

WV STATE FIRE COMMISSION MEETING

Oglebay Resort
Wheeling WV
August 2nd, 2024

The official business meeting was called to order at 9:02am by Chairman Grant Gunnoe

ROLL CALL: by Deputy Chief Bailey

Commissioners Present

Steven Byers, Carl Eastham, Edward George, Grant Gunnoe, Phil Hart, Tom Keefer, Brian Jones, Doug Mongold, Jim Oldaker, and Virgil White.

It is noted that Counsel Brandolyn Felton-Earnest is in attendance as well.

Commissioners Absent

Ted Shriver
Dave Camp
Doug Estep

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to accept and approve the minutes of the June 7th, 2024, Fire Commission Meeting, seconded by Commissioner White. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

RECOGNITION

Moment of Silent Prayer for Commissioner Camp and Commissioner Estep.

Moment of Recognition and Silence in Memoria for a job well done and 49 years of service by Chief Benny Filiaggi.

HYDRANT TESTING TASK FORCE REPORT

Commissioner Oldaker reported on the last meeting of the Fire Hydrant Task Force and the proposal being put forward regarding required testing of Fire Hydrants. Currently that proposal is being reviewed by the Public Service Commission.

AGENDA CORRECTION

Commissioner White made a motion to amend the agenda moving Anthony Creek from item 2 in New Business to item 3 in New Business, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

SFMO & DIVISIONAL REPORTS:

Deputy Stewart presented the Inspections/Plan Review and Fire Department Services report, and Marshal Tyree gave the Services and Investigations Report, and his Operations report to the Commission containing staffing, legislative, fire department funding loss, and public education updates and entertained questions.

Chairman Gunnoe inquired about a recent story in the Herald Dispatch on the regulations faced by food truck vendors. Marshal Tyree gave a brief explanation of the current requirements and the length of time the standards have been in place and the potential gaps in getting the information to those who need it. Commissioner Mongold suggested the maybe we could work with County Associations and Municipal Leagues to help with distribution of those requirements. Commissioner Eastham raised a concern with how SFMO staff approach and speak to the vendors, to which Marshal Tyree responded it has always been his guidance that all staff treat people with respect.

PRESENTATION:

Veterans and Hero’s Agriculture Program - Eryck Stamper with the West Virginia Department of Agriculture explained the benefits available to Veterans, Firefighters, Law Enforcement, First Responders, Emergency Services Personnel and the spouses of the former, through the program, such as scholarships, funding, networking and connectional resources. The program seeks to further promote the development of agricultural industries, products and marketing opportunities across the State.

SPEAKERS:

Thanks to a fortuitous schedule Congressman Alex Mooney was able to attend a small portion of the meeting and spoke to the Fire Commission. During his address he noted his high regard for the dedicated First Responders in WV, his concerns with current National budget issues and his hopes for the future.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The Legislative and Grant Committees did not meet. Disciplinary met but no business was conducted and there will not be a report.

Fire Department Services Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Minutes

August 1st, 2024

Call to Order

Commissioner Byers, called to order the regular meeting of the Fire Department Services Committee at 10:00AM on August 1st, 2024 at Oglebay Resort, Wheeling WV.

Roll Call

The following commissioners were present:

- Steven Byers
- Jim Oldaker
- Phil Hart
- Brian Jones

Doug Mongold
Grant Gunnoe

The following commissioners were absent:
Dave Camp

Unfinished Business

1. Consideration of Updated Temporary Fire Officer Application.

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

New Business

1. Consideration of Fire Chief Applications

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

- a. James B Hinkle (Washington Bottom)
- b. Danny Browning Jr. (Harts)
- c. Mike Kerekes (Berwind)
- d. Tyler Phillips (Leading Creek)
- e. Timothy Griffin (Frametown)
- f. Trent Speicher (Rivesville)
- g. Brandon Thacker (Chattaroy)
- h. John Lemley (Morgantown)
- i. Michael Leggett II (Pennsboro)
- j. Charlie Croy (Princeton)

Commissioner Jones 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. Report on Fire Department Receiving 180 Days to Achieve Compliance.

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

- a) Leading Creek VFD
- b) Maysville VFD

No action necessary.

