seconded by Commissioner

Hart. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

• Legislative, Codes & Regulatory Committee

Commissioner Shriver read the Legislative, Codes & Regulatory Committee Report from Meeting – December 8, 2016 as follows:

Call to Order

Chairman Commissioner Shriver called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m.

Roll Call

Members present: Camp, Shriver, Oldaker, Keefer and Sizemore.

Members absent: Miller.

Quorum reached.

Approval of Agenda

Commissioner Shriver asked if any changes to the agenda. There are none.

Commissioner Keefer made a motion approve the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Camp, with all the ayes and nays having been taken on voice vote, the motion passed.

Delegation

None

Old Business

Provisional Status Updates – Division Deputy Fire Marshal Allan Casto spoke and stated that all provisional status holders are good standing and updates have been provided.

Commissioner Keefer made a motion to recommend the continuation of all current provisional status to the full commission. Seconded by Commissioner Camp, with all the ayes and nays having been taken on voice vote, the motion passed.

Municipality Home Rule Board– Counsel Connolly spoke regarding a meeting with the chair and vice chair regarding the issues and potential issues. A motion to strike was filed. It is the thoughts that there will be a Legislative Rule or wording added that will play effect into the Home Rule Board and the way decisions are made there. It is noted that Counsel will update on a 6 weeks basis.

Commissioner Shriver noted that if the Commission continues with this action there is potential that some cities or municipalities could lose funding and the Commission doesn't want that to happen.

Status of Governor's Bill Modifying WV Code Chapter 29 Article 3 - Counsel Connolly spoke and stated that nothing has been received by the WVSFMO to date.

New Business

Discussion continued from previous Committee Meetings to give the WVSFMO authority to grant and approve Provisional Status requests. WVSFMO would report to the Commission during the following Commission and Committee Meetings the status of any Provisional requests or updates.

Commissioner Keefer made a motion to recommend to the full Commission granting the Fire Marshal a conditional authorization on Provisional Statuses. Seconded by Commissioner Oldaker, with all the ayes and nays having been taken on voice vote, the motion passed.

Consideration of John Metz – Employed by City of Fairmont Provisional Status – Division Deputy Marshal Allan Casto spoke and stated that the Division had received a request from John Metz. Additional paperwork has also been provided by the City. Marshal Casto has foresees no issues therefore recommend approval from the Commission.

Commissioner Camp made a motion to recommend approval of provisional status for John Metz with the City of Fairmont to the full Commission, second by Commissioner Oldaker. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner Keefer made a motion to adjourn at 11:59 a.m., second by Commissioner Camp. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner White made a motion to accept the committee's report, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

• Disciplinary Committee

Commissioner Eastham read the Disciplinary Committee Report from Meeting – December 8, 2016 as follows:

Call to Order

Chairman Commissioner Eastham called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

Roll Call

Members present: Eastham, Hart, Sizemore, and Shriver.

Members absent: Stallard.

Quorum reached.

Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Sizemore made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Commissioner Hart. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Old Business

Consideration of 2015-056 Elk District VFD (Mineral Co.) – Assistant State Fire Marshal Bradley Scott spoke and stated that the Elk District VFD had satisfied all the deficiencies within the department and noted that Fire Department Services had made a motion to recommend recertification to the full Commission tomorrow, December 9, 2016.

Consideration of 2015-057 Tri Towns VFD (Mineral Co.) – Assistant State Fire Marshal Bradley Scott spoke again and stated that the Tri Towns VFD had also completed and satisfied all the deficiencies within the department and again noted that Fire Department Services had made a motion to recommend recertification to the full Commission tomorrow, December 9, 2016.

Consideration of Additional 60 Days – Assistant State Fire Marshal Scott spoke and detailed the progress of departments Hanover VFD, Waverly VFD, Panther VFD, and Roderfield, VFD. Mr. Scott stated that many of the Departments are completed in classroom training and need further time to complete such. It is the WVSFMO Staff recommendation to grant the additional 60 days to complete the deficiencies.

Commissioner Shriver made a motion to recommend to the full Commission an extension of 60 days to Hanover VFD, Waverly VFD, Panther VFD and Roderfield VFD, second by Commissioner Sizemore. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

New Business

Commissioner Sizemore made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 1:12 p.m., second by Commissioner Hart. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner Sizemore made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 2:42 p.m., second by Commissioner Hart. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner Shriver made a motion to find probable cause on 2016-058. Second by Commissioner Sizemore with all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner Shriver made a motion to recommend a 180 day extension to correct deficiencies for Rhodell VFD. Second by Commissioner Sizemore with all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner Shriver made a motion to find probable cause on 2016-059. Second by Commissioner Sizemore with all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner Shriver made a motion to bring Gilmer County VFD to the Full Commission on Friday, December 9, 2016. Second by Commissioner Sizemore with all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Consideration of 2016-005-HI - Commissioner Shriver made a motion to recommend dismissal due to lack of probable cause to the Full Commission on Friday, December 9, 2016. Seconded by Commissioner Hart, with all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Other Disciplinary Issues

Commissioner Shriver made a motion to recommend to the full Commission an extension until the February Commission Meeting to Mannington VFD to correct deficiencies, second by Commissioner Hart. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner Shriver made a motion to adjourn at 2:49 p.m., second by Commissioner Hart, with all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner Estep made a motion to accept the committee's report, seconded by Commissioner White. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner Shriver made a motion to dismiss 2016-005-HI due to lack of probable cause. Seconded by Commissioner Eastham with all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

• Operations Committee

Chairman Sizemore stated that the Operations Committee did not hold a Committee Meeting on December 8, 2016, but would rather like for the Staff to provide their full reports now.

Deputy Fire Marshal Allan Casto spoke for Fire Department Services. Mr. Casto broke down the division into 3 sections within Fire Department Services (Regulatory and Licensing, Public Education and Fire Department Services). Mr. Casto briefly detailed the duties included within each section of his Division.

