

**UNOFFICIAL  
STATE FIRE COMMISSION MEETING  
GREENBRIER RESORT  
WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, WV  
APRIL 16, 2010**

The official business meeting was called to order at 8:40 AM by Chairman Charles Eversole. Chairman Eversole thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Fire Marshal Sterling Lewis, Jr. requested a moment of silence for the 29 miners who died in the Upper Big Branch Coal Mine and for Donnie Adkins, firefighter from Glasgow VFD who died while helping rescue flood victims in Raleigh County.

Fire Marshal Lewis recognized Capt. Kevin Price, Beckley Fire Department, for his assistance with the RRT in the flooding in Raleigh County and responded with the RRT with Brian Trump to the mine disaster. He was teaching biohazard classes at 3 and 4 o'clock in the morning to probably 150 to 200 mining rescue teams. He thanked Capt. Price, Beckley Fire Department and all of the responders. He stated they did an excellent job.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Charles L. Eversole, Chairman	Dale L. Clayton
Larry Goodwin	Randy James
Thomas Keefer	Robert S. Miller
Doug Mongold	Ted A. Shriver
Carl Sizemore	Virgil White

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:**

Bill L. Spencer, Vice Chairman	Bob Sullivan
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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Miller made a motion to approve the minutes of February 19, 2010. Commissioner Goodwin seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Bill Wilcox, Dept. of Education	Edward Hicks, Dept. of Education
Ron Brown, NFSA	Lanny Adkins, WVU-FSE
Ron Bateman, ISO	Bob Nevins, ISO
Rick Rice, RESA 1	Mike Freeman, RESA 7
Gerald Sherman, Moorefield VFD	
Capt. Kevin Price, Beckley Fire Dept.	
Tod Hanger, Alderson VFD & Greenbrier Hotel FD	
Jason Pizatella, Spilman, Thomas & Battle	

**STAFF PRESENT:**

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

Anthony Carrico, Deputy Fire Marshal  
Shawn Alderman, RRT, Asst. Fire Marshal

## **COMMENTS**

Mr. Ron Brown, National Fire Sprinkler Association, thanked the State Fire Marshal's Office, Charleston Fire Department and City of Charleston for the support of Fire Team USA event. He stated they had the side by side burn which would be a good presentation to have at the Junior Firefighter Camp.

He stated he would like to have support from the State Fire Commission to put the residential sprinkler codes back in the Codes. He feels that the public and legislature would benefit from public education. There was much discussion on this issue.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Fire Marshal Lewis stated he felt part of the staff report should go under Unfinished Business. He stated he had several issues to bring before the Fire Commission.

**FIRST ISSUE:** He stated there was an issue with the Bridgeport City Fire Department and the Bridgeport VFD, Inc. This issue has been before the Fire Commission before. There are two issues that are simply a formality that need the approval vote from the Fire Commission. The first is staff is requesting an affirmative vote from the Fire Commission for the withdrawal of recognition of Bridgeport VFD, Inc. The reason is the Bridgeport City Fire Department expanded their response area that Bridgeport VFD Inc. covered along with their city responsibilities.

Motion was made by Commissioner White to withdraw recognition of Bridgeport VFD, Inc. Commissioner Sizemore seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Motion was made by Commissioner White to accept the ordinance of the Bridgeport City Fire Department as adopted by their City Council. Commissioner Sizemore seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

**SECOND ISSUE:** Fire Marshal Lewis stated in regards to the complaint on Bradley – Prosperity VFD, After the investigation, there were deficiencies found and the department gave the Fire Marshal's Office their plan of correction. They had a 90 day window to correct the deficiencies and they completed everything in 60 days. A re-evaluation was done and staff is recommending recertification of the Bradley-Prosperity VFD.

Motion was made by Commissioner Mongold to recertify the Bradley-Prosperity VFD. Commissioner White seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Shriver stated he would like to bring before the Fire Commission a Proclamation that was presented by the International Code Council Foundation. The Proclamation would recognize May, 2010 as Building Safety Month. Commissioner

Sizemore made a motion to recognize the Proclamation proclaiming May, 2010 as Building Safety Month. Commissioner James seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

None

## **STAFF REPORTS**

State Fire Marshal Sterling Lewis, Jr. stated that Deputy Fire Marshals Carrico and Leake will refile the Fire Code and Building Code with the effective date of July 1, 2010.

Budget has been approved by the Legislature for FY 2011 and Expenditure Schedule is being prepared now. We have been very frugal in our spending this year and are well within our budget at this time.

