

WV STATE FIRE COMMISSION MEETING

Summit Bechtel Reserve

Glen Jean WV

October 6th, 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 August 23rd, 2023 Special Fire Commission Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

RECOGNITION

None

SFMO & DIVISIONAL REPORTS:

Deputy Mark Stewart gave the Inspections/Plan Review Report

Entertained Questions – None

Commissioner Eastham thanked the Inspections Division for their professionalism during a recent project.

Marshal Tyree gave the Services and Investigations Report, and his October 2023, Operations report to the Commission containing staffing, legislative, and fire department funding loss updates as well as planned visits and correspondence. He discussed a proposed realignment he is working on, which would create a Civilian Leadership position as an Assistant Services Manager I in the Services division overseeing the Regulatory and Licensing unit. He noted the need to go back to the drawing board on the Online Licensing System due to unacceptable liability limits on the current proposal. Marshal Tyree reported on the Legislative joint committee discussion on AFFF foam and that he shared the results of the survey implemented by the AFFF Disposal Committee. While he answered many questions from the Legislature about AFFF and the survey, at this time no action was taken, as it was just an information session.

Commissioner George inquired how AFFF is disposed of and Marshal Tyree responded that there are various means, but he believes the primary mechanism would be encapsulation.

Chairman Gunnoe requested that Committee and Staff put together a summary of the survey results and share them at the December meeting with the Full Commission for their review and acceptance of the report. Marshal Tyree will get with Joe Altizer (the legal representative of the Joint Committee) so he can include the notes from their meeting.

Marshal Tyree spoke of Senate Bills 1021, 1022, and 1023 which all relate to Fire Department Funding. SB 1021 has already begun being dispersed to VFDs, which doubles the amount in the 3rd quarter. 1022 and 1023 will be administered by the Department of Homeland Security into two accounts of \$3,000,000 each, as he understands. The All County Fire Protection Fund and the County Fire Protection Fund (which includes counties with County Fire Fees/Levies). The disbursement mechanisms are currently being developed.

Commissioner Mongold inquired if counties with EMS Fees/Levies would be included, and Marshal Tyree responded that the legislation was not written that way but that there may be different interpretations.

Marshal Tyree stated there will be Interim meetings October 15th - 17th, and he has been participating in a workgroup where they are trying to look at monies for Fire, EMS and other like concerns. They are informal and are being held in the Capitol.

He made the Commission aware that the agency move is completed and brought to their attention to the access cards for each Commissioner.

Commissioner Keefer stated that he had been at an EMD briefing regarding a National Qualifying System and how it would apply to Fire Service and if Marshal Tyree had any comments. Marshal Tyree replied he did not as he was not privy to that meeting but he will ask for a sit-down on the item. Chairman Gunnoe suggested perhaps something official could be brought to the December meetings for information purposes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Fire Department Services Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Minutes

October 5th, 2023

Call to Order

Commissioner Mongold called to order the regular meeting of the Fire Department Services Committee at 10:02AM on October 5th, 2023 at Summit Bechtel Reserve, Glen Jean 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 Jones made a motion to amend item 1 in new business to include Neal Aldrich FO1, seconded by Commissioner Oldaker. 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. Mitchell Rusiecki FO 1 (Star City)
- b. Donna Roop FO 2 (Summersville)
- c. Caleb Robbins FO 1&2 (Huntington)
- d. Dustin Bumgardner FO 1&2 (Huntington)
- e. Tracey Gray FO 1 (Ansted)
- f. Kenneth Boles FO 2 (Fayetteville)
- g. Joshua Zacot FO 1 (Keyser)
- h. Neal Aldrich FO 1 (Clarksburg)

Commission Oldaker made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission to approve the applications as listed, seconded by Commissioner Hart. 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. Travis Cook (Shaver Fork)
- b. Joey Brafford (Burlington)

Commissioner Oldaker 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) Cottageville VFD

4. Consideration of Fire Department Recertification

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

- a. Dunlow VFD
- b. Follansbee VFD
- c. Matewan VFD
- d. Wharncliffe VFD
- e. Kermit VFD

Commissioner Jones made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission the recertification of the listed departments, seconded by Commissioner Hart. 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 presented the following Perfect Evaluations for Recertification.

