

**UNOFFICIAL
STATE FIRE COMMISSION MEETING
CANAAN VALLEY RESORT
OCTOBER 22, 2010**

The official business meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Chairman Bob Sullivan.

A moment of silence was held for Chester "Peachy" March, Bridgeport Fire Department, who passed away October 9, 2010.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Bob Sullivan, Chairman	Michael Butcher
Dale L. Clayton	Larry Goodwin
Grant Gunnoe	Randy James
Thomas Keefer	Robert S. Miller
Doug Mongold	Rick Scott
Ted A. Shriver	Carl Sizemore
Virgil White	

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2010 meeting. Commissioner Sizemore seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Murrey Loflin, WVU-FSE	Mike Freeman, RESA 7
David Plume, RESA 8	Ron Bateman, ISO
Ben Roy, NFPA	Corey Roblee, ICC
Jack Jamison, WVIAEI	Scott Coyle, WV Code Officials
Joe Garcia, Amerigas, Inc.	Darlene Scott, Lumberport VFD
Glenn Whittington, WV Firemen's Association	
Mike Reel, WV Assoc. of Home Inspectors	

STAFF PRESENT:

Sterling Lewis, Jr., State Fire Marshal	Debbie Hudson, Secretary
Nancy Olson, Secretary	Joe Leake, Deputy Fire Marshal
Anthony Carrico, Deputy Fire Marshal	Reed Cook, Deputy Fire Marshal
Carol Nolte, Deputy Fire Marshal	
Shawn Alderman, ASFM, RRT	

COMMENTS

Glenn Whittington, WV State Firemen's Association, stated he wanted to talk about recruitment and retention of firefighters. He stated that 90% of the firefighters were volunteers. He stated they wanted to keep the current firefighters and recruit younger applicants. He requested that the Fire Commission try to convince the Legislature to find a way for firefighters to get paid for required training.

He stated there was a convicted felon in Mason County that wants to be a firefighter but because he was a felon, he could not be a firefighter. This happened when he was younger and has not been in trouble since then. He would like to have the law changed.

Scott Coyle, WV Code Officials Association, stated he was attending for Bob Cannon. He stated the Code Officials have enjoyed the privilege of working with the State Fire Marshal's Office during the certification process.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

CORRESPONDENCE

Email received by Chairman of the Code Committee from WV Code Officials.

STAFF REPORTS

None

AGENCY REPORTS

Technical and Adult Training, Vo-Tech, Mike Freeman, RESA 7, stated Dr. Varner and Mr. Hicks were unable to attend the meeting today. He stated everything is going well. The Annual Report will be ready at the next meeting. He stated that Public Service Training is working with WVU on training classes.

Training, WVU-FSE, Mr. Murrey Loflin stated January 8-9, 2011, WV Weekend at National Fire Academy, Emmitsburg, MD. Information is on their website and courses are listed there also.

Junior Firefighter Camp is scheduled for June 25 to June 30, 2011.

Insurance Services Office (ISO), Mr. Bateman stated Mr. Nevins could not be here today. He did not have a report. Commissioner James asked how the BETA testing on the new field survey was coming along or has it been completed? Mr. Bateman stated it is still a work in progress.

Office of Emergency Medical Services, No report

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Training Committee. Commissioner James stated the Training Committee met at Canaan Valley Resort on October 21 at 0800 hours. There were twenty one participants signed in.

Chairman James distributed the agenda with minutes of the August Training Committee meeting and attendees attached. Also distributed were copies of the revised Approved Course List and the first draft of the National Fire Academy Course List.

The first order was to make final corrections to the Fire Investigation section. The courses taught by the Fire Marshal staff were discussed. The remainder of the amended list was found to be adequate for the present time with the following changes: All NFA courses will be transferred to the newly created NFA Course List. The NFA Course List will be created using the current list submitted by Murrey Loflin of WVU Fire Service Extension.

The Committee voted to send the revised Approved Course List and newly created NFA Course List to the full Fire Commission for approval on Friday, October 22.

One new course was submitted for approval. The course name is "Fundamentals of Technical Rescue". This course covers the awareness levels of rescue for the following: Structural collapse, confined space, trench, vehicle, swift water, wilderness, rope, machinery, mine, and cave. It is designed for the student desiring to follow the "rescue curriculum". All the fore-mentioned rescue awareness courses are covered in this one twenty eight hour course. This course replaces the 16 hour "Fundamentals of Technical Rescue, Awareness Level" currently on the Approved Class List.

The Committee voted to send the submitted course to the full Fire Commission for approval on Friday, October 22.

Next, the discussion focused on the need for a formal policy and documentation to be created for firefighters requesting transfer, accreditation, and recognition of courses successfully completed out of state. RESA and Murrey Loflin of WVU Fire Service Extension will work on this procedure and document.

