

WV STATE FIRE COMMISSION MEETING

North Bend State Resort Park Lodge

Cairo WV.

June 2nd, 2023

The official business meeting was called to order at 9:00am by Chairman Grant Gunnoe

ROLL CALL: by Kathryn L Burns

Commissioners Present

Dave Camp, Carl Eastham, Doug Estep, Edward George, Grant Gunnoe, Phil Hart, Tom Keefer, Brian Jones, Doug Mongold, Jim Oldaker, Ted Shriver and Virgil White.

Commissioners Absent

Steven Byers

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to accept and approve the minutes of the April 14th, 2023 Fire Commission Meeting, seconded by Commissioner White. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

RECOGNITION

None

CHANGE IN AGENDA

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to amend the agenda to add Bethany Pike to the 180 Report, seconded by Commissioner Shriver. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

SFMO & DIVISIONAL REPORTS:

Deputy Dave Blaylock gave the Inspection/Plan Review Department report and entertained Questions.

Deputy Mark Stewart gave the Fire Services Department Report.

Marshal Tyree gave the Investigations Report, and his June Operations report to the Commission containing staffing, relocation information to the TC Energy building in Charleston, software solution update, NFIRS replacement and fire department funding loss updates. He made the Commission aware of the voluntary shut down of Bethany Pike VFD in February of 2023. He also spoke of planned visits, meetings and received correspondence. He then entertained and answered questions.

Chairman Gunnoe explained the Complaint process to those in attendance per §87CSR6.

At this time to accommodate those in attendance Chairman Gunnoe asked those who wished to speak regarding Bethany Pike VFD to go ahead and come forward.

PUBLIC SPEAKERS

Corey Mitchell (President Brooke County Fire Chiefs Association)

Michael Bolen (Franklin Fire Department)

William DeGarmo (Bethany Pike VFD Assistant Chief)

Mary Whipkey (Bethany Pike VFD Secretary)

Rob McMann (WV State Trooper) via phone

Tommy Deserio (Brooke County Commission) via phone

No Action taken.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**VFD Fire Service Equipment and Training Grant Fund – Did Not Meet
Disciplinary – Did Not Meet**

Fire Department Services Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Minutes

June 1st, 2023

Call to Order

Commissioner Mongold called to order the regular meeting of the Fire Department Services Committee at 10:00AM on June 1st, 2023 at North Bend State Park Lodge, Cairo WV.

Roll Call

The following commissioners were present:

Doug Mongold

Jim Oldaker

Phil Hart

Brian Jones

Dave Camp

The following commissioners were absent:

None

Commissioner Oldaker made a motion to amend the agenda to add Bethany Pike to the 180 Day report, seconded by Commissioner Jones. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

1. Consideration of Fire Officer Applications

Assistant State Fire Marshal Bradley Scott presented the following applications for approval.

- a. Michael Milam FO 2 (Fayetteville)

Commission Jones made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission to approve the applications as listed, seconded by Commissioner Camp. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

2. Consideration of Fire Chief Applications

Assistant State Fire Marshal Bradley Scott presented the following applications for approval.

- a. Justin Williams (Benwood)

Commissioner Camp made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission to approve the applications as listed, seconded by Commissioner Jones. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

3. Report on Fire Department Receiving 180 Days to Achieve Compliance.

ASFM Scott briefed the Committee on the Departments receiving 180 days.

- a. Fort Gay VFD
- b. Dunlow VFD
- c. Follansbee VFD
- d. Wellsburg VFD
- e. Delbarton VFD
- f. Matewan VFD
- g. Wharcliffe VFD
- h. Smoot VFD
- i. Bethany Pike (added)

4. Consideration of Fire Department Recertification

Assistant State Fire Marshal Bradley Scott presented the following departments for Recertification.

- a. Pickens VFD
- b. Springfield Valley VFD
- c. Mabscott VFD
- d. Talcott VFD
- e. Smithers VFD
- f. Sophia Area VFD

- g. Barracksville VFD
- h. Pritchard VFD
- i. Nuttull VFD

Commissioner Oldaker made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission the recertification of the listed departments, seconded by Commissioner Camp. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

5. Consideration of Fire Department with Perfect Evaluations Recertification.

Assistant State Fire Marshal Bradley Scott present the following Perfect Evaluations for Recertification.