Marshal Casto provided the following Regulatory and Licensing Section Numbers for the period of October 01, 2016 to December 01, 2016:

Total Licenses Issues: 459
Total Certifications Issued: 42
Total Applications Processed: 422
Total Permits Issued: 64
Online Renewals: 92

Marshal Casto provided the following Regulatory and Licensing Section Numbers for the period of January 1, 2016 to December 1, 2016:

Total Licenses Issues: 18,109
Total Certifications Issued: 267
Total Applications Processed: 2,554
Total Permits Issued: 919
Online Renewals: 6,206

Marshal Casto reported the following for Public Education:

Media Releases – 5

- Poster Contest Winners, announced student winners of first annual poster contest.
- Fairmont Investigation, investigators seeking information in a Nov. fire in Fairmont.
- Daylight Saving Time, change your clocks, change smoke alarm batteries.
- Thanksgiving Safety, a reminder for residents to stay safe during a busy holiday
- Campus Fire Safety, a reminder about student safety on campus after an Illinois student died.

Social Media interactions – 153 new Facebook subscribers since October 1st, weekly safety messages are disseminated through Facebook and Twitter.

December Safety Spotlight Newsletter ready for disbursement .

Website Maintenance – 3 sections – (Public Education, Licensing updates, Laws).

Data Research – Community Risk Reduction in WV – Identifying high risk communities in WV.

Partnerships – 4

- American Red Cross, smoke alarm installations planned for 2017.
- WV Bureau of Senior Services, taped segment on fire safety for the elderly will air.
- WV Community Action Partnership, working to get safety information out to 13 agencies who do home visits for high risk residents. Speaker and vendor opportunities are planned for the future at an annual conference.
- Rite at Home, an in-home care service for seniors has identified high-risk clients, smoke alarms were installed in homes as well as safety information provided.

Public Education Network – 6 new members, 91 total members since April 2016.

Public interactions completed:

Fire Departments – 3

Made visit to Gilmer County Volunteer Fire Department to drop off smoke alarms.

Assisted Malden Volunteer Fire Department with Fire Prevention efforts .

Montgomery Fire Department, made a visit to drop off smoke alarms and information on an install program.

Community Events – 6

Saint Albans Veterans Day Parade.

Campbell's Creek Fire Prevention Event .

Fayette Co. Fire Prevention for kids.

Fallen Firefighters Memorial.

Municipalities Meeting in Beckley for Fireworks and Public Education.

Child Fatality Review Team Meeting – Gave WVSFMO Updates.

Smoke Alarm Installs – 230 since Oct. 1 (630 total alarms installed)

How many counties impacted – 10

- McDowell (Davy VFD, War VFD)
- Fayette (Oak Hill VFD, Ansted VFD)
- Mason (Mason Co. VFD and New Haven VFD)
- Marshall (New Haven VFD)
- Braxton (SFMO install)
- Nicholas (SFMO install)
- Webster (SFMO install)
- Kanawha (Montgomery VFD)
- Gilmer (Gilmer Co. VFD)
- Jackson (SFMO Install)

Completed Projects:

Public Education vehicle is wrapped with safety messages.

First Annual Fire Safety Poster Contest

12 students were honored by the State Fire Marshal's Office as well as the Governor's Office for

their participation in our first annual poster contest. School visits were made by the WV State Fire Marshal to congratulate each student, honorable mention was given to 11 students, a 4th grader from Athens Elementary School in Mercer County was our first place entrant. His artwork and safety message is displayed on the front cover, please enjoy your safety calendar. The calendars will be given to school winners as well as our legislature.

Senior Safety Segment

The West Virginia Bureau of Senior Services segment “The Road Ahead – Senior Living” with Commissioner Robert Roswell invited the State Fire Marshal’s Office on their monthly television series to discuss fire safety and seniors. The 25 minute program will be air in December. It can also be viewed on the Library Commission’s website.

Fire Safety Poster Contest

Our first annual poster contest came to a close. One overall winner, from Athens Elementary School in Mercer County was chosen. Third Grader Will Bryant’s artwork will be displaced on the cover of our Fire Safety calendar, 11 other student entrants received honorable mention and will have their artwork and safety messages displayed in the calendar. Marshal Tyree made visits to student winners and presented them with plaques for their work.

Smoke Alarm Installations

All 1,000 smoke alarms have been distributed to various communities. Installations continue to take place. Paperwork and data is still being collected from several communities. New programs that will be completed in the coming weeks include:

- Oak Hill Fire Department
- Lubeck Fire Department
- Ansted Fire Department

Public Education Accomplishments and Goals 2016-2017 - Overall Year Round Goals.

Work to lower the fire death rate in the state, while being an ambassador for the West Virginia State Fire Marshal’s Office.

Our goal in Public Education FY 2017 is to continue building our strong partnerships and implement action plans around the state with agencies and organizations who will help us spread fire prevention initiative and safety.

Through data evaluations we are identifying our high risk geographic areas and population. We are analyzing this information to target the community risk reduction for our best programs and practices.

We utilize our resources like the media, officials and celebrities in the state to promote the importance of smoke alarms and safety in the home.

While working with the local fire departments, the goal is to provide resources to assure that all residential structures have working smoke alarms.

We will begin an After the Fire Canvassing Program focused initially on fire fatality incidents, providing local fire departments with encouragement and resources to conduct door-to-door offering home fire safety surveys. The fire departments will educate and promote what to do in the event of a fire. In

particular, promote using escape plans and practicing exit drills and having smoke alarms properly installed.

We will utilize fire integration methods to approximate the area of fire origin and victim location to assist in community risk reduction planning. Canvassing and interviewing friends, family members and neighbors to develop better social demographics on victims where identifiable habits like hoarding and smoking, or mental status and education factors into the way we assess future risks.

This focused approach will be promoted throughout the next 12 months in an effort to support fire prevention in the most comprehensive effort ever in West Virginia. The State Fire Marshal's Office will continue to use data from fire reports, news media articles, investigation reports, and other means to track the fire mortality rate. Maps utilizing GIS technology to analyze social economic conditions and fire mortality data collected over the past 6 years will be studied to further our reach in target areas. The targets are specific – not only locally identified, but developed from census tracts at the street level. Special emphasis will be placed on these areas with individualized programs developed to address local issues.