The Training Committee adjourned at 1105 hours.

Commissioner James stated as requested by the Training Committee, he submitted for approval the revised Approved Course List and newly created National Fire Academy Course List. Commissioner Gunnoe seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner James stated as requested by the Training Committee, he submitted for approval the adoption of the twenty eight hour course "Fundamentals of Technical Rescue". Commissioner Scott seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the motion was approved unanimously.

FD STANDARDS EVALUATION, Commissioner Sizemore stated he wanted to thank the Fire Commission for approving the Fire Officer II equivalency certificate program. He also thanked RESA, Mr. Freeman and Murrey Loflin for their input. He stated the Committee met on 10-21-2010 at 1100 hours the FD Standards and Evaluations

Committee met. Members present: Commissioner Sizemore, Chair; Commissioner White; Commissioner Mongold; and Commissioner Miller.

Three applicants were reviewed for the Fire Officer 1 Equivalent Certification. The following three applicant submittals were approved: Leslie Scott, Institute VFD; Roy McDonald, Pond Creek VFD; and Charles Shultz, Moorefield VFD.

There were nine applicants reviewed for the Fire Officer 2 Equivalent Certification. The following seven applicant submittals were approved: Larry Cosner, Moorefield VFD; Doug Mongold, Moorefield VFD; Mark Kunselman, Parkersburg Fire Department; Eric Taylor, Parkersburg Fire Department, Carl Sizemore, Parkersburg Fire Department; Reed Cook, WVSFMO; and Paul Gill, Institute VFD. The following two applicants were not approved: Gary W. Scott II, Institute VFD; and Thomas D. Miller, Sissonville VFD. Committee agreed that the 2 unapproved applicants should resubmit with the new Fire Officer 2 submission form that is currently on the website.

Commissioner Sizemore requested the Commission accept the Committee's report. Commissioner White seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

On 10-25-2010, Commissioner Sizemore contacted applicants Scott and Miller by phone and advised them of the committee's decision. Both plan to resubmit with the current submission forms.

Recruitment and Retention Committee, Commissioner Mongold stated Fire Marshal Lewis reported on how many firefighters there are in the fire service. In 2009, there were 9,200 firefighters with 64 fire departments not reporting. In 2010, there were 11,000 firefighters with 4 departments not reporting.

He stated they were going to gather information on the following areas:

Scholarship Program. Fire Marshal Lewis will work on this part.

The Insurance Program, Eye and Dental – Commissioner James and Glenn Whittington will work on this part.

The Pay Per Call/Bonus – Commissioner Sullivan will gather information on this part.

The LOSAP – Commissioner Mongold will gather information on this part.

Special Issues Committee, Commissioner Goodwin stated the Committee met on Thursday, October 21, 2010. All committee members were present along with Reed Cook, Deputy State Fire Marshal.

Mr. Cook reported to the committee that once again, there have been no arrests, and no reported incidents, of firefighters involved in arsons.

Fire Marshals have confirmed that one (1) firefighter serving on a department in the northern panhandle is a convicted felon and that department is being contacted to correct the situation. There are unconfirmed reports that another convicted felon is serving with a department in central West Virginia and that investigation is ongoing. Mr.

Cook also discussed the process of how investigations are conducted once a report on a firefighter with a felony record is received.

Fire Marshal Sterling Lewis reported that the Fire Commission might make legislative inquiries in an effort to soften the existing statute to allow non-violent felons to serve on departments. Violent felons and arsonists would not be allowed to serve.

The current status of the McClintic bunker issue in Mason County was discussed in detail. Special focus was given to the history of the operation, the amount of manpower involved and the estimated amount of explosives seized.

Procedures and Development Committee and Public Education, Commissioner Clayton stated that Commissioner White took minutes of the Committee meeting. Carol Nolte, DSFM, State Fire Marshal's Office, discussed the need for a working relationship with fire departments in getting out fire prevention information to the public from their local level and information being put out from the Fire Marshal's Office about fire safety and fire prevention. She handed out a fact sheet regarding fire safety initiatives. There were five main initiatives by NFPA. There was discussion regarding these initiatives. She advised that every fire department had received an information packet on home sprinklers. Some of the discussion was about safe cigarettes and novelty lighters, etc.

There was discussion of residential sprinklers. A half-day seminar is being planned in the future. One of the main problems was not a clear answer on what size water meters or water lines to be used. There was discussion that there still needs to be a lot of things ironed out with the residential sprinklers.

There was discussion on targeting the Legislature on supporting the home sprinkler system and ideas on how to approach them. Fire Marshal Lewis suggested to try and push for an interim study. A recommendation on the five initiatives was brought to the Committee to work on for the next meeting. A lengthy discussion on smoke alarms was held.