- a. Kenova VFD
- b. Hundred VFD
- c. Lavalette VFD
- d. Ceredo VFD
- e. Loudendale VFD
- f. Colliers VFD
- g. Hooverson Heights VFD
- h. McKinleyville VFD
- i. Franklin Community VFD
- j. Bethany VFD
- k. Beach Bottom VFD
- l. Windsor Heights VFD

Commissioner Camp made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission the recertification of the listed departments, noting their perfect evaluations, seconded by Commissioner Jones. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

6. Discussion/Consideration of Action on Departments not completing Funding Application.

Chairman Gunnoe requested Marshal Tyree report on the updated processes the Fire Marshal's Office has added regarding lack of or incomplete Funding Applications and Evaluations.

Marshal Tyree reported that ASFM Scott is taking a departments funding application to each department that he evaluates to compare information provided, to what the department has on hand and notes that the departments are correctly completing their applications. This item has been added to ASFM Scott's Evaluation check list. For departments that have left items blank on their Funding Application we have contacted them and scheduled evaluations. As for those departments who have not submitted a funding application, they are contacted via 1) phone, 2) email and 3)letter requesting they submit a Funding Application.

Commissioner Mongold inquired at what point do they lose their funding for not submitting a Funding Application. Marshal Tyree stated per §8-15-8.a submission of a Funding Application is not a requirement.

Chairman Gunnoe inquired as to the reasons a department may not be able to get their funding and Marshal Tyree responded that in order to get their funding, there has to be verification that departments have submitted their fire reports and recognition by the Commission as a department. So not submitting fire reports, and not being recognized by the Commission (or decertification) would be reasons for withholding funding. He noted to decertify a department the Commission would have to follow the guidelines set in §87CSR6.

- 6a) Discussion/Consideration of Action on Departments with uncompleted items on Funding Application.

- 6b) Discussion/Consideration of Action on Departments providing inaccurate information on Funding Application.

No Action Taken.

Adjournment

Having no additional business, Commissioner Camp moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:22am without objection. Meeting adjourned.

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to accept the report as written, seconded by Commissioner White. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

Training Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Minutes

June 1st, 2023

Call to Order

Commissioner White called to order the regular meeting of the Training Committee at 10:23am on June 1st, 2023 at North Bend State Park Lodge, Cairo WV.

The following commissioners were present:

Virgil White
Jim Oldaker
Doug Estep
Tom Keefer
Dave Camp
Doug Mongold

The following commissioners were absent:

None

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

1. Discussion/Consideration of WVPST Curriculum Update for Hazardous Materials.

Jamie Weller of WV Public Service Training presented the proposed curriculum updates to the Committee. He noted they are minor updates and that it will bring the curriculum up to the 2022 Standard.

Commissioner Keefer inquired if they were using the Jones and Bartlett publication and it was confirmed they are.

1a) Technician.

1b) Awareness and Operations Levels.

Commissioner Keefer made a motion to recommend to the Full Commission to approve curriculum updates to Technician, Awareness and Operations from the 2017 Standards to the 2022 Standards, seconded by Commissioner Oldaker. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote.

2. Discussion/Consideration of Technician Level Rescue Classes

Commissioner White addressed the Committee explaining he received a question regarding whether Technician Level Rescue Classes are required to be tested.

Jamie Weller of WV Public Service Training (PST) provided a booklet (Cognitive and Psychomotor Testing for Technical Rescue Programs) to the Committee that explained the roles of testing, the types of testing, courses currently tested, comparisons to other states fire fighter training, comparison to other professions training, sampling of pass/fail percentages, summary of the information and PST's recommendation. PST's recommendation is to continue cognitive exams at the technician level and make no changes to the current program.

Chairman Gunnoe asked if there are any courses that don't require a written test. Mr. Weller responded that there are no written tests for the awareness and operations level except for hazmat, neither is there one for the Incident Safety Officer level. He entertained and answered questions on that topic.