- a. South Fork VFD
- b. Upper Tract VFD
- c. Circleville VFD
- d. Seneca Rock VFD
- e. Ravenswood VFD
- f. Baker Heights VFD
- g. Back Creek Valley VFD
- h. South Berkeley VFD
- i. Hedgesville FD
- k. Bedington FD
- l. City of Martinsburg FD
- j. Berkeley County FD

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 Hart. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

6. Consideration of New Boundary Areas (Bethany's Pike's Previous Area)

ASFM Scott presented the boundary submission by Brooke County 911 and Brooke County Fire Association, entertained, and answered questions on how the area was divided.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission the approval of the proposed boundaries, seconded by Commissioner Hart. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Other Business

Commissioner Mongold inquired if anyone in attendance wished to bring anything before the Committee.

Commissioner Mongold suggested that the Committee needs to review its' process on equivalencies for FO 1&2. His concern is that people are expecting approval for little or dated qualifications and he would like to see it on the December meeting agenda. Commissioner Oldaker noted that the standard is based on the 1990's addition of 1021 and it is time for a review.

Adjournment

Having no additional business, Commissioner Camp moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:16am without objection. Meeting adjourned.

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

Training Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Minutes

October 5th, 2023

Call to Order

Commissioner White called to order the regular meeting of the Training Committee at 10:17am on October 5th, 2023 at Summit Bechtel Reserve, Glen Jean 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

1. Consideration of WVPST Curriculum Update:

Shelia Radford of WV Public Service Training presented the proposed curriculum updates to the Committee. No changes have been made but they have updated to the current standards, and they use Jones and Barlett textbooks.

- a) **Fire Officer I**
- b) **Fire Officer II**

Commissioner Oldaker made a motion to recommend to the Full Commission to approve the updates, seconded by Commissioner Keefer. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

2. Consideration of WVU FSE Curriculum Update:

Ralph McNemar of WVU FSE presented the proposed curriculum updates to the Committee. They too are updating to the current standards. They did make some changes to the skills sheet and use the IFSTA textbooks. Scenarios may be different but both WVU and PST use the same JPRs based on the NFPA standard.

Commissioners reviewed and compared submissions by both training entities. Training entities answered questions from the Commissioners on any differences, teaching practices and documentation.

- a) **Fire Officer I**
- b) **Fire Officer II**

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

motion passed.

Commissioner Keefer made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission, that training entities keep a copy of evaluations sheets, whether it be a summary sheet, individual objectives and any homework, either by hard copy or electronically on all courses approved by the Fire Commission, seconded by Commissioner Estep. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

3. Report/Consideration of Methods to Handle Increased Numbers of Specialized Modules

Commissioner Keefer noted that in the new 470 in lieu of the old Technician there are numerous specialties, and everything is its' own entity.

Ralph McNemar discussed his understanding of the new specialties and the requirements that revolve around the changes. There is a meeting next week on the item. The discussion will remain on the December agenda for further discussion and clarification.

Commissioner Keefer also wanted to bring to the attention of the Committee that the Emergency Management Division has been working on a National Qualification System (NQS) and FEMA is putting out a new requirement that if you want to be reimbursed for any recovery dollars, the person who is leading the incident will have to qualified under this new system. Charles Bennett of the EMD is writing what the textbooks will look like for WV. That new program will need to be endorsed by the State by the end of the year and it has to be in effect by the end of next year. He has concerns about what would happen if a Fire Chief wasn't qualified under this system.

John McGinnis of OHFD and Nicolas County Emergency Management explained that he attended a meeting on the program last week. He will forward the information he received item to the Commission. He explained his understanding of how the program will work, that it is coming and will be implanted in 3 phases. The item is to be added to the December agenda for further discussion/consideration.

