

**UNOFFICIAL
STATE FIRE COMMISSION MEETING
STATE FIRE ACADEMY
JACKSON'S MILL, WV
AUGUST 27, 2010**

The official business meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM by Chairman Bob Sullivan.

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	Virgil White

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Carl Sizemore

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner James made a motion to dispense of the reading of the minutes of June 11, 2010. Commissioner Mongold seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS:

Chairman Sullivan introduced three new Commissioners appointed effective July 1, 2010. They are:

Michael Butcher, who represents Business and Industry. He's a senior chemical inspector and safety inspector at Kraton Polymers for 32 years.

Grant Gunnoe, who has been in the fire service for 28 years in the Charleston Fire Department. He's a retired fire chief. He has been active his entire career in the professional firefighters association and he represents the professional firefighters.

Rick Scott, Fire Chief, Clarksburg Fire Department, represents Professional Fire Chiefs.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Murrey Loflin, WVU-FSE	Lanny Adkins, WVU-FSE
Mark Doty, WVU-FSE	Edward Hicks, Dept. of Education
Mike Freeman, RESA 7	David Plume, RESA 8
Bob Nevins, ISO	Gerald Sherman, Moorefield VFD
Ben Roy, NFPA	Corey Roblee, ICC
Glenn Whittington, WV Firemen's Association	
Gary Bonnett, WV State Fire Chief's Association	
Jack Jamison, WVIAEI	Paul Linger, WVIAEI
Mitch Tacy, Buckhannon FD	Phil Hart, Belington VFD

Kenneth James, Weston FD
Tom Meader, Elkins FD
Darlene Scott

John W. Jones, Elkins FD
Mike Basile, Spilman, Thomas

STAFF PRESENT:

Sterling Lewis, Jr., State Fire Marshal
Nancy Olson, Secretary
Anthony Carrico, Deputy Fire Marshal
Debbie Hudson, Secretary
Joe Leake, Deputy Fire Marshal

COMMENTS

Fire Marshal Sterling Lewis, Jr. presented a Certification of Commendation to James "Bo" Hart, Belington Fire Department for his 38 years of service to his fire department and the citizens of Barbour County. He was unable to attend the meeting. The certificate was accepted by Phil Hart of the Belington Fire Department. Mr. Hart stated he sent his regards and appreciation of the recognition.

Fire Marshal Sterling Lewis, Jr. presented certificates of appreciation to two Fire Commissioners whose terms have expired. They were Charles L. Eversole and Bill L. Spencer. They were not able to attend and their certificates will be sent to them. The Fire Commission appreciates the many years of service they contributed to the Fire Commission, the fire service and to the citizens of West Virginia.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Jack Jamison, International Association of Electrical Inspectors, State Vo-Tech Programs. Mr. Jamison stated he would like the International Association of Electrical Inspectors along with the State Fire Commission and possibly the Code Officials to get involved with the skills competition which is the Vo-Tech Challenge. He was interested in the electrical end and he would like the Code Officials to get involved in the building trades. This competition moves around the State. Next year in March, 2011, it will be at James Rumsey in Martinsburg. In March, it was in Beckley. The skills is the challenge for the leading students for scholarships. He is trying to get an unbiased group to work with this competition.

Mr. Paul Linger stated there are youth workers injured on job sites. They are between the ages of 16 and 24 years old. They need the safety issues taught to these youth.

Mr. Glenn Whittington, Buffalo VFD and WV State Firemen's Association, stated he feels the State Fire Commission needs to find a way to help fire departments with their training requirements and with their recruitment and retention. He wanted to know if the State Fire Commission or State Fire Marshal had any ideas how to accomplish this. Fire Marshal Lewis stated RESA and WVU-FSE are working to have courses on-line. He would like to serve on the Recruitment and Retention Committee. Discussion followed.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence in packet. An additional letter from Barry Bledsoe, President, Marion County Fire Association received for review and consideration.