Deputy Fire Marshal Nolte stated she had requested that the Committee restate some of the needs of Fire Safety Education across West Virginia. She stated they had distributed a list of five recommended NFPA strategies for public education. The most important one was that the focus should be on home fire safety because that is where most fatalities occur. She put an emphasis on prevention, preventing fires in the first place. She stated they did discuss the need for legislation and possibly work with the Legislative Committee. She stated they need to work on promoting residential sprinkler legislation.

Legislative, Commissioner Gunnoe stated meeting was called to order Wednesday October 20, 2010 at 14:15 hours. Silent roll call taken: In attendance- Gunnoe, Mongold, Clayton. Absent- White. Chairman Gunnoe requested Fire Marshal Lewis bring the committee up to date on any possible legislation for the 2011 session. Marshal Lewis reported on the following:

1. Emergency Vehicle Permits, Possible proof that applicant for permit has letter from his/her Insurance Company that vehicle insured will be used for possible

response to a station or emergency. Possible proof of applicant having passed a EVO class before permits are issued. Possibility of doing away with permits entirely. Just for discussion purposes only.

2. Workers Comp Issue. Risk Management Committee is looking into data on frequency of accidents responding to or returning from incidents.
3. Possible legislation to deal with Jr. Firefighters being compensated for fighting forest fires creating a possible problem for workers comp issues. Funding Committee has no recommendations as of yet. Marshal Lewis made it clear that all of these were just items being discussed and no decisions have been made on any of these issues.
4. Assistant Fire Marshal Nolte reported that the legislation dealing with novelty lighters would be re-introduced this year.

Committee members and other Commissioners present had a general discussion on these issues and some discussion on training items. Meeting adjourned at 14:40

Home Inspectors, Building Code Officials, Building and Fire Code Committees, Commissioner Shriver stated the Committee meeting was called to order at 4:32pm by Chairman Sullivan and turned over to Committee Chairman Commissioner Shriver.

Chairman Shriver started the meeting by announcing that one training site, Professional Home Inspection Institute, has requested approval of their program. They previously requested this approval but it was for their online training program. The current request is for classroom training consisting of 80 hours of training. This has approval of the staff therefore I recommend approval at tomorrow's Commission meeting. No further discussion was generated.

Chairman Shriver stated the Building Code officials have three items they wish to bring before the committee for consideration. They are requesting legislative revisions requiring municipalities to submit plans to the Code Officials and obtain a building permit for such. They still would be exempt for the cost of the permit. Marshal Lewis stated this is not in the State Code that has our jurisdiction therefore we cannot act on this request. The second item is asking for clarification as to whether the State Building Code is really a state wide building code in counties that don't have a Code Official or adoption of the State Code. Marshal Lewis stated he would ask the Attorney General's Office for an interpretation. The third request was for the Fire Commission to appoint an Advisory Board to review inconsistencies around the state in regards to Code Official interpretations. Marshal Lewis and staff agreed to the adoption of this committee, in fact suggested that it consist of every entity that the Commission regulates. Those would be representatives of Electrical Licensing, Electrical Inspectors, Home Inspectors, Building Code Officials and Sprinklers fitters. The committee had no further comments.

Electrical Inspectors Association President Jamison presented the Commission with a brochure of the upcoming seminar for 1&2 Family Dwelling Electrical Systems being held in Dunbar and Fairmont on October 27 and 29 respectively. Jamison also stated he has the Skills program setup and the first training will be conducted at the James

Rumsey Vocational School. However he is still looking for materials to be donated by electrical materials manufacturer's to assist in the class.

Commissioner Shriver acknowledged the attendance by Corey Roblee, Ben Roy, and Kelly Bragg and they thanked the Commission for being requested to attend the Committee meeting.

Commissioner Shriver made a motion to accept Professional Home Inspection Institute of Madison SD for their Home Inspectors 80 hour classroom training course. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Shriver made a motion for Chairman Sullivan and Committee Chairman Shriver work with staff to create an Advisory Committee consisting of the entities that the Marshals Office issues licenses or certifications. Commissioner Mongold seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, the motion was approved unanimously.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Fire Commission Meeting is scheduled for December 2-3, 2010 at the Lakeview Resort, Morgantown, WV. The meeting will commence at 9:00 AM.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Fire Marshal Lewis stated that staff has made a preliminary draft of meeting dates for the entire year of 2011 for the Fire Commission Meetings. Chairman Sullivan requested copies be made of the FEMA publication on Retention and Recruitment for the Volunteer Emergency Services for each Commissioner.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Goodwin made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Keefer seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Sterling Lewis, Jr.
State Fire Marshal