Adjournment

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

Commissioner Mongold inquired if the previously discussed NQS would also be required to be eligible for any Federal Grants, to which Commissioner Keefer replied that it would, just like the NIMS checkbox.

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

Legislative – Did not meet.

AFFF Disposal – Did not meet.

VFD Equipment and Training Fund – Did not meet.

Disciplinary – Did not meet.

FULL COMMISSION MEETING

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- 1) Update/Consideration of AFFF Disposal Progress – See Fire Marshal Report.**

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) Consideration of Fire Officer Applications.**

See FDS Report.

- a. Mitchell Rusiecki FO1 (Star City)
- b. Donna Roop FO 2 (Summersville)
- c. Caleb Robbins FO1&2 (Huntington)
- d. Dustin Bumgardner FO 1&2 (Huntington)
- e. Tracey Gray FO1 (Ansted)
- f. Kenneth Boles FO2 (Fayetteville)
- g. Joshua Zacot FO1 (Keyser)
- h. Neal Aldrich FO1 (Clarksburg)

Commissioner George 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.**

See FDS Report.

- a. Travis Cook (Shaver Fork)
- b. Joey Brafford (Burlington)

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to approve applications as listed, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. 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. Cottageville VFD

No Action Taken

- 4) Consideration of Recertification of Fire Departments.**

See FDS Report.

- a. Dunlow VFD
- b. Follansbee VFD
- c. Matewan VFD
- d. Wharncliffe VFD
- e. Kermit VFD

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to recertify the listed departments, seconded by Commissioner White. 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. South Fork VFD
- b. Upper Tract VFD
- c. Circleville VFD
- d. Seneca Rock VFD
- e. Ravenswood VFD
- f. Baker Heights VFD
- g. Back Creek Valley VFD
- h. South Berkeley VFD
- i. Hedgesville FD
- k. Bedington FD
- l. City of Martinsburg FD
- j. Berkeley Count FD

Commissioner Eastham 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 New Boundary Areas (Bethany Pike’s Previous Area).

See FDS Report.

Commissioner White made a motion approve the new boundary assigning the areas to McKinnleyville and Wellsburg VFDs, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

7) Consideration of WVPST Curriculum Update

See Training Report.

- a) **Fire Officer I**
- b) **Fire Officer II**

Chairman Gunnoe noted the motions made at yesterday’s Committee meeting, but he is requesting that the Fire Marshal’s Office procure a hard copy of the text-books and evaluations sheets used by both training entities in order to gain some additional clarification update prior to approving the updates. Based on this request the following motion was made.

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to table items 7, 8 and Commissioner Keefer’s motion until the December meeting, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and the nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

8) Consideration of WVU FSE Curriculum Update

See Training Report and previous motion.

- a) Fire Officer I
- b) Fire Officer II

9) Report/Consideration of Methods to Handle Increased Number of Specialized Modules.

See Training Report.

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION:

Chairman Mongold hopes to have the President of Maryland’s Association and the Chairman of their Recruitment and Retention Committee to share ideas and help one another.

SPEAKERS:

None

CORRESPONDENCE:

WV PST Asset Conference Invite – December 1-3 Canaan Valley Resort

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

February will be in Charleston on February 1st and 2nd, 2024. Chairman Gunnoe discussed attire. No changes at this time but it will be discussed.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING(S):

Committee Meetings - 10:00am Thursday, November 30th, 2023 at Canaan Valley Resort, Davis WV. Commission Meeting 9:00am Friday, December 1st, 2023 at Canaan Valley Resort, Davis WV.

Other Business

Chairman Gunnoe asked with the new monies coming to departments, would it be possible to have someone from the Auditor’s Office come and share information on the WV Checkbook program at the December or February meeting.

ADJOURN:

Commissioner White made a motion to adjourn at 9:58am without objection. Meeting adjourned.