

**STATE FIRE COMMISSION MEETING
COUNTRY INN & SUITES
CHARLESTON, WV
JUNE 19, 2012**

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

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Bob Sullivan, Chairman	Gary Bonnett
Michael Butcher	Grant Gunnoe
Randy James	Robert S. Miller
Rick Scott	Ted A. Shriver
Carl Sizemore	Virgil White

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Larry Goodwin
Thomas Keefer
Doug Mongold

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner White made a motion to accept and approve the minutes of the April 20, 2012 meeting. Commissioner Sizemore seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Training Committee – Commissioner James gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes. Commissioner Miller made a motion to accept the Committee's report. Commissioner White seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Fire Department Standards Evaluation Committee – Commissioner Sizemore stated they reviewed 50 equivalency applications for Fire Officer 1 and 2. Forty-five (45) applications were approved. There were 5 applications that were not approved. Commissioner Gunnoe made a motion to accept the Committee's report. Commissioner White seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Legislative Committee – Commissioner Gunnoe stated there was a general discussion on legislation and training rules. No votes were taken. Commissioner Butcher made a motion to accept the Committee's report. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Fire Department Services Committee – An update was provided by Supervisor Provaznik. There have been 188 evaluations done and 99 Plans of Correction received. Commissioner Scott made a motion to accept the Committee's report. Commissioner Bonnett seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Codes and Regulatory – Commissioner Shriver stated the Building Code has been filed in the Secretary of State's Office and several public comments have been received regarding codes not having been available for review. However, codes have been available from IBC since last year. Also, books are on file at the Secretary of State's Office.

The Fire Code is almost complete and will be filed next week.

Committee would like staff to issue letter to Association of Home Inspectors Training Institute (AHIT) requesting certification to be submitted.

It was stated that there was code officials with provisional status in the southern part of the State. Commissioner Shriver made a motion to ask legal counsel for interpretation of this code. Commissioner Gunnoe seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

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

STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

Fire Marshal Lewis requested Deputy Carol Nolte give a report from the Public Education Division. A copy of her report is attached to these minutes.

Discussion was held regarding the evaluation program. A new system is being proposed to streamline the process. It is in the draft process at this time.

Discussion was held regarding fire fatalities and the multiple fires in Huntington.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Interstate and Intrastate Mutual Aid Agreement – Commissioner Bonnett stated he attended a meeting on May 31st in Philadelphia. West Virginia is not the only state to have problems. The Interstate plan has to be completed by 2013 and the Intrastate plan by 2014 or federal monies will be gone. Commissioner Bonnett will set up a meeting with FEMA to come to the next meeting to discuss this Agreement.

Dustin Amtower, New Creek VFD (Boundary Dispute) – Mr. Amtower stated he had heard that the Fire Commission wanted to wait until Corridor H was completed before adjusting the boundaries of the fire departments in the county. Mr. Amtower stated he would like the Fire Commission to look into this before Corridor H is completed. There was much discussion. Commissioner Sizemore made a motion to have a re-evaluation of the disputed area before the next meeting. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Hillberry Appeal (Building Code Official) – An appeal hearing was heard by Commissioner Gunnoe, Hearings Examiner, on June 4, 2012 in regards to the code official license. Both sides presented good evidence. Mr. Hillberry did not know the certificate was provisional. City will file additional documentation. This will be worked out in the Fire Marshal's Office. No action to be taken at this time.

Review of Current Legislative Rules:

Building Code – filed on April 2, 2012 for a 30-day comment period. Commissioner Shriver made a motion that on page 3, paragraph 4.1.h of the draft rule of the Building Code to add back the deletion of “Chapter 11 of the 2012 edition of the International Residential Code (IRC)”. Commissioner White seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Butcher amended the motion to revise the 2012 edition of the IRC to the 2009 edition of the IRC with no exception of Chapter 11. Commissioner Sizemore seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed as amended.