STAFF REPORTS

State Fire Marshal Sterling Lewis, Jr. stated in regards to the two fire departments allowing felons to serve on their fire departments, one letter from the Attorney General's Office was all that was needed to clear up the situation. Therefore, the State Fire Marshal's Office did not have to start the process to decertify the fire departments.

Fire Marshal Lewis stated the FY 2012 Budget has been submitted to the Budget Division for processing for the Legislative Session.

Chairman Sullivan requested that Fire Marshal Lewis give an update on the Workers' Compensation Committee appointed by the Governor. They have appointed four (4) committees. They are (1) Funding; (2) Broadform; (3) Compensable Injuries; and (4) Risk Management. They are working on where funding can come from to pay for the Workers' Compensation. Another meeting is set for September 24th.

AGENCY REPORTS

Technical and Adult Training, Vo-Tech, Mr. Ed Hicks stated there have been some staffing changes at the Department of Education. Dr. Debrah Varner has replaced Bill Wilcox as Executive Director. Dr. Kathy D'Antoni replaced Stan Hopkins as Assistant State Superintendent of Schools.

They are working on revising the state training certificates for completing classes. They have attached logos and just need the signatures.

The Instructor Methodology course is scheduled for October 6-10 in Summersville. The class is limited to 18 students.

They are going to require any applicant who applies for an adult teaching license to do so within 6 months of receiving their degree.

Training, WVU-FSE, Mr. Murrey Loflin welcomed everyone to their facility for the Fire Commission meeting. He stated they had 88 campers of which 55 were from West Virginia at the Junior Firefighter Camp this year. In the past 4 years, they have had over 300 campers attending the camp. He stated they will have to limit it to 100 next year. Next year's camp is scheduled for June 25-30, 2011. He stated he wanted to thank the State Firemen's Association who donated \$2,000 for next year's camp.

He stated WV Weekend at the National Fire Academy has been rescheduled for January 7/8, 2011 and again in October, 2011.

He stated they have training classes for the Mobile Structure Fire Trainer scheduled for September 9-12 in Bluefield, September 18/19 in Martinsburg at the VA Hospital; September 25/26 in Braxton County; October 2/3 in Harrisville, Ritchie County; October 23/24 in Lewisburg; and October 25/28 in Beckley.

He stated there are 8 students in the Fire Inspector II class. He thanked the State Fire Marshal's Office and Deputy Joe Leake for loaning ASFM Edsel Smith and ASFM John Oliver to teach the class.

Insurance Services Office (ISO), Mr. Bob Nevins stated they did a presentation at the State Firemen's Association Convention. He stated they are always willing to do presentations to any organizations that request them.

He stated the changes in the Fire Suppression Rate Schedule which they reported on previously, the analysis phase of the project is next. They hope to file the new schedule in mid 2011.

Office of Emergency Medical Services, No report

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Training Committee, Commissioner James stated the committee met on Thursday, August 26th. Committee report is attached to these minutes. Commissioner James stated he would like to present to the entire Commission a motion to allow the Fire Marshal's name be included as the representative for the West Virginia State Fire Commission on all certificates of attendance and/or completion bearing the endorsement of the West Virginia State Fire Commission. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. Aye votes were Commissioners Butcher, Clayton, Goodwin, Gunnoe, James, Keefer, Miller, Mongold, Scott, Shriver, Sullivan and White. Commissioner Sizemore was absent. No nays. Motion passed.

FD Standards Evaluation, Commissioner White stated they have received 2 applications for Fire Officer I equivalency. Mr. Harry Via, Oakvale VFD, was approved and David Prince needs more information. Commissioner White made a motion to approve the application of Harry Via for Fire Officer I. Commissioner Mongold seconded the motion. There were 12 ayes and 1 absent. Motion passed.