2016 Public Education Activities

Media Releases – 16

- Heating and Fire Safety in the month of February after several fire fatalities.
- Information request regarding a Huntington house fire.
- Spring Daylight Saving, reminder to change smoke alarm batteries.
- Consumer Fireworks becomes law in West Virginia.
- Release and promotion of First Annual Fire Safety Poster Contest.
- Fire Prevention Week 2016.
- Barbour County arson investigation.
- Fatal fire in Mineral County.
- Marmet Volunteer Fire Department was recognized for their rescue of a young child.
- Fire Fatality information from Raleigh County.
- Arson Awareness campaign information.
- Poster Contest Winners, announced student winners of first annual poster contest.
- Fairmont Investigation, investigators seeking information in a Nov. fire in Fairmont.
- Daylight Saving Time, change your clocks, change smoke alarm batteries.
- Thanksgiving Safety, a reminder for residents to stay safe during a busy holiday.
- Campus Fire Safety, a reminder about student safety on campus after an Illinois student died.

Social Media interactions – 1,195 new Facebook subscribers since Jan. 1st, 2016. An upward trend has continued from January – December 2016. Weekly safety messages are disseminated through our two social media accounts, Facebook and Twitter.

Growth in Subscribers to State Fire Marshal Facebook Page



Safety Spotlight Bi-Monthly Newsletter- Our bi-monthly newsletter is sent out to our Public Education Network that includes fire departments, media contacts, agency personnel and outside organizations. Safety information, ongoing projects, and resources are all included in our publication.

- April 2016
- June 2016
- August 2016
- October 2016
- December 2016

Website - Updates and new information has been added to the Public Education section, licensing updates have been made, law changes, consumer firework section created, spotlight banner sections updated quarterly and contributions to news and announcements.

Data Research –

- Community Risk Reduction in WV – Identifying high risk communities in WV.
- Five Year Fire Trend
- Fire Fatalities

Partnerships –

- American Red Cross, smoke alarm installations in 2016 and planned for 2017.
- WV Bureau of Senior Services, taped segment on fire safety for the elderly will run on their monthly TV program, The Road Ahead, Senior Living.
- WV Community Action Partnership, working to get safety information out to 13 agencies who do home visits for high risk residents. Speaker and vendor opportunities are planned for the future at an annual conference.
- Rite at Home, an in-home care service for seniors has identified high-risk clients, smoke alarms were installed in homes as well as safety information provided.
- Charleston Fire Department, sharing Public Education and Fire Prevention materials and information.
- Governor’s Highway Safety Program, attended a seat belt challenge in September. Working to share information between the two agencies.
- Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, office staff inquired about smoke alarms, helping with information dissemination, and assisted with 24 smoke alarm installations.

Public Education Network – 95 new members since April 2016.

Smoke Alarm Installs –630 total alarms installed since January 1st, 2016. The following departments have partnered with the state fire marshal’s office and completed installations:

- Davy Volunteer Fire Department
- War Volunteer Fire Department
- Mason County Volunteer Fire Department
- New Haven Volunteer Fire Department
- Gilmer County Volunteer Fire Department
- Ravenswood Volunteer Fire Department
- South Charleston Fire Department
- Pinch Volunteer Fire Department
- Kermit Volunteer Fire Department
- Lenore Volunteer Fire Department

Fire Departments that have ongoing programs with the state fire marshal’s office:

- Oak Hill Volunteer Fire Department
- Lubeck Volunteer Fire Department
- Ansted Volunteer Fire Department
- Montgomery Fire Department
- Milton Volunteer Fire Department

Public Education Accomplishments FY 2016

February:

Completed a 6 day training at the National Fire Academy “Changing American Family at Risk”

March:

Established a Public Education Network, reached out to fire departments across the state through email and phone calls.
Collaboration with the American Red Cross to do smoke alarm installations, as well as engaging fire departments to get involved.
Attended the Vision 20/20 Conference concerning Community Risk Reduction programs across the county.

April:

Began visiting Network Partners and counties to include them in Community Risk Reduction, Public Education and fire prevention awareness.
Began a bi-monthly newsletter, “Safety Spotlight”.

May:

West Virginia Public Safety Expo – Set up as a vendor, got training in Community Risk Reduction and NFPA training. Met with Public Education Network partners.
Began firework Public Service Announcements and safety campaigns.

June:

Firework Safety messages including the media and social media platforms were used to bring awareness to the new law passed June 1st.

Attended Jr. Firefighter Camp.

NFPA Expo and Convention held in Las Vegas, received training in fire prevention programs.

July:

First Annual Fire and Life Safety Poster Contest was created and disseminated to all 55 West Virginia County Board of Education Offices to disseminate to approximately 401 elementary schools across the state.

August:

Preparation for Fire Prevention and Emergency Preparedness weeks, included scheduling and setting up safety booths and talks.

Assisted with smoke alarm installs in McDowell County. (100 installed)

Attended Annual West Virginia State Firemen's Association Convention, recruited for the Public Education Network.

Participated with dissemination of Charleston Fire Departments demonstration of the "Eyes Shut, Doors Shut" campaign.

September:

Assisted fire departments to establish smoke alarm installation programs in their communities
Created a 12 hour, two-day Fire Educator Program.

Made a Fire Prevention tab on WV SFM website to use as resources for departments and residents.

Began working with the Charleston Gazette-Mail on a Fire Prevention Week safety newspaper insert.

October:

Wood County Fire School – taught a two day, 12 hour Fire Educator class.

Fire Prevention Week – attended fire prevention events, completing an NFPA annual requirement.

5 year trend of WV Fire Deaths using Geographic Information.

November:

The West Virginia Bureau of Senior Services segment "The Road Ahead – Senior Living" with Commissioner Robert Roswell invited the State Fire Marshal's Office on their monthly television series to discuss senior safety. The 25 minute program will be air in December.

Website updates in Public Education, created an easier page to navigate.

December:

Creating Community Risk Reduction information packet for fire departments and investigators with a focus on fatal fires.

Disseminating information on Carbon Monoxide Detectors and Alternative Heating.

Training FY 2016:

- Hazardous Material Response – Awareness Level – 4hour course
- National Fire Academy – Changing American Family at Risk – 6 day course
- Vision 20/20 National Model Performance in Fire Prevention Symposium, 3 day conference

- American Pyrotechnician Association – Consumer Fireworks – 1 day
- West Virginia Public Safety Expo – Community Risk Reduction – 1 day course
- West Virginia Public Safety Expo- National Fire Protection Association’s “Remembering When” – 3 hour course.