Fire Code will be filed next week for public comment and public hearing. Much discussion followed. Commissioner Shriver stated there will be an emergency meeting to vote on these rules before filing.

Home Inspectors to be filed next week.

Fire Department Training – to be discussed at emergency meeting in July.

Fire Officer Equivalency Program (Continuation) – Deadline was set to discontinue this program. Staff recommended that program be allowed to continue. The program will diminish as time goes on and more and more fire departments are evaluated.

Discussion of following fire departments:

Valley VFD – they are now in full compliance and recommended for recertification.

Montgomery VFD – Evaluated on 10/12/11. Letter sent on April 24, 2012 in regard to training and equipment deficiencies within the department. Commissioner Gunnoe made a motion to reevaluate in 30 days. Commissioner Butcher seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Rand VFD (Age exemption) – Request from Bill White stating person does not want to be a firefighter but wants to drive the fire truck and operate pumps. Commissioner Miller made a motion to refer matter to legal counsel. Commissioner James seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Discussion of following fire departments:

Jumping Branch VFD – still need fire officer certification. Should be completed by June 30th. Staff recommended that a reevaluation be done by the August meeting.

Racine VFD – All deficiencies corrected except for officer training. Chief states they do not have time since they work and cannot take time off. WVU-FSE and RESA will meet with them to see what they can do. Fire Department will be revisited before next meeting.

Loudendale VFD – No progress made on Fire Officer 1 or 2. New Fire Chief elected last night. Will fill out equivalency applications. C. W. Sigman will help with Job Performance Requirements (JPR). They will be reevaluated by August meeting.

Morrisvale VFD – Fire Chief states they are taking online classes. Progress will be reported at next meeting.

Rhodell VFD – they will fill out equivalency applications for Fire Officer. Commissioner White made a motion they be in compliance by August meeting or they will start decertification procedures. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Recertification of fire departments: Commissioner Gunnoe made a motion to approve the following fire departments for recertification:

Danese VFD	Eastwood VFD	Folsom VFD
Friendship VFD	Gassaway VFD	Ghent VFD
Greenbrier Valley Rural VFD	Hamlin VFD	Henlawson VFD
Jackson's Mill VFD	Main Island Creek VFD	Maysville VFD
Middlebourne VFD	Mount Clare VFD	Mount Hope VFD
New Haven VFD	Ohio River Road VFD	Pine Grove VFD
Pt.Pleasant VFD	Rand VFD	Shirley VFD
Slanesville VFD	Spruce River VFD	St. Mary's VFD
Summers County VFD	Town of Man VFD	
Washington Bottom VFD		

Commissioner James seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE

International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) Letter to WVU Fire Service Extension – Mark Doty stated they have a site visit scheduled for September, 2012.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mark Doty, WVU-FSE, stated that Junior Firefighter Camp is scheduled for June 23-28, 2012. They have 105 registered so far.

Tommy Miller, Sissonville VFD, stated he had met with the Governor's Office regarding a firefighter from Virginia that was killed in West Virginia in January, 2012. He is asking the Fire Commission to consider certifying him as a West Virginia Firefighter so his family can receive death benefits. The Fire Commission tabled this item until the next meeting.

Glenn Whittington, Buffalo VFD and West Virginia Firemens' Association, stated he feels that recruitment and retention should be a top priority for the fire service. He also thinks that firefighters should be paid for training.

Jim Oldaker, State Firemens' Association, stated he would like to know the justification for changing the State Fire Code in regards to fire departments. Discussion followed.

Commissioner James gave a speech regarding his tenure as a Fire Commissioner. He will be greatly missed.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Fire Commission meeting will be held at Grand Pointe Conference Center in Vienna on August 17, 2012.

ADJOURN

Commissioner James made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. Motion passed.

