

WV STATE FIRE COMMISSION MEETING
WVSFMO • Charleston, WV •

December 4th, 2020
Via Conference Call

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, Steven Byers and Marshal Tyree.

It should be noted that Counsel Nowicki is present as well.

Commissioners Absent

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to accept and approve the minutes of the October 9th, 2020 Fire Commission Meeting, seconded by Commissioner White. With the ayes and nays have been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONER BYERS:

Chairman Gunnoe welcomed Commissioner Byers. Commissioner Byers noted he looks forward to working with the Commission.

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

The Commission observed a moment of silence in memory of Charleston Police Officer Cassie Johnson.

SFMO REPORT:

Marshal Tyree gave his December 4th, 2020 report to the Commission containing staffing, legislative, projects, and fire department funding loss updates. He also spoke of planned visits, meetings, received correspondence as well as a brief overview of the 2020 Annual report.

Entertained Questions

Commissioner White commended the Fire Marshal's Office regarding arrests they have made. Commissioner Shriver asked for clarification on the support Home Builders support of a state-wide building code. Marshal Tyree confirmed that support but noted we are in the early stages of the discussion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

No Committee meetings were held due to Covid 19 restrictions.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1) Consideration of Berkeley County Local Fire Prevention Unit

Chairman Gunnoe updated the Commission making them aware all requirements have been met and an FDID number has been issued.

No action taken.

2) Update on Parson VFD Request to form SARS Team

Chairman Gunnoe addressed the Commission noting that this item will not be on the agenda until the proposed legislation §15A-11-8 Powers, Duties, and Authority of State Fire Commission is submitted and passed by legislature.

No action taken.

3) Update on Posting Evaluations for Public Consumption Once Completed

Chairman Gunnoe addressed the Commission noting that this item will not be on the agenda until the proposed legislation §15A-11-8 Powers, Duties, and Authority of State Fire Commission is submitted and passed by legislature.

No action taken.

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

Chairman Gunnoe addressed the Commission and provided the answers to questions posed regarding the draft of §15A-11-8 Powers, Duties, and Authority of State Fire Commission. He noted that many of the items will be addressed during the rule making process.

Commissioner White made a motion to approve the draft of §15A-11-8 Powers, Duties, and Authority of State Fire Commission, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

Counsel Nowicki updated the Commission on the status of the proposed legislation and the next steps that still need to be taken.

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

Marshal Tyree had updated the Commission in his report previously.

No action taken.

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

Chairman Gunnoe addressed the Commission regarding the changes being proposed to the Junior Fire Fighters Do's and Don'ts.

A discussion ensued about the proposed changes including concerns, comments, or suggestions the Commission, Staff or the Public had.

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to change language on item 2 of Do's and Don'ts that a Junior Fire Fighter may administer first aid at a fire or emergency scene but not the inside area of a building or structure until fire has been declared under control by the official in charge and the Junior is under direct supervision of a Certified Fire Fighter over the age of 18 on a one to one basis, seconded by Commissioner White. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

Commissioner Hart made a motion to change the language on item 3 of Do's and Don'ts that a Junior Fire Fighter may do clean up at a fire or emergency scene but not the inside area or a building or structure until a fire has been declared under control by the official in charge and the Junior is under direct supervision of a Certified Fire Fighter over the age of 18 on a one to one basis, seconded by Commissioner Oldaker. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to add to the language of the Do's and Don'ts that a Junior Fire Fighter would be able to be on an emergency fire apparatus if properly belted in and following safety procedures once they have completed Fire Fighter 1 and in the Junior Fire Fighter program, seconded by Commissioner Oldaker. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

Commissioner White made a motion to put into code that no person under the age of 18 be permitted to be a passenger on a fire apparatus that is in service unless they have completed the Junior Fire Fighter program (minimum age of 16 to be in program), seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and the nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

Commissioner Camp made a motion that Counsel request the Attorney General give an updated opinion on the current Child Labor Laws, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to allow the Chairman, Co Chairman, Fire Marshal and Counsel to clear up the language of the proposed changes regarding Junior Fire Fighters so it meets the intent of the Fire Commission, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Gunnoe listed the departments up for recertification.

1) Consideration of Recertification of Fire Departments – Pratt VFD, Kanawha County

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to recertify *Pratt VFD, Kanawha County* seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

2) Consideration of Fire Officer 1 & 2 Applications – Joe Ramella FO 1 & 2, City of Huntington and Evan Aldridge FO 2, Summersville.

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to approve *Joe Ramella FO 1 & 2, City of Huntington and Evan Aldridge FO 2, Summersville*, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

3) Consideration of FDC FY2021-009

Marshal Tyree addressed the Commission on the complaint received regarding untrained persons participating at an active fire scene and the department's response to correct the issue. The office recommends the Commission accepts the response and proposed corrective measures.

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to accept the response by the department and the actions they have taken to correct the issue, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

4) Consideration of FDC FY2021-011

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to allow the fire marshal's office to conduct an investigation into the complaint, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and the nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

5) Consideration of 2021 Fire Commission Meeting Dates

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to approve the proposed (tentative) dates and location suggestions, seconded by Commissioner White. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

6) Election of New Officers

Commissioner Chairman Gunnoe called for nominations for the Election of New Fire Commissioner Officers for 2021.

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to nominate and accept Grant Gunnoe for the office of Chairman, seconded by Commissioner White. No other nominations were made and with all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

Commissioner White made a motion to nominate and accept Doug Mongold for the office of Vice Chairman, seconded by Commissioner Oldaker. No other nominations were made and with all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to nominate and accept Ted Shriver for the office of Secretary, seconded by Commissioner Estep. No other nominations were made and with the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

7) Personnel Matter

Chairman Gunnoe addressed those in attendance noting this item will be moved to the end of the agenda.

RECURITMENT AND RETENTION:

No Comments

SPEAKERS:

None scheduled

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

CORRESPONDENCE:

Marshal Tyree discussed the letter received regarding the actions of Fire Fighter Kenny Stump.

Commissioner Mongold made a motion that a Certificate of Recognition be sent to Fire Fighter Stump, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and the nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING(S):

Committee Meetings 10:00am February 4th, 2021 (tentative date and time) and Fire Commission Meeting 9:00am February 5th, 2021 in Charleston WV location TBD.

7) Personnel Matter

Commissioner White made a motion to go into executive session at 10:42am, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to leave executive session at 10:58, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

No action taken

ADJOURN:

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to adjourn at 11:00am, second by Commissioner Eastham, with all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.