Committees:

- State Public Education Representative for National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).
- State Representative for Vision 20/20 Fire Strategies for Fire Loss Prevention .
- Administrator of all social media interactions.
- WV Office of EMS Children’s Advisory Board task force.
- Monthly Child Fatality Review Board meetings.
- Testing certifications issued to tobacco manufacturers under the Fire Safe Cigarette Certification program.

Public Education Goals FY 2017 - (month by month, tentatively)

January:

Will attend the National Fire Academy Course Urban Fire and Life Safety - Issues and Solutions from January 22nd-27th.

Attendee at the West Virginia Community Action Partnership Board meeting with the State Fire Marshal to discuss home safety programs and smoke alarm installs to the various 16 agencies they serve.

Red Cross Partnership to install smoke alarms as a part of a community service initiative the weekend prior to Martin Luther King Day.

February:

Organize Public Education regional network meetings to discuss programs available to them through the West Virginia State Fire Marshal’s Office. These Community Risk Reduction programs will include home safety checks, smoke alarm installations, etc.

March:

Assist Red Cross in training partners for a large scale smoke alarm project (WVU Ext. Programs, County Commissions, County Office of Emergency Management, WV Community Action agencies, senior programs, children’s agencies and programs) .

April:

Spring Initiative, “Get Alarmed West Virginia” with fire departments to install smoke alarms. Will create an online portal through the State Fire Marshal website for residents to request a free alarm, with installation provided by their local department. Participating departments and volunteers will receive challenge coins for their efforts and commitment.

May:

West Virginia Public Safety Expo participation will include setting up as a vendor and training opportunities from an expert on risk reduction and management. Possible presenter for statewide Community Risk Reduction plan.

West Virginia Community Action Partnerships Annual Conference – vendor and speaker opportunities.

Second Annual Fire Safety Poster Contest begins with reaching out to county schools.

June:

Junior Firefighter Camp Presentation on fire prevention and fire educators and the importance of that role in the fire service.

4th of July Fireworks campaigns using social media and Public Service Announcements. Use local fire departments and industry suppliers to set up firework displays for promotional safety purposes.

July:

Attend the Boy Scout Jamboree in Fayette County as a vendor.

August:

Fire Safety Poster contest packet dissemination to all county school boards.

Fire Prevention preparation – public service announcements, advertisement with Gazette-Mail to republish a 16 page fire prevention and safety tab.

September:

Governor's Day of Service – Large scale statewide smoke alarm installation rally campaign with several partners.

Preparations for Fire Prevention Week.

Record fire safety and fire prevention radio ads with West Virginia Metro News to share on Friday nights during football coverage.

October:

Instructor for Fire Educator at the Wood County Fire School. This will be a 12hour two day course.

Fire Prevention Week Activities – engaging fire departments across the state, providing information for resident about what activities are taking place. Themes for Fire Prevention week and month:

Week One – Theme to be determined by NFPA.

Week Two – Cooking Safety.

Week Three – Escape Plans.

Week Four – Halloween Safety .

Newspaper insert from the Gazette-Mail for Fire Prevention Week – planning to be put in the Sunday to reach more readers.

November:

Winter and holiday safety initiatives through public service announcements, reaching out to the media. Contact senior centers and fire departments with weekly safety information about home heating as well as Thanksgiving safety.

December:

Working with partners to do a weatherization outreach for seniors, focusing on carbon monoxide detectors and alternative heating as well as getting smoke alarms.

Deputy Fire Marshal Joe Leake spoke for the Fire Inspection and Plan Review Division. Mr. Leake described the Divisions job duties in brief detail.

Marshal Leake provided the following Fire Safety Inspection & Plans Review Division Numbers for the period October and November, 2016:

1010 Inspections Conducted
165 Plans Reviewed
29 Occupancy Permits Issued
391 Licenses Checked

Marshal Leake provided the following Fire Safety Inspection & Plans Review Division Numbers for the period January thru November, 2016:

6912 Inspections Conducted
1225 Plans Reviewed
225 Occupancy Permits Issued
3096 Licenses Checked

Fireworks: checked the following during last week of June and first week of July

312 Facilities
63 Pyrotechnician licenses
63 Displays

Complaint Investigations:

Investigated sixty-two (62) fire code complaints
Investigated eleven (11) electrical complaints
Investigated nine (9) licensing complaints resulting in six (6) citations
Investigated five (5) fireworks complaints
Investigated three (3) blasting complaints

Training:

Four (4) divisional personnel attended a Sprinkler/Standpipe Class at the Ohio Fire Academy
Conducted training for new personnel on legislative rules enforced by this office
Divisional members attended a one day training on the New Fireworks Rule and NFPA 1124
Divisional members attended a one day APA fireworks class
Divisional members attended a one day seminar on the 2014 National Electric Code update
Divisional members attended four days of training at the Safety EXPO
Divisional members completed spring semi-annual firearms qualifications
Five divisional members completed a two day sprinkler design class at the Ohio Fire Academy
One divisional member attended a one day Pipeline Safety class
Six members attended a one day electrical code class sponsored by the International Association of Electrical Inspectors
Two divisional members completed an advance two-week Fire Inspection class at the National Fire Academy
Three members completed a week long ATF Fire Investigation Class
New employees completed firearms training and qualifications
Six divisional personnel attended IAAI electrical fire investigation class in Morgantown
One divisional member attended radio programming class at the SIRM Conference
Divisional members completed a two day class on Search and Seizure laws
Divisional members completed nighttime firearms qualifications
Divisional members attended an eight hour class on fireworks at the WV Fire Marshal's Association in Beckley

Assisted the Investigation Division on a fire fatality in Mingo County and large loss fire in Tucker County.
Assisted the Investigation Division on a fire fatality in Berkeley and Great Cacapon Volunteer Fire Department station.

Assisted the Investigation Division on a fire fatality in Fayette County.
Assisted Fire Investigation Division with fire in Grant County.

Investigated accidental fire in Cabell County.
Investigated an accidental fire in a Wirt County school (heating unit).
Investigated an accidental fire in a Mercer County day care.
Investigated an accidental fire in a Wyoming County school.
Investigated an accidental fire in a Mercer County nursing home.
Investigated an accidental fire in a Putnam County Assisted Living facility.

