

WV STATE FIRE COMMISSION MEETING

Twin Falls State Park
Mullens, WV
August 4th, 2023

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

ROLL CALL: by Kathryn L Burns

Commissioners Present

Steven Byers, 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

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner White made a motion to accept and approve the minutes of the June 2nd, 2023 and July 25th, 2023 Fire Commission Meetings, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

RECOGNITION

Chairman Gunnoe noted the recognition of the rescue by Chief Hart at the recent NC Conference.

Marshal Tyree spoke of the passing of Joe Crist – Raliegh County Fire Coordinator and how much he and his work would be missed.

Chairman Gunnoe thanked the Wyoming County Fire Fighters Association for the meal and fellowship provided to the Commission, Staff and Counsel.

SFMO & DIVISIONAL REPORST:

Deputy Mark Stewart gave the Inspections/Plan Review Department Report.

Entertained Questions – None

Marshal Tyree gave the Services, Investigations Report, and his August 2023, Operations report to the Commission containing staffing, legislative, updates, and fire department funding loss updates. He also spoke of planned visits, meetings and received correspondence.

Entertained Questions - None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Fire Department Services Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Minutes

August 3rd, 2023

Call to Order

Commissioner Mongold called to order the regular meeting of the Fire Department Services Committee at 10:02AM on August 3rd, 2023 at Twin Falls State Park, Mullens WV.

Roll Call

The following commissioners were present:

Doug Mongold
Jim Oldaker
Phil Hart
Brian Jones
Dave Camp

The following commissioners were absent:

None

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

1. Consideration of Fire Officer Applications

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

- a. Kenneth Boles FO1 (Fayetteville)
- b. Brittany Asbury FO1 (Birch River)
- c. Christopher Keyes FO2 (Keyser)

A discussion was held on the qualifications of applicant Asbury compared to the Standards and after reviewing the Committee felt they did not meet the criteria as they had one year in the Fire Service and the experience listed fell under administrative items.

Commissioner Hart made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission to deny the application of Brittany Asbury FO1, due to lack of experience, seconded by Commissioner Oldaker. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed. The applicant/department will be provided with a letter of explanation by staff.

Commission Hart made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission to approve the applications of

Kenneth Boles FO1 and Christopher Keyes FO2, 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. Michael Huggins (Clinton District)

Commissioner Hart made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission to approve the applications as listed, seconded by Commissioner Oldaker. 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. Chattaroy VFD
- b. Kermit VFD
- c. Lenore VFD
- d. Gilmer County VFD
- e. Main Harts VFD

No Action Needed.

4. Consideration of Fire Department Recertification

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

- a. Bradley VFD
- b. Loup Creek VFD
- c. Wayne VFD
- d. East Lynn VFD
- e. Fort Gay VFD
- f. Wellsburg VFD
- g. Delbarton VFD
- h. Chattaroy VFD

Commissioner Hart made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission the recertification of the listed departments, seconded by Commissioner Oldaker. 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. Gilbert VFD
- b. Baisden VFD
- c. Forest Hill VFD
- d. Pipestem VFD

- e. Jumping Branch Nimitz VFD
- f. Summers County VFD
- g. Hinton VFD
- h. Green Sulphur
- i. Williamson FD
- j. East Fork VFD
- k. Beech Creek VFD

Commissioner Oldaker 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.

Commissioner Mongold commented that several departments may be in attendance tomorrow, including West Side VFD to discuss some items of concern to them but at this time there is nothing to act on.

Adjournment

Having no additional business, Commissioner Oldaker moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:17am 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.

Call to Order

Commissioner Eastham called to order the regular meeting of the Disciplinary Committee at 11:32am on August 3rd, 2023 at Twin Falls State Park, Mullens WV.

Roll Call

The following commissioners were present:

Carl Eastham
Ted Shriver
Doug Mongold
Steven Byers
Edward George

The following commissioners were absent:

None

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

1. Consideration of FDC2023-013

Commissioner George made a motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Byers. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner George made a motion to leave Executive Session, seconded by Commissioner Shriver. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner George made a motion to recommend to the full Fire Commission to find probable cause on FDC2023-013, seconded by Commissioner Byers. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Clerical Note: The original complaint notice letter went out as FDC2023-023 in error. The correct number is noted as FDC2023-013.