Commissioner Mongold inquired if WVU Fire Services Extension (FSE) and PST are consistent in what they are doing. Mark Lambert of WVU FSE was not aware this was an agenda item, and he is requesting to be made aware if an item involving WVU FSE is on the agenda. Mr. Lambert stated that all classes tested as WVU will not give you credit without a test.

Chairman Gunnoe reviewed old curriculum and while it states tested it does not clarify whether it is written and that is the purpose of this discussion.

After further discussion Chairman Gunnoe requested Commissioner White add to the August agenda to bring information on the Awareness and Operations Level as to whether there is a written test.

Commissioner Oldaker made a motion to recommend to the Full Commission that for clarification a written test is a requirement of the Commission on Technical Level Classes, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote.

Other Business

Mark Lambert of WVU FSE provided information on Junior Camp to be held 6/17/23 to 6/22/23. There are currently 85 to 90 signed up. If one of the Commission or Staff wishes to come by to please let him know. There is also to be a Women's National Fire Academy Weekend on 6/23/23-6/25/23. If anyone has any interest in that he can provide additional information.

PST – Asset Conference will be the first weekend in December, and they are currently working on the program now.

Adjournment

Having no additional business, Commissioner Mongold moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:08am without objection. Meeting adjourned.

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to accept the report as written, seconded by Commissioner Estep. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

Legislative, and Codes Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Minutes

June 1st, 2023

Call to order

Commissioner George called to order the regular meeting of the Legislative and Codes Committee meeting at 11:12am on June 1st, 2023 at North Bend State Park Lodge, Cairo WV.

Roll call

The following commissioners were present:

Jim Oldaker
Brian Jones
Tom Keefer
Edward George
Doug Mongold

The following commissioners were absent:

Ted Shriver

Unfinished Business

1. Consideration of update to 87CRS1.

Marshal Tyree presented the proposed updates to 87CSR1 to the Committee which would bring the State Fire Code to be better aligned with the National Fire Code. He noted two concerns that were brought up during the 5/31/23 Stakeholders meeting. One being the Fire Alarm requirements in the current State Fire Code (which is more stringent) compared to those in the current National Code. He encouraged those attending who were concerned with the proposed changes to submit Public Comments when filed. The other concern was under NICET (National Institute of Certification and Engineering Technologies). We currently require every company to have at least one person to have NICET 1 certification. A request was made that we make it a NICET 2 Level certification in 2.4.a. He also noted additional technical updates in the version before the Committee.

Marshal Tyree then entertained and answered questions regarding the timelines involved and processes necessary.

No action taken; item is on the main Fire Commission agenda.

2. Discussion on IBC and Adult Changing Stations.

Marshal Tyree addressed the Committee on his correspondence from Ms. Allison Bungard explaining the difficulties those with adult age disabled children face in traveling with them, due to lack of Adult Changing Stations. He intends to reach out to her again and his recommendation would be that a Building Code change as a whole would not be workable but perhaps, she could seek a Legislator to sponsor the particular language in IBC E142-21.

Commissioner George agreed with Marshal Tyree that a legislative fix would be the best solution and understands that Ms. Bungard has already spoken with House Judiciary Chairman Moore-Capito. He explained that until this was brought to his attention, he had not thought about the reality of taking care of adult age disabled children and the difficulties those who do face. He certainly thinks it is a worthy cause.

No Action Taken.

New business

None

Adjournment

Having no additional business, Commissioner Mongold moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:33am without objection. Meeting adjourned.

Commissioner George made a motion to accept the report as written, seconded by Commissioner Easthan. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

AFFF Disposal Committee

Meeting Minutes

June 1st, 2023

Call to order

Commissioner Keefer called to order the regular meeting of the AFFF Disposal Committee Meeting at 11:35am on June 1st, 2023 at North Bend State Park, Cairo WV.

Roll call

The following commissioners were present:

Tom Keefer
Edward George
Dave Camp
Virgil White
Jim Oldaker

The following commissioners were absent:

None

Unfinished business

None

New business

Report on Meeting with DEP.

Deputy Chief Bailey briefed those in attendance on the contents of the Virtual Meeting with DEP. He noted the biggest issue is developing an inventory list. The DEP is going to develop an educational piece to help with the identification of the material. By the August meeting he believes the inventory level will be available, then a cost estimate for the disposal of the material can be made.