He handed out the new job performance requirements for Fire Officer II. He stated it was Commissioner Sizemore's recommendation that if there were no problems with the requirements, that they be approved. Commissioner Scott made a motion to accept Commissioner Sizemore's recommendation. Commissioner White seconded the motion. Ayes were Commissioners Butcher, Clayton, Goodwin, Gunnoe, James, Keefer, Miller, Mongold, Scott, Shriver, Sullivan and White. Commissioner Sizemore was absent. No nays. Motion passed.

Recruitment and Retention Committee, Commissioner Mongold stated they are working on seeking information and seeing what direction they want to go on recruitment and retention. They are looking at contacting other states and ascertaining what they do to recruit volunteers and see if it can be utilized for West Virginia.

Special Issues Committee, Commissioner Goodwin stated they were working on several issues and would report back at a later date.

Procedures and Development Committee, Commissioner Clayton stated they have met and are working on a list of classes for the Training Committee.

Public Education, Commissioner Clayton stated they did not meet since Deputy Fire Marshal Nolte was unable to attend. He stated they would support any programs that Deputy Nolte was working on.

Legislative, Commissioner Gunnoe stated they had no report.

Home Inspectors, Building Code Officials, Building and Fire Code Committees, Commissioner Shriver stated they had no action to discuss. He asked if Ben Roy, NFPA or Corey Roblee, ICC, had anything to report.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for October 20-21-22 at Canaan Valley Resort. The Committees will start meeting on Wednesday, October 20th, at approximately 2:00 PM. A schedule will be posted at a later date.

December 2-3 in the Morgantown area (Lakeview Resort).

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Fire Marshal Sterling Lewis, Jr. welcomed all the new Fire Commissioners. He stated he hoped they would have a good working relationship. He requested if they had anything to bring up with him to go thru the Chairman or Vice Chairman.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Goodwin made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Mongold 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

Minutes
West Virginia State Fire Commission Training Committee
August 26, 2010, State Fire Academy, Jackson's Mill

The Training Committee of the West Virginia State Fire Commission met on Thursday, August 26, @ 1510 hours at the Sate Fire Academy in Jackson's Mill. There were twenty four participants. Training Chairman James distributed the day's agenda with attachments of the last meeting's attendance sheet and minutes.

Commission Chairman Sullivan reported on the committees addressing the Worker's Compensation issue facing the volunteer fire departments. He reported that the Risk Management Committee was looking at several areas. These included the claims history from fiscal years 2006 to 2010. One feature of the claims involved "Responding and Returning". These claims amount to about 40% of all claims. No decisions have been reached but increasing the requirements for obtaining and holding a valid emergency vehicle permit were discussed. These included a mandatory Emergency Vehicle Operations course with refresher courses to elimination of permits altogether. I say again, no decisions have been reached, only discussions.

Other discussion subjects included the possibility of the Fire Commission approving a group of classes that address Risk Management for fire departments. The carriers of Workers' Compensation Insurance would have to also approve of this group of classes for the departments to get credit for them.

Commissioner Clayton presented the "approved class list" to the Training Committee for review. Lanny Adkins presented a list of National Fire Academy courses he felt needed to be added. Discussion followed. Commissioners James, Keefer, Gunnoe, Miller, and Clayton along with members of the education sector met in a separate area to continue the refinement of the approved course document. This update will be discussed at the October Training Meeting.

Mr. Ed Hicks gave the report for the Department of Education. One item discussed involved the printing of new certificates. Many of the RESA's were low or out of certificates and those remaining bore the names of retirees Bill Wilcox of the Department of Education and Charles Eversole of the Fire Commission. Discussion followed concerning the frequency of printing new certificates. It is the consensus of the Training Committee that the signature of the Fire Marshal be included as the representative of the Fire Commission on this document.

This report will not repeat the reports of Mr. Ed Hicks of the Department of Education, Mr. Lanny Adkins of the West Virginia Fire Service Extension, or Bob Nevins of ISO. They will present to the entire Commission on Friday. The full meeting adjourned at 1610 hours and the subcommittee for the approved class list adjourned at 1720 hours.