Adjournment

Having no additional business, Commissioner George moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:30am without objection. Meeting adjourned.

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

Training Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Minutes

August 3rd, 2023

Call to Order

Commissioner White called to order the regular meeting of the Training Committee at 10:18am on August 3rd, 2023, at Twin Falls State Park, Mullens WV.

Roll Call

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

2. Consideration of WVPST Curriculum Update:

Deputy Chief Bailey presented the proposed curriculum updates to the Committee which would bring them up to the 2021 standard for 1006 for the disciplines listed. He noted that it breaks up Vehicle Rescue into two items. He and the training providers entertained and answered the questions of the Committee which had concerns about the necessity of additional training as curriculums are being broken down into more specialized areas and how that would be tracked or certified. The Committee would like to see as much as possible for training certification to be done in joint hours, so fire fighters don't have to take so many additional hours. A discussion was held on how that could be achieved.

Next a discussion ensued on how it would be best handled for curriculum updates to stay in sync or uniform with one another between the training entities. It was proposed that they communicate with one another as to what updates they will be bringing to the Committee so they may be approved at the same time. In some instances that may require one training entity to wait for the other to be prepared for the update or possibly leaving the item on the agenda until both entities complete the curriculum update. The training entities and Staff will work together on achieving that goal.

- a) **Rope Rescue**
- b) **Vehicle Rescue - Heavy**
- c) **Vehicle Rescue – Passenger**

Commissioner Oldaker made a motion to recommend to the Full Commission to approve the updates to Rope Rescue, Vehicle Rescue – Heavy and Vehicle Rescue - Passenger, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote.

3. Consideration of WVU FSE Curriculum Update:

Mark Lambert of WVU FSE presented the proposed curriculum updates to the Committee.

a) Haz Mat Awareness

b) Haz Mat Operations

Commissioner Oldaker made a motion to recommend to the Full Commission to approve the updates as presented to Haz Mat Awareness and Haz Mat Operations, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote.

For future updates the Committee requests a thumb drive of the material to be approved.

Mark Lambert of WVU FSE spoke about the Junior Camp that had been held and noted they had 107 attend camp. That included people from Texas, Louisiana and Maine. The Dept. Secretary from the US Fire Administration attended one day and was impressed with the camp and they hope to work together in the future.

Mr. Lambert wanted to bring to the attention of the Committee that there is a push in industries with continued training that licenses be carried, and he believes that is headed in our direction.

Commissioner Mongold asked what are the standards for CPR and First Aid. Marshal Tyree noted that it just states CPR and First Aid but does not specify a particular training.

Adjournment

Having no additional business, Commissioner Mongold moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:56 without objection. Meeting adjourned.

Commissioner Mongold 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.

Legislative, and Codes Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Minutes

August 3rd, 2023

Call to order

Commissioner Shriver called to order the regular meeting of the Legislative and Codes Committee meeting at 10:57am on August 3rd, 2023 at Twin Falls State Park, Mullens WV.

Roll Call

The following commissioners were present:

Jim Oldaker
Brian Jones
Tom Keefer
Edward George
Ted Shriver
Doug Mongold

The following commissioners were absent:

None

Unfinished Business

None

New business

1. Review/Consideration of Necessary Updates to Referenced Codes on Requirements for Local Fire Departments.

Marshal Tyree addressed the Committee noting the update to the Requirements for Local Fire Departments which included 87-8 (Training 1001, 1006, 1021) standards that have been approved to use. He believes the purpose of this item was to ensure we keep the most updated version when available.

Commissioner Shriver explained the reasoning behind his request was to make sure there is awareness when things change that were based on old current code versus what may have been taken out.

Marshal Tyree hopes that the Training providers could bring Training items to the attention of the Commission as the agency does with Fire Codes items. A discussion ensued on that possibility and the cooperation that already exists on the matter.

No motion needed.

Adjournment

Having no additional business, Commissioner George moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:07am without objection.
Meeting adjourned.

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

AFFF Disposal Committee

Meeting Minutes

August 3rd, 2023

Call to Order

Commissioner Keefer called to order the regular meeting of the AFFF Committee Meeting at 11:08am on August 3rd, 2023 at Twin Falls State Park, Mullens 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

1) Update on AFFF disposal progress.