Court hearings:

- Braxton County – Regional Jail inmate (guilty plea)
- Kanawha County – Regional Jail inmates
- Braxton County – Dismissed (due to death of defendant)
- Braxton County – Conviction for tampering with sprinkler heads

Obtained warrants for certain inmates at the Potomac Highlands Regional Jail ref. damage to sprinkler system.

Citation issued in Mercer County to individual performing electrical work without a license.
Obtained criminal complaints for inmates at North Central Regional Jail – tampering with sprinkler heads.

Issued citations for performing electrical work without a license in Ohio County (not related to a complaint).

Monitored blasting demolition of bridge in Summers County.
Conducted routine blasting check in Jefferson and Monongalia Counties.
Conducted explosive magazine inspections in Hampshire County.
Set up seismographs and monitored explosion of smoke stack and building across from Moundsville.

Conducted follow up evaluations of Benwood VFD and Fork Ridge VFD.
Assisted Fire Department Services with an evaluation of East Bank Fire Department.

Administered thirty-four (34) licensing tests.

Represented the Office at Romney Fire Department Awards Banquet.

Provided a Fire Prevention presentation to Marion County Vo-Tech students.

Fire Safety presentation to school maintenance personnel at state conference in Morgantown.

Two members served as Judges in a Vo-Tech skills competition in Monongalia County.

Provided an update on the new State Fire Code legislation to the West Virginia Gas Association.
Taught a fire safety/inspection class to Department of Correction personnel.

Taught a two day basic inspection overview class for the Paid Chiefs seminar in Clarksburg.
Participated in the Eastern Panhandle blasting seminar.

Monitored Show Choir events in Cabell and Raleigh Counties.

Conducted exit checks at various basketball games.

Assisted State Police with fireworks seizure in Cabell County.

Surveyed flood damage to schools in Kanawha and Nicholas Counties.
Checked on placement of residents from Richwood and Harrisville nursing homes due to flood damage.
Had electrical power disconnected to two marinas in Monongalia County due to electrical damage from flood.

WVU Football Stadium game day inspections and after game details.
Marshall University Football Stadium game day inspection details.

Commissioner Shriver questioned Division Deputies as to how this year's results compare to last years.
Marshal Leake noted that the numbers are about the same even with 1 position still open within the Inspection Division and 1 recently hired individual.

Marshal Tyree spoke for Investigations. He detailed the work of fires, explosion, firework mishaps, assisting in Inspection Division and Fire Department Services. Marshal Tyree explained the Investigation Division handles all criminal aspects of a fire, making arrests and assisting other law enforcement agencies when requested. Investigations responds to all fatality fires.

Marshal Tyree provided the following Investigation Division Numbers for the period October 1 to November 30, 2016:

Total number of Fires: 107
Accidental: 9
Incendiary: 26
Undetermined: 72

Marshal Tyree provided the following Investigation Division Numbers for the period January 1 to November 30, 2016:

Total number of Fires: 613
Accidental: 65
Incendiary: 121
Undetermined: 426
Natural: 1

Fatality Total 01JAN16 to 30NOV16 – 49
Injury Total 01JAN16 to 30NOV16 – 49

Total \$ loss 01AUG15 to 30SEP15 - \$31,738,150.00
Agriculture – \$20,000.00

Assembly – \$821,350.00
Detention/Corrections – \$50.00
Educational - \$250.00
Field/Woods – \$60,500.00
Manufacturing – \$1,550,000.00
Mercantile - \$5,651,000.00
Mining – \$1,800,000.00
Multi-Use Property – \$885,000.00
Office/Business – \$1,211,725.00
Open Areas – \$30.00
Other Structures - \$796,400.00
Outside / Special Properties - \$30,950.00
Religious – \$1,365,000.00
Residential - \$17,197,445.00
Storage - \$1,908,100.00
Vehicles -\$440,350.00

Total \$ loss 01AUG15 to 30SEP15 that are declared Incendiary - \$1,179,200.00

Total number of fire cleared by arrest or exceptional means – 39

Fire Marshal Tyree gave the overall Operations Report for the WV SFMO.

Marshal Tyree noted and discussed the following

- Visits to Award SFMO Fire Safety Poster Contest Place Winners
 - 55 student participants represented 18 counties.
 - Winner from Mercer Co. 4th grader.
 - Calendar to be distributed to winning students, family, teachers, principals, ea. Co. Supt of Schools; Legislature, Governor Office, Judging Agencies.
 - Rec'd permission from Ethics Comm. to sale - this yr. due to initial denial purchasing portal was not ready.
 - Propose quickly informing public of their availability for purchase.
 - Challenge each of the organizations you represent to make purchase with proceeds going to WV Fallen Firefighter Memorial Fund.
 - Any other ideas/suggestions.

- Past Tuesday, LRMC for Fireworks Rule consideration; Monday met with Chief of Staff Stadelman, Joey Garcia, Deputy Secretary Bailey to iron out a few concerns: During LRMC meeting other modifications were required.

- As a part of participation on the Commission on Oil and Natural Gas Industry Safety; working with Antero Resources and JH Consulting completed "Best Practices" documents for Response

to Oil, Natural Gas, Pipeline Emergencies; submitted to Governor's Office; Place Information on Website; Produce Document for dissemination to all FDs. Document topics include:

- Pre-emergency planning (attached)
 - Hazardous atmosphere release, non-fire
 - Fire
 - Special rescue
- Concerning the Assistant Fire Marshal Deputization program, application needs reformatted and produced; will release packets in January and based on applications received plan to have 1 day orientation class in the spring.
 - Working to make things more efficient for customers and employees and are working toward using the "Lock Box" system for invoicing and payment receipt (State Treasury Dept.) next year starting this coming March. Also, doing research for online or web-based technology for use throughout the agency for Inspections, Plans Review, All Regulatory and Licensing Programs, Public Education, and Fire Investigation.
 - Personnel Staffing:
New Employee- Ronald Williams (Inspection Division). Resignation of LaTara Seagraves (Secretary – Inspection Division).

Have two new Fire Marshal 3 promotions in Investigation Division: George Harms and Scott Rodes were selected and approved for the positions. Few other pending promotions awaiting approval amongst the sworn staff.

We have 7 vacancies within the agency (2 Investigators, 1 Inspectors, 1 Plans Reviewer and 2 Public Information Specialists – Posting Pending); we're hopeful to get all vacancies filled NLT March 2017.