## **AGENCY REPORTS**

**Technical and Adult Training, Vo-Tech,** Mr. Wilcox will be retiring and this will be his last Fire Commission meeting. Chairman Eversole congratulated him on his retirement and he will be sorely missed by all. He was a friend of the fire service and training in the State of West Virginia.

Mr. Wilcox thanked everyone especially the RESA staff and Mr. Ed Hicks has done an outstanding job.

He stated they had to raise rates for Firefighter 1 from \$10 to \$25. He stated they are trying to keep the costs low. The curriculum for Firefighter 2 was increased by 7 hours. Discussion about Firefighter 2, Junior Firefighters and Live Burns.

**Training, WVU-FSE,** Mr. Laney Adkins stated Murrey Loflin had hip replacement surgery and will be out for approximately 2 months. He hoped to be back in June.

He stated that from January until this date, the Fire Service Extension has taught over 2000 students. The Center for National Response has given them an opportunity that they don't normally get. Winter is usually a down time.

He stated that they have a Fire Instructor Class on April 28<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with RESA.

On May 15-16, they are having a NFA Class at the Academy called "Fire Behavior" on one day and "Fire Behavior in a Single Family Occupancy" the second day. This was rescheduled from February.

June 26 to July 1, Junior Firefighter Camp. They have 125 students registered and 2/3 of those are from out of state. Special courses for 3<sup>rd</sup> year students.

On June 4<sup>th</sup>, Fire Officer I class is scheduled.

On August 23-27, a Fire Inspector II class is scheduled.

On September 12-17, Hazmat Incident Management Course is scheduled.

The WV Weekend at National Fire Academy was scheduled for October but they called and moved them to January, 2011. WV will be partnered with Delaware.

The Burn Trailer is out this year. It was in Lincoln County last week. It will be in Augusta this afternoon. In June, they will be at Canaan Valley. In August, it will be in Marion County, August 20-22 at Tri-State Fire School. In September, it will be at Mercer County.

**Insurance Services Office (ISO)**, Mr. Nevins stated he had nothing to report. Commissioner James asked about the field survey. He stated they have selected a little more than 450 communities to data test. It is going good.

Fire Marshal Lewis asked about what Bradley-Prosperity VFD graded out after the evaluation. Has not been received in the office yet.

**Office of Emergency Medical Services**, No report.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Training Committee**, Commissioner James stated the committee met on Thursday, April 15<sup>th</sup>. Committee report is attached to these minutes.

Commissioner James stated he would like submit the combined Fire Officer I and II course for NFPA 1020 for adoption to the approved classes to the WV State Fire Commission. Commissioner Mongold made the motion. Commissioner Sizemore seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed. It is still possible for anyone to take Fire Officer I and Fire Officer II separately.

Fire Marshal Lewis requested advice regarding the training records in doing fire department evaluations. It was decided that when a fire department is evaluated, a list of the training problems would be sent to the nearest RESA office to see if they could help provide the training needed. Discussion followed.

Commissioner James stated he would like to submit the Firefighter 2 forty hour course for NFPA 101 curriculum for adoption to the approved course list. Commissioner Miller made the motion. Commissioner White seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

**FD Standards Evaluation**, Commissioner White stated there were eight (8) applications received and all met the criteria for Fire Officer I. They are:

Mark Collins, Oakdale VFD  
Paul Gill, Institute VFD  
Robert Coleman, Huntington FD  
Fred Mellert, Huntington FD  
Kevin Ackerman, Vienna VFD  
Carl Sizemore, Parkersburg FD  
Brian Barrett, Loudendale VFD  
Lewis Fizer, Loudendale VFD

Commissioner Miller made a motion to approve the eight (8) applications for Fire Officer I. Commissioner Goodwin seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner Sizemore asked WVU Fire Service Extension and RESA for input on the Fire Officer 2 program. Hopefully, by the next meeting, they will have the applications ready for submittals.

**Recruitment and Retention Committee,** No report. Chairman Eversole encouraged all Commissioners to get involved in all Committees.

**Special Issues Committee,** Commissioner Goodwin. Nothing to report.

**Procedures and Development Committee and Public Education Committee,** Commissioner Clayton stated they are working on cleaning up the curriculum list of training classes. They are proposing to break out the list of junior classes. They are working on this program and it will be submitted at the next meeting. He stated they are looking for ideas from all Commissioners for fire safety public education.

**Legislative and Budget** – No Report

**Home Inspectors, Building Code Officials, Building and Fire Code Committees,** Commissioner Shriver stated the committee met and discussed the course providers for home inspectors submitted by staff that was previously received but did not take action on at the last meeting. On a request from the Professional Home Inspector Institute to approve their course. Also, they had previously approved the home inspector course from Kaplan but they have been promoting themselves as an institution that would provide certification and that is not true. The courses is approved but they are not to promote themselves as providing certification so staff will continue to notify them of that. National Property Inspections was requesting approval of their course and staff and the committee reviewed that and approved their course. Commissioner Mongold made a motion to approve all three courses. Commissioner White seconded this motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

No items on agenda to discuss for the Building Code Officials.

