

WV STATE FIRE COMMISSION MEETING
WVSFMO • Charleston, WV •

October 9th, 2020

The official business meeting was called to order at 09:05AM by Chairman Grant Gunnoe.

ROLL CALL: by Kathryn L Burns

Commissioners Present

Edward George, Grant Gunnoe, Dave Camp, Carl Eastham, Doug Estep, Thomas Keefer, Phil Hart, Doug Mongold, Jim Oldaker, Ted Shriver, Mark Stroop, Virgil White and Marshal Tyree.

It should be noted that Counsel Nowicki is present as well and Commissioner Mongold joined meeting at 9:15am.

Commissioners Absent

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner White made a motion to accept and approve the minutes of the August 13th, 2020 Fire Commission Meeting, seconded by Commissioner George. With the ayes and nays have been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

SFMO REPORT:

Marshal Tyree gave his October 9th, 2020 report to the Commission. Updating the Commission on staffing, legislative issues, fire department loss of funding information, significant projects, visitations and meetings by Marshal Tyree, correspondence received and commendations.

Entertained Questions - None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

No Committee meetings were held due to Covid 19 restrictions.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1) Consideration of Berkeley County Local Fire Prevention Unit

Commissioner Gunnoe updated the Fire Commission regarding the MOUs. All are complete except South Berkeley and it is expected to be voted upon at their next meeting.

No action taken.

2) Consideration of Parson VFD Request to form SARS Team

Chairman Gunnoe addressed the Commission noting additional information will be provided to the Commission by Counsel under item 4 on new business.

3) Consideration of Posting Evaluations for Public Consumption Once Completed

Chairman Gunnoe addressed the Commission noting additional information will be provided to the Commission by Counsel under item 4 on new business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioner Gunnoe listed the departments up for recertification.

1) Consideration of Recertification of Fire Departments – Danville VFD, Poca VFD, Middlebourne VFD, Sistersville VFD, Reedy VFD.

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to recertify Danville VFD, Poca VFD, Middlebourne VFD, Sistersville VFD, Reedy VFD, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

2) Consideration of Fire Officer 1 & 2 Applications – Robert Furgson (Summersville) FO 1, Brian Noble (Green Valley) FO 2, Wesley Mills (Ballard) FO 2, and Jared Bess (Cabin Creek) F O 1&2.

Commissioner White made a motion to approve Robert Furgson (Summersville) FO 1, Brian Noble (Green Valley) FO 2, Wesley Mills (Ballard) FO 2, and Jared Bess (Cabin Creek) FO 1&2, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

3) Consideration of Pratt VFD Certification Needs

Assistant Fire Marshal Scott updated the Commission on the items needed for Pratt VFD recertification. Those items are CPR cards and a copy of their roster. At the time of the meeting they had not been received. An inquiry was made to ASFM Scott if he thought the department had those items and ASFM Scott replied in the affirmative.

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to grant an extension to the Pratt VFD until the December Fire Commission meeting, seconded by Commissioner White. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

4) Update on §15A-11-8 Powers, Duties, and Authority of State Fire Commission Amendment

Chairman Gunnoe noted at this time the Commission will move onto item 5 go back to 4 and 6 due to the need to enter executive session on those items.

5) Update on §15A-11-11 Fire Service and Equipment Training Fund Amendment

Counsel Nowicki summarized for the Commission how the update will need to proceed. Counsel answered questions regarding submissions for the funding and availability of the funding.

4) Update on §15A-11-8 Powers, Duties, and Authority of State Fire Commission Amendment

Commissioner White made a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:36am, seconded by Commissioner George. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

6) Update on Junior Fire Fighters Expansion on Dos and Don'ts

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to leave Executive Session at 10:50am, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

Chairman Gunnoe updated those in attendance following the executive session on the following:

2) Consideration of Parson VFD Request to form SARS Team (old business)

Chairman Gunnoe addressed those in attendance stating that Counsel is working on language that will give the Commission authority to address the item.

No action taken.

3) Consideration of Posting Evaluations for Public Consumption Once Completed (old business)

Gunnoe addressed those in attendance stating that Counsel is working on language that will allow the Commission to post evaluations once they are completed.

No action was taken.

4) Update on §15A-11-8 Powers, Duties, and Authority of State Fire Commission Amendment

No action taken.

6) Update on Junior Fire Fighters Expansion on Dos and Don'ts

Chairman Gunnoe addressed those in attendance informing them of our work with the Department of Labor to clarify language regarding the scope of allowable duties of Junior Fire Fighters. The Commission wants to get this clarified for the departments as the code is not clear. In addition, their needs to be clarification about non-trained juveniles' scope of allowable participation as well.

No action taken.

7) Additional Discussion of Legislative Areas of Concern

No additional discussion.

No Action Taken.

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION:

Commissioner Gunnoe noted that the Commission understands that Fire Departments would like to have more ability to allow participation by Junior Fire Fighters to help their recruitment and retention and are working to that end via legislation.

SPEAKERS:

None scheduled

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS:

Thomas Perry (ISO) addressed the Commission over concerns about a letter received by fire departments from OEMS. Marshal Tyree responded noting that that the first letter sent by OEMS had been rescinded. He encouraged that anyone who had any questions or confusion to contact OEMS.

Chairman Gunnoe addressed all in attendance updating them on December Committee and Commission meeting changes due to Covid 19. The final decision on the meeting will be made on the Saturday prior to the Commission meeting once the new color code map is released.

Commissioner Mongold inquired about fund raising restrictions Fire Departments are facing due to Covid 19 and the legalities involved to move them to on-line. Counsel will look into the matter and follow up with Commissioner Mongold.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING(S):

Chairman Gunnoe addressed attendees updating them on the reasoning to move to Charleston 11:00 am. We will make final decision on the Saturday before the meeting when the new color codes come up.

Committee Meetings 10:00am December 3rd, 2020 (tentative date and time) and Fire Commission Meeting 9:00am December 4th, 2020 in Charleston WV location TBD.

ADJOURN:

Commissioner White made a motion to adjourn at 11:07am, second by Commissioner Oldaker, with all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.