- Policy Update:
 - 9006 Social Media Policy
 - 3015 Hours, Schedules and Overtime - based on Leg. Audit Rpt
 - 3002 Personal Grooming and 3002A Dress and Uniforms - update
 - 1005 Job Description Revisions – update DOP class spec approvals
 - 4002 Master Training and Career Progression Plan – update same ^
- Consumer Fireworks Executive Summary and Fireworks Program Legislative Report. Reports provided
 - \$740,000 Total Revenue for Vets \$555K; FDs \$185K;
 - \$199K SFMO Licenses/Fees \$38K Cost Exp. For 1st Program w/development cost.
- Fire Department Loss of Funding: 0 for this past quarter

- a. (The two deadlines involved are the quarter deadline and then 90 days later, the grace period deadline. Other than being decertified, not submitting their NFIRS incident reports by the prescribed due date is the only way to lose their funding. It has nothing to do with the 180 day issue. Once they miss the grace period deadline, the money is lost and reallocated to the departments that were in compliance. There is no getting it back after that.)
- Visits and Meetings Attended:
 - State Fire Marshals Forum
 - National CRR Summit
 - Phil Hart, Rep. for State Fire Chiefs
 - IFMA Board Meeting
 - Letter to NFPA from Congressman David McKinley concerning the 10 year replacement of PPE per 1851; financial burden placed on VFDs; made req. for consideration of exception for VFDs with fire call volumes which would be considered low. Just wanted you to know the inquiry was made for the concern.
- Training:
 - Firearm Fall (night time) Qualifications were conducted November 15-16
 - Search & Seizure Training- Steve Connolly on November 16-17
 - Preparations being made for WV Public Safety Expo
 - NFPA 25 class; ITM for Water Based Fire Prot. Systems
 - Investigating Youth Set Fires
 - Community Risk Reduction for all fire svc levels & other community partners (possibly tie WV Fire Safety Summit close to the Expo)
- Challenge Coin
- Annual Report Submitted October 31st; phenomenal work by the members of agency reflected.
 - Look at the outcome instead of the output of this body of work, safer structures and environments, good customer service, and quality work in all areas.
- WV Community Risk Assessment; part of overall CRR plan
- Next week, Teleconf meeting for possible WV Fire Safety Summit
 - If selected based on commitment to host would be 1 of 4 states selected
- Lots of great work done this year; there's lot of work items that we should try to improve any concerns such as salaries, workers comp and incentives for recruitment and retention; Electrician Rule Stakeholders Meetings and Rewrite; also looking to restructure the Fire Officer Orientation class to revise and include NFIRS Reporting, Data Importance, and Overview of Community Risk Reduction for all levels of the Department.

- Marshal Tyree publicly commended the staff and their contribution to the agency. This is not a one man or woman show but a collective body of individuals who take pride in their work, setting goals and achieving them for the whole purpose of contributing our best by listening and learning and figuring out ways to improve in whatever challenges we face. Still have much to do and will continue to progress by prioritizing and addressing every aspect of our agency to make it better. Marshal Tyree thanked the group for this opportunity and working together and he believes the best is yet to come.

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to accept the Operation Committee's report, seconded by Commissioner White. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Consideration of Jefferson County Boundary / Dispatching Dispute – Jefferson County Prosecuting Attorney Nathan Cochran spoke to the Commission and group. He reported that the 911 center and the local Fire Chiefs have resolved the issues that concerned the Fire Commission regarding dispatch. The 911 center has implemented the changes in the dispatch procedure that will provide the Chiefs the equipment they request to be dispatched at fire calls.

Although the 911 center only recently received all of the information from the Chiefs that the 911 center needed to fully implement the changes, the changes have now been created and the dispatchers are being trained.

A letter that was received from Chief Ross Morgan with Shepherdstown Fire Department was read aloud and quoted, "West Virginia State Fire Commissioners, first I would like to apologize for not attending this meeting but my work schedule prohibited it. Following up on the Jefferson County Communications center dispatching issues I am pleased to advise you that beginning Wed Dec 7, the communication center is now using the updated revised cards to dispatch the appropriate apparatus and resources to all seven fire departments/companies with in Jefferson County. These pre-determined units were created and agreed on by all seven Fire Chief's.

I do realize and expect that there will be some growing pains and mistakes made with this transition but feel very confident that this will only be for a short time. Even though this issue has been corrected, I know there are still other problems but rest assure that I will be closely monitoring them and will not hesitate for your assistance if needed. In closing I would like to thank all the Fire Commissioners, Marshall Tyree, Assistant Marshall Scott and others for your support in resolving this issue. It is comforting to know that even with all the modern technology, there are still individuals like yourselves that still has common sense and good judgement. If there is anything that I or the Shepherdstown Fire Department can do for you, please do not hesitate to contact us. Sincerely, Chief Ross L. Morgan, Shepherdstown Fire Department."

Commissioners thanked the entire staff of Jefferson County for their attention diligent work on the matter for the citizens of Jefferson County.

Denise Pouget addressed the Commission and thanked them for their guidance, patience and support.

Commissioners noted that this issue is resolved and will be removed from the Agendas as an agreement has been met.

Consideration of 16-002-HI – Lee Harless – Counsel Connolly stated that Mr. Harless remains incarcerated at this time.

Commissioner Shriver made a motion to table the consideration of 16-002-HI Lee Harless to the February, 2017 Commission Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Consideration of Wharncliffe VFD 2016-033 – Assistant State Fire Marshal Bradley Scott spoke and stated that the Department was discussed in the Fire Department Services Committee and such Committee made the recommendation to approve recertification to the full Commission.

Commissioner Keefer made a motion to accept and approve recertification of Wharncliffe VFD, second by Commissioner Eastham. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Consideration of Home Rule Board Rulings – Counsel Connolly noted updates will be provided approximately every 6 weeks and he intends to provide an update in January, 2017.

Consideration of 2015-056 Elk District VFD – Assistant State Fire Marshal Bradley Scott spoke and stated that Fire Department Services Committee made the recommendation to recertify Elk District VFD, given they have met and corrected all the deficiencies.

Commissioner White made a motion to accept and approve Recertification of Elk District VFD. Second by Commissioner Eastham with all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Consideration of 2015-057 Tri Towns VFD – Assistant State Fire Marshal Bradley Scott spoke and stated that Fire Department Services Committee made the recommendation to also recertify Tri Towns VFD, given they too have met and corrected all the deficiencies.