Deputy Chief Bailey briefed the Committee on the Survey that was sent to Fire Departments for their completion. Currently there are 62 responses to the survey, most of which are from Fire Departments along with a few from Healthcare and Industrial entities. Deputy Chief Bailey did want to clarify at this time there is no guarantee that funding for disposal will be provided and to whom. It is Marshal Tyree opinion that this was intended for Fire Departments only.

New business

None

Adjournment

Having no additional business, Commissioner George moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:16am without objection, meeting adjourned.

Commissioner George 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.

FULL COMMISSION MEETING

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Consideration of Fire Officer Applications.

See FDS Report.

- a. Kenneth Boles FO1 (Fayetteville)
- b. Brittany Asbury FO1 (Birch River)
- c. Christopher Keyes FO2 (Keyser)

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to approve applications of Kenneth Boles FO1 and Christopher Keyes FO2 , seconded by Commissioner White. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to deny the application of Brittany Asbury due to lack of qualifications, 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.

See FDS Report.

- a. Michael Huggins (Clinton District)

Commissioner White 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.

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

See FDS Report.

- a. Chattory VFD
- b. Kermit VFD
- c. Lenore VFD
- d. Gilmer County VFD
- e. Main Harts VFD

No Action Taken

Chairman Gunnoe wanted to clarify that the 180 Day allowance was not intended to be used as a means to circumvent the necessary training/certification for Fire Officers. Staff is to make VFDs aware of that information.

4) Consideration of Recertification of Fire Departments.

See FDS Report.

- a. Bradley VFD
- b. Loup Creek VFD
- c. Wayne VFD
- d. East Lynn VFD
- e. Fort Gay VFD
- f. Wellsburg VFD
- g. Delbarton VFD
- h. Chattaroy VFD

Commissioner Mongold 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.

See FDS Report.

- a. Gilbert VFD
- b. Baisden VFD
- c. Forest Hill VFD
- d. Pipestem VFD
- e. Jumping Branch Nimitz VFD
- f. Summers County VFD
- g. Hinton VFD
- h. Green Sulphur
- i. Williamson FD
- k. East Fork VFD
- l. Beech Creek VFD

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

6) Consideration of FDC2023-013

See Disciplinary Report.

Commissioner Eastham made a motion finding probable cause on FDC2023-13, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

As probable cause has been found the Department was named as Bethany Pike.

Commissioner Eastham made a motion for Counsel to send a Notice of Hearing to Bethany Pike and complainants, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

7) Discussion/Consideration of WVPST Curriculum Update:

See Training Report.

- a) Rope Rescue
- b) Vehicle Rescue - Heavy
- c) Vehicle Rescue – Passenger

Commissioner White made a motion to approve updates to Rope Rescue, Vehicle Rescue – Heavy and Vehicle Rescue – Passenger as presented, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote.

8) Consideration of WVU FSE Curriculum Update:

See Training Report.

- a) Haz Mat Operations
- b) Haz Mat Awareness

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

9) Review/Consideration of Necessary Updates to Referenced Codes on Requirement for Local FDs.

See Legislative Report.

No Action Needed.

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION:

John McGinnis of Nicholas County Emergency Management presented ideas to help improve Recruitment and Retention he garnered from his recent attendance at the SC Fire Convention. The ideas/recommendations included: early involvement with Schools, conducting Open Houses, attending areas events like County Fairs, use Special Teams as a recruiting tool, accept change and how to use that change to reach out to today's young people, review policies for updates that could make participation easier with today's work schedules, themed Fire Trucks, consistency with rewards and discipline, have committees with varied members so all can be involved, be prepared during training classes so they run effectively and make arrangements with auxiliaries for possible Child Care during calls.....He then entertained and answered questions from the Commission.

SPEAKERS:

Tyler Olson – Field Representative for ISO informed the Commissioner that Tim Flinn has taken over the territory that Tommy Perry previously worked. He and Mr. Flinn will be the Commission/Fire Marshal's Office contact person.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

December Proposed Meeting Location. Staff will reach out to Canaan Valley for availability.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING(S):

October Committee Meetings - 10:00am Thursday, October 5th, 2023, at Summit Bechtel Glen Jean WV. Commission Meeting 9:00am Friday, October 6th, 2023, at Summit Bechtel Reserve Glen Jean WV.

ADJOURN:

Commissioner White made a motion to adjourn at 10:30am without objection. Meeting adjourned.