On the State Fire Code, there was no action needed at this time. There was some discussion from a manufacturer regarding skylights and Class A approval. Fire Marshal staff will review that.

On the Building Codes, they received two requests from the City of Morgantown with the adoption that has not been signed yet by the Governor going to the 2009 Building Codes. City of Morgantown wants to make their code more stringent than the current code that is pending signature. And they have asked the Fire Commission to act on their request. The first one would reclassify some of the terminology regarding the residential dwellings that would limit the number of occupants within a house and also to limit the parking with those homes. They have requested staff to consult with the Attorney General's Office to get their interpretation as to whether that is something the Fire Commission needs to act upon. Another item was in regards to the 2009 International Property Maintenance Code. The code in place now is the 2003 version.

And once the Governor signs the rule for the Building Code, it will move to the 2009 version. In the 2006 version, there was a table reference 404.5 that was removed and the City of Morgantown wishes to put that table back into the 2009 version as a provision and they have requested the ICC, Corey Roblee, to review whether that is something the Fire Commission should act upon. Commissioner Shriver had questioned what was the reason it was removed in the 2006 version. When that determination is received, they will bring it back to the Fire Commission for consideration.

Another item for discussion came from staff and it was Dupont has asked for clarification as to the licensure of fire protection work at any manufacturing or industrial establishment. They are using contract employees and they feel they should be exempt from having licenses. Staff did say that would be a staff decision and not require any action by the Fire Commission.

The Energy Code – Kelly Bragg from the WV Department of Energy and she shared that they received a grant that was part of the stimulus package that was to help smaller cities and counties to be more educated on energy efficiency of the facilities, specifically, city halls and courthouses. She was invited to attend all future committee meetings to keep the committee up to date on the Energy Code.

#### **TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

The meeting for June is scheduled for June 10-11, 2010 at the Pullman Plaza Hotel, Huntington, WV.

The meeting for August is scheduled for August 26-27, 2010 at the WVU-FSE Fire Academy, Jacksons Mill, WV.

Tentative dates are October 21-22 at Canaan Valley and December 2-3 in the Morgantown area.

#### **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Fire Marshal Lewis introduced Tod Hangar, Fire Chief for the Greenbrier Resort. Marshal Lewis stated it was a tremendous facility and he thanked him for their hospitality.

#### **ADJOURN**

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Sterling Lewis, Jr.  
State Fire Marshal

**Minutes**  
**West Virginia State Fire Commission Training Committee**  
**April 15, 2010, White Sulphur Springs**

The Training Committee met at 1500 hours at the Greenbrier Resort in White Sulphur Springs. There were nineteen participants.

The first discussion was about the combined Fire Officer 1 and 2 classes. As stand-alone courses, Fire Office 1 is forty hours and Fire Officer 2 is thirty hours. The combined course is forty eight hours. The student will have thirty days to complete homework assignments for the Fire Officer 1 portion and sixty days to complete the Fire Officer 2 portion homework. It was the consensus of the Training Committee to present the combined Fire Officer 1 and 2 course to the Commission for adoption to the approved class list.

Next discussion involved the new Firefighter 2 curriculum. The new course came to forty hours. The amount of “decon” being taught to firefighters was discussed. It was the consensus to advance the Firefighter 2 curriculum to the full Fire Commission with recommendation to adopt to the approved class list.

The third class considered for adoption was the new Hazardous Materials Awareness/Operations course. Mike Freeman outlined the new course for the committee. Mike explained that in contrast to the new Firefighter 2 course that had few changes, the Haz. Mat. Class had many changes. Due to schedule limitations, the class did not get full attention and review. It was decided to not present the class for adoption until the WVU Fire Service Extention representative and a soon-to-be- appointed representative from RESA could review the course. It will be on the June Training Committee agenda.

Final discussions involved junior firefighters. Currently they may receive instruction and fully complete Firefighter 1. Liability issues and concerns for junior firefighter safety have been received. This is due to the “live burn” requirement for the new curriculum. The “live burn” codes are currently in the review stage and it appears that no one under eighteen years of age will be permitted in a live burn situation. What about the possibility of using cold, simulated fire scenario for their training? Then, after their eighteenth birthday, testing under live fire conditions to receive their certificate. This policy will be discussed at the next Training Committee meeting in June.

Meeting adjourned at 1610 hours.