Commissioner White made a motion to accept and approve Recertification of Tri Towns VFD. Second by Commissioner Mongold with all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Consideration of New Fire Department Evaluation – Commissioners discussed briefly. Chairman Sizemore noted that a special Commission Meeting was held Wednesday, December 7, 2016 evening. Commissioners at that time made recommendations for changes and such were updated and provided back to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to accept and approve the New Fire Department Evaluation system and forms, seconded by Commissioner Oldaker. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Consideration of Mini Distillery as Farm Structure When on Agricultural Property – Counsel Connolly spoke and briefed the Commission on the topic and correspondence received. Discussion was that the facility only operates 6 months out of the year. It operates as a farm and given the current status is grandfathered in. Questions arose regarding the storage. Commissioners asked WVSFMO staff about

rules regarding storage. While it is uncertain staff will review and report back. It was noted that Division Deputy Marshal Leake noted that the operation meetings the definition of a farm structure.

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to table the discussion to the February 2017 Commission Meeting. Second by Commissioner Keefer, with all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Consideration of 2016-011 Hanover VFD and Consideration of 2016-014 Waverly VFD – Assistant State Fire Marshal Scott spoke and detailed the progress of departments Hanover VFD, and Waverly VFD. Mr. Scott stated that the Departments are completing in classroom training and need further time to complete such. The two Departments are requesting an additional 60 days to complete the deficiencies. Mr. Scott also noted that the Disciplinary Committee made a motion to recommend to the full Commission an extension of the 60 days.

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to grant an extension to Hanover VFD to the February, 2017 Commission Meeting, second by Commissioner Eastham. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to grant an extension to Waverly VFD to the February, 2017 Commission Meeting, second by Commissioner White. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Consideration of Fire Prevention Poster Contest Calendars & Ethics Commission Opinion – Marshal Tyree spoke and stated the Ethics Commission had basically concluded that the WV State Fire Marshal's Office may sell the aforesaid Calendars and donate the revenue from such to the WV Fallen Firefighter's Memorial Fund.

The WV Ethics Commission also concluded that the WV State Fire Marshal's Office may not set up a donations portal on the Agency website to receive funds for Public Education and Awareness efforts.

Marshal Tyree provided a copy of the First Annual Fire Prevention Poster to the Commissioners. Commissioners were very receptive of the project and many voiced eagerness to continue the project.

NEW BUSINESS:

Consideration of Randolph / Upshur Dual Aid Area Review - Mr. Bob Grandusky had forwarded to the WVSFMO a letter requesting to speak to the Commission regarding the response between two departments of which is believed to have dual aid agreement. Mr. Grandusky spoke that citizens of Ellamore had submitted signatures to the County Commission asking for assistance in the matter. An audio record was presented to the Commissioners that detailed a call that had taken place. The caller called one area 911 of which in turned took several minutes to call another 911 dispatch to try and identify the Department that should be dispatched. Ellamore retired Chief spoke and stated that his Department has tried to send several letters and certified letters that have gone unnoticed and not responded to. The citizens, chief and others are asking the Commission to reach out to the Coalton VFD and ask for correspondence and resolution.

After much in depth discussion Commissioner following Fire Department Services Committee recommendation and have Assistant State Fire Marshal Bradley Scott visit the area and meet with both Chiefs. Perhaps have the Chiefs come together and attempt to hatch out a resolution.

Commissioner Shriver made a motion to send Assistant State Fire Marshal Scott up in to the area to see about the 2 fire departments and try and work through a resolution and come to an agreement for dual aid and report back to the February Commission Meeting. Second by Commissioner Camp. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Consideration of Bartow Frank Durbin / Cass Dispute – Commissioner Sizemore noted the discussion from Fire Department Services and Counsel again noted the understanding is that the building of a structure to house and dispatch Fire Apparatus and etc. within another Departments boundaries is not permissible. Should the building house EMS or Fire Apparatus it would be required to have sprinklers and follow building procedures with the WV SFMO.

Consideration of Fellowsville VFD / Line of Duty Death Recognition Mr. Pete Frazier – Mr. Pete Frazier addressed the Commission and spoke regarding a particular incident that involved of his members. Mr. Frazier was seeking the support of the Commissioners and the path or direction he should take to perhaps have the issue addressed by Legislation. Mr. Frazier made many good points that sparked the minds of all in attendance. ‘As First Responders do we or do we not have an obligation to act and provide the services we are trained with?’ Mr. Frazier quoted.

Commissioners were very understanding of the issue at hand. Commissioner Eastham suggested Mr. Frazier check into the WV Fireman’s Association for support and suggested he reach out to Delegates and Legislative as a front.

Commissioners voiced concern with Workers Compensation rates relating to such. Other Commissioners suggested to Mr. Frazier the Professional Firefighters Association of WV.

Consideration Supreme Court of Appeals Opinion for City of Wheeling – Counsel Connolly provided the article for Commissioners. Positive feedback was received and the discussion evolved a very good feeling for all fire fighters in the State of WV. Counsel Connolly stated that the Supreme Court of Appeals issued the opinion in a case against the City of Wheeling concerning a lawsuit which implicated the Fire Department, the Water Department and the City itself. The Opinion gives 3 new Points of Law that solidifies in West Virginia that fire department suppression activities (including hydrants and water flow) are covered by statutory immunity. Counsel noted this is HUGE and should give the fire service family a little comfort that they are generally immune from suit for doing their job.

Commissioner Shriver made a motion to approve the Provisional Status request for John Metz with the City of Fairmont as recommended by the Committee and Staff. Seconded by Commissioner White. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on voice vote, the motion passed.

Consideration of Robert Light Jr. Retirement Weapon Request – Commissioners reviewed and discussed the requirements Counsel Connolly read aloud which state 20 years of service. It was noted that Mr. Light only has 9 years in. Commissioner Eastham asked Marshal Tyree and Division Deputy if Code of Standards are shared with the field workers and both confirmed they are however Mr. Light wanted to inquire and ask.

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to deny the weapon request. Seconded by Commissioner White. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Consideration of Annual Report Submission – Marshal Tyree spoke and stated that the Annual Report was submitted to the appropriate authorities back in October, 2016. Marshal Tyree spoke about the work the Agency performs over the period of a year and the Annual Report is the opportunity to share such.