Adjournment

Having no additional business, Commissioner George moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:39am without objection, meeting adjourned.

Commissioner White made a motion to accept the report as written, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1) Consideration of Updates to 87CSR1.

Commissioner Shriver made a motion to approve the updates as presented, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Consideration of Fire Officer Applications.

Assistant State Fire Marshal Bradley Scott presented the following applications for approval.

- b. Michael Milam FO 2 (Fayetteville)

Commissioner Jones made a motion to approve applications as listed, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

2) Consideration of Fire Chief Applications.

Assistant State Fire Marshal Bradley Scott presented the following applications for approval.

- b. Justin Williams (Benwood)

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to approve applications as listed, seconded by Commissioner Oldaker. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

3) Report on Fire Departments Receiving 180 Days to Achieve Compliance.

- a. Fort Gay VFD
- b. Dunlow VFD
- c. Follansbee VFD
- d. Wellsburg VFD
- e. Delbarton VFD
- f. Matewan VFD
- g. Wharncliffe VFD
- h. Smoot VFD
- i. Bethany Pike

No Action Taken

Chairman Gunnoe provided a recap of the discussion during the Committee meeting (see Fire Department Services Committee report).

4) Consideration of Recertification of Fire Departments.

- a. Pickens VFD
- b. Springfield Valley VFD
- c. Mabscott VFD
- d. Talcott VFD
- e. Smithers VFD

- f. Sophia Area VFD
- g. Barracksville VFD
- h. Pritchard VFD
- i. Nuttall VFD

Commissioner White made a motion to recertify the listed departments, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

5) Consideration of Perfect Evaluation Recertification of Fire Departments.

- a. Kenova VFD
- b. Hundred VFD
- c. Lavalette VFD
- d. Ceredo VFD
- e. Loudendale VFD
- f. Colliers VFD
- g. Hooverson Heights VFD
- h. McKinleyville VFD
- i. Franklin Community VFD
- j. Bethany VFD
- k. Beach Bottom VFD
- l. Windsor Heights VFD

Commissioner White made a motion to recertify the departments noting their perfect evaluations, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

6) Discussion/Consideration of Action on Departments not completing Funding Application.

Chairman Gunnoe gave a brief recap of yesterday's Committee Meeting. See Fire Department Service report.

6a) Discussion/Consideration of Action on Departments with uncompleted items on Funding Application.

6b) Discussion/Consideration of Action on Departments providing inaccurate information on Funding Application.

No Action Taken.

7) Discussion/Consideration of WVPST Curriculum Update for Hazardous Materials.

1a) Technician.

Commissioner Keefer made a motion to approve update seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote.

1b) Awareness and Operations Levels.

Commissioner White made a motion to approve the update seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote.

8) Discussion/Consideration of Technician Level Rescue Classes.

Chairman Gunnoe gave a recap of the item during the Committee meeting and the need to clarify the requirement of written tests. See Training Committee report.

Commissioner Mongold made a motion clarifying that it is the position of the Commission that a written test is required for Technician Level Classes in the Technical Rescue Field, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

Chairman Gunnoe has requested that:

- 1) Commissioner White and Staff to get a current list from the Training Providers of all the classes they do offer.
- 2) Verify we have the written curriculum available in the office.
- 3) The Training Committee will begin reviewing all of those at future meetings, until all have been reviewed.
- 4) Then any necessary changes can be brought to the attention of the Commission.

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION:

None

SPEAKERS:

Zachary Adkins from Valley Fire and Rescue addressed the Commission. He really appreciates the on-line repository system that has been put into place and recommends it's use.

CORRESPONDENCE:

FDS letter to Fire Department Re: Requirements for WV Fire Departments and Certificate Repository Program.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Currently working with Bechtel Summit as a possible location for October meeting.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING(S):

August Committee Meetings - 10:00am Thursday, August 3rd, 2023, at Twin Falls Resort State Park, Mullens WV.
Commission Meeting 9:00am Friday, August 4th, 2023, at Twin Falls Resort State Park, Mullens WV

ADJOURN:

Commissioner White made a motion to adjourn at 10:08am without objection. Meeting adjourned.