June 18, 2012
Country Inn & Suites, Kanawha City, WV

Report of the Code and Regulatory Committee

Meeting was called to order at 12:36pm

Committee members present were:

Commission Butcher, Keefer and with Commissioner Shriver Chairing the meeting.
Commission Chairman Sullivan
Commissioner Sizemore was absent

Guest Included representatives from Code Officials, Home Inspectors, Electrical Inspectors, Home Builder Association, ICC and Energy and Energy Training

Old Business

State Building Code:

The Rules have approved by the Governors Office. Chief Deputy Carrico and I received several comments in regards to the Rules during the Public Comment period. Most of the comments were negative but some were in favor. Most of the comments stated the Code books were not available for them to review. ICC reported to me that the Code were available in May 2011. The Code books were on file with the Rule in the Rule Committee office as well the Secretary of State's Office. I will be responding to the Comments within the week.

It was noted that the Rule need to be amended to delete Chapter 11 form the 2012 IRC to mirror the 2009 IECC. This item will be addressed to the Commission.

State Fire Code:

Chief Deputy Carrico reported that the Rule draft is almost complete and filing should occur next week.

New Business

Home Inspectors:

We have received information from the Home Inspectors that Dearborn may not be an approved testing entity. Marshals' staff was requested to make sure they have proper credentials.

AHIT is advertising on the internet that they are approved by the WV Board of Licensing. Marshals' staff was requested to make sure they have proper credentials.

The Rule with amendments from the last Commission meeting will be filed next week.

Building Code Officials

A County Planning Department has asked for a provisional status for a Code Official when we have already granted a provisional status on yet another person. We asked Legal Counsel to review the matter and bring back to the Committee at the next meeting.

Committee meeting was adjourned at 1:09pm

Report by
Ted A Shriver

Public Education Division Activity Report
State Fire Commission Meeting
Tuesday, June 19, 2012

SFMO Media Campaigns (all on-going):

RADIO -- MetroNews Radio: Feb.-March during 2012 HS basketball tournaments
June 16, 2012 North/South HS Football Classic
WCIS: Live interviews on residential sprinklers; home fire safety; smoke alarms
Other radio stations: Recorded & live sound bytes for independent stations

TELEVISION: -- WV Media: 6-week run of .30 second spots on home fire safety
(between mid-May and early June) 700,700 WV households reached via 7
stations with affiliate networks:
*Charleston/Huntington; Beckley/Bluefield; Wheeling/Weirton;
Clarksburg/Morgantown/Fairmont*

TV messages: residential sprinklers; WV Arson Hotline; smoke alarms

BILLBOARDS: 46 locations across WV, mid-May through mid-June. Messages:
Home fire sprinklers; WV Arson Hotline; smoke alarms

PRESS RELEASES: 2012 - Generator Safety; Fire Safety for People with Disabilities;
Arson Awareness Month; Smoke Alarms (CYC/CYB); Fireworks Safety

NEWSPAPERS: Conduct interviews with reporters for small and large papers (plus
Newspapers in Education insert every October for Fire Prevention Month)

AFG Workshops: 4 workshops in May 2012: Pineville VFD; Shepherdstown VFD; Weston
VFD; Wheeling FD. Additional workshop June 12 in Raleigh Co. requested by Cong. Rahall.

State Profile of AFG Award Recipients FY 2011

- WV submitted 233 AFG 2011 applications. Of these, 74 went to 2nd level (peer) panel review; 159 did not go to panel.
- FEMA advises that this is not reflective of any particular problems within WV. PA submitted 1,558 apps and 1,004 did not make it to panel. Indicative of the electronic scoring, where missing information "kicks out" an application.
- West Virginia FD's (as well as other states' FDs) struggle with following directions and also with the narrative portion of the grant.

Residential Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board (will be on-going) established in Feb. 2012 w/assistance from National Fire Sprinkler Association and others. Next meeting planned for July. Encourage Commissioners to attend.

Smoke Alarm Programs (on-going): State Senior Conference; WV Centers for Independent Living; American Red Cross (planning stages); misc. on request.

Websites: New "Fire Safety" tab established under the "Staying Safe" section of Bureau of Senior Services website to SFMO/Public Education Division website.