Commissioner Shriver made a motion to accept the Annual Report of the WVSFMO FY 2016. Seconded by Commissioner Estep. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Consideration of State Fire Marshal’s Office Policy and Procedure Updated Manual Approval – Commissioners discussed as Marshal Tyree noted the changes aloud.

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to accept the changes to the WVSFMO Policy and Procedure Manual. Seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Consideration of Fire Marshal Evaluation and Compensation Review – Chairman Sizemore noted this topic would be moved to the bottom of the agenda and addressed later in the meeting.

Consideration of 2016-020 Panther VFD – Commissioner Eastham made a motion to grant extension for Panther VFD until the February, 2017 Commission Meeting, seconded by Commissioner White. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Consideration of 2016-021 Roderfield VFD – Commissioner Eastham made a motion to grant extension for Roderfield VFD until the February, 2017 Commission Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Consideration of 2016-028 Mannington VFD – Commissioner Eastham made a motion to grant extension for Mannington VFD until the February, 2017 Commission Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Consideration of 2016-058 - Commissioner Eastham made a motion to find probable cause on 2016-058. Second by Commissioner Shriver with all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to grant a 180 day extension to correct deficiencies for Rhodell VFD. Second by Commissioner Shriver with all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Consideration of 2016-059 - Commissioner Eastham made a motion to find probable cause on 2016-059. Second by Commissioner Shriver with all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioners spoke regarding 2016-059 Gilmer Co VFD – Assistant Fire Marshal Scott spoke that the Department had recently purchased 8 new air packs and new bottles. He noted that as the Department

was completing a pump test the pump blew up and parts will now have to be ordered. Mr. Scott noted that hose testing is started and the Department can utilize another pumper while that one is down.

Commissioners discussed life safety concerns and the immediate danger to the community or fire fighters themselves. Assistant State Fire Marshal Scott spoke and stated that this is the only Department within this county. With the purchase of the new airs packs staff believes the Department is headed in the right direction.

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to grant a 180 day extension to correct deficiencies for Gilmore County VFD. Second by Commissioner Mongold with all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Consideration of Provisional Status Updates – Discussion was brief. It was noted that full review and updates were provided during the Legislative Codes and Regularly Committee Report. Commissioner Shriver made a motion to accept and continue the provisional status for the ongoing individuals / cities with the WVSFMO. Seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on voice vote the motion passed.

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to accept and approve the following applications for FO1 and or FO2 ...

Jeremy Taylor	Fountain VFD	FO2
Shawn Sampson	Scott Run VFD	FO2
Michael Poe	Grant Town VFD	FO2
Shawn Reinacher	Clearview VFD	FO2
Danny Davis	Webster Springs VFD	FO1 & FO2
Don McCourt	Webster Springs VFD	FO2

Second by Commissioner Hart. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to accept and approve Recertification of the following Fire Departments ...

- Hillsboro VFD
- Elk District VFD
- Tri Towns VFD
- Diana VFD
- Scott Run VFD
- Union VFD
- Cairo VFD
- Warren District VFD

Second by Commissioner White with all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner Shriver made a motion to go into Executive Session at 11:03 a.m., second by Commissioner Hart. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner Hart made a motion to come out of Executive Session at 11:41 a.m., second by Commissioner Oldaker. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Consideration of WVSFMO Permission to Approve Provisional Status Requests – As recommended by the Committee Commissioner Keefer made a motion to grant the Fire Marshal a conditional authorization on Provisional Statuses and for the WVSFMO to report all Provisional Status at each Commission Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Oldaker, with all the ayes and nays having been taken on voice vote, the motion passed.

Consideration of Fire Marshal Evaluation and Compensation Review – Commissioner White made a motion to increase and fix the compensation of Fire Marshal Kenneth E. Tyree, Jr. at an annual salary of \$82,500 noting that Marshal Tyree has been in his position for a solid 2 years and no modified wage increment has occurred. This review is based on the performance of the Marshal of which merits the increase. The annual salary is in line with other Agency heads. Seconded by Commissioner Camp. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Mr. Tyler Olsen with ISO spoke and stated the Executive Director position has been filled. Mr. Thomas Perry, Jr. will be training with Tyler for the couple next months. Mr. Perry was welcomed by all.

Mark Lambert spoke and provided updates for upcoming events.

Commissioners also made mention of thoughts for Commissioners Miller and Gunnoe who have had some recent health concerns and also Retired Fire Marshal Sterling as he battles some serious medical and health conditions.

Commissioners commented Administrative Secretary Shawna Goodwin for the work put into preparing the Commission meetings and all the behind the scenes work in between.

Commissioners discussed recertification of Departments. It was suggested that such be brought before the Disciplinary Committee rather than the Fire Department Services Committee. Discussion was brief but it was noted that had occurred in the past.

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to have Recertification of Departments be reviewed and taken up by Disciplinary Committee rather than Fire Department Services Committee. Seconded by Commissioner White. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on voice vote, the motion passed.

ELECTION OF 2017 COMMISSION OFFICERS:

Chairman Sizemore opened the floor for Officer Nominations.

Commissioner Keefer nominated Commissioner Gunnoe for Chairman. Seconded by Commissioner Eastham. Commissioner Eastham made a motion to close nominations, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motions passed.

Commissioner Sizemore nominated Commissioner Mongold for Vice Chairman. Seconded by Commissioner White. Commissioner Mongold accepted the nomination. Commissioner Keefer made a motion to close nominations, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motions passed.

Commissioner Mongold nominated Commissioner Sizemore for Secretary. Commissioner Sizemore declined the nomination.

Commissioner Oldaker nominated Commissioner Shriver for Secretary. Seconded by Commissioner Estep. Commissioner Shriver accepted the nomination. Commissioner Sizemore made a motion to close nominations, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING:

Next Committee Meetings will take place Thursday, February 9, 2017 at the WV State Fire Marshal's Office in Charleston, WV beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Next regularly scheduled Commission Meeting will take place Friday, February 10, 2017 at the WV State Fire Marshal's Office in Charleston, WV beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Future meetings are set for April 20th and 21st in or around Twin Falls, WV.

ADJOURN:

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to adjourn at 11:57 a.m. Second by Commissioner Keefer. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.