3. Consideration of Fire Department Recertification

Due to a clerical error: Commissioner Oldaker made a motion to add Anthony Creek to this item, seconded by Commissioner Jones. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

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

- a) Reedy VFD
- b) Mason VFD
- c) Alderson VFD
- d) Renick VFD
- e) Petersburg VFD
- f) Anthony Creek

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

4. Consideration of Fire Department with Perfect Evaluations Recertification.

ASFM Bradley Scott presented the following Departments with Perfect Evaluations for Recertification.

- a) Frankford VFD
- b) Fairlea VFD
- c) Ronceverte VFD
- d) Lewisburg VFD
- e) White Sulphur Springs
- f) Philippi VFD
- g) Belington VFD
- h) Junior VFD
- i) Bayard VFD
- j) Mount Storm VFD
- k) Mathias Baker VFD
- l) Capon Valley VFD
- m) Franklin VFD
- n) Moorefield VFD

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

5. Consideration of East Lynn VFD Substation.

Deputy Chief Bailey addressed the Committee regarding the intentions of East Lynn VFD to absorb Dunlow as a substation. He noted there are several legal matters that need to be addressed at Dunlow prior to East Lynn sending a formal request and that at this time, it was informational only.

Commissioner Gunnoe made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission the acceptance of the informational report, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

6. Consideration of Jefferson County Fire Prevention Unit Request for a FDID Number.

Joshua Smith, with the Jefferson County Emergency Services Agency spoke on the intention of the request and answered the Committee's questions on the item.

Commissioner Gunnoe stated that a signed letter of support from the County Commission will be needed, and Mr. Smith responded that they expect to have it following today's meeting of the Commission.

Gunnoe noted we need the actual letter of support from the County Commission, and they are currently meeting. They will provide the letter as soon as they get it.

Commissioner Oldaker noted that it was not substantially different from the request previously approved for Berkeley County.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission to approve the request for recognition as a department and issue a FDID Number pending the recommendation letter. Seconded by Commissioner Hart. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Adjournment

Having no additional business, Commissioner Jones moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:19am without objection. Meeting adjourned.

Commissioner White 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.

Training Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Minutes

August 1st, 2024

Call to Order

Commissioner White called to order the regular meeting of the Training Committee at 10:26am on August 1st, 2024 at Oglebay Resort, Wheeling WV.

Roll Call

The following commissioners were present:

Virgil White
Jim Oldaker
Tom Keefer
Doug Mongold
Grant Gunnoe

The following commissioners were absent:

Dave Camp
Doug Estep

Unfinished Business

1. Consideration of WV Professional FF Master Firefighter Program.

Dustin Lambert with the Professional Firefighters of WV and the Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee, and Tad Dalton with the International Firefighter 313 explained the intention of the program and presented the Committee with an updated Policies and Implementation Guide. They entertained and responded to questions from the Committee on the changes in the new guide and the training and experience requirements of the program.

Commissioner Keefer made a motion to recommend to the Full Commissioner approval of the program, seconded by Commissioner Oldaker. With the ayes and nays having been taken by a voice vote, the motion passed.

2. Consideration of Trilogy Emergency Vehicle Operations Course.

No business was conducted. This item will be removed from the agenda.

3. Information on 87CSR8.

Commissioner Oldaker gave a report on the outcome/findings of the workgroup held on July 9th, 2024 at 10:00am at the State Fire Marshal's Office regarding 87CSR8.

During the workgroup the following motion was made; Commissioner Estep made a motion to recommend to the Full Commission not to open/make changes to 87CSR8 at this time, seconded by Commissioner White. With the ayes and nays taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

New Business

1. Public Service Training Report

No Report

2. WVU-FSE Report

Mark Lambert of WVU-FSE reported on Junior Camp noting the number of attendees, special guests, the States represented and the overall positive response to the camp.

3. Consideration/Review of Junior Fire Fighter Do's and Don'ts

Deputy Chief Bailey reported to the Committee that upon review of the current Junior Fire Fighter Do's and Don'ts, it was noted that the language referencing RESA needs to be removed.

Commissioner Oldaker made a motion to recommend to the Full Commission to allow the Fire Marshal's Office to make technical updates to the document, seconded by Commissioner Keefer. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Adjournment

Having no additional business, Commissioner Keefer moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:50am without objection

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

FULL COMMISSION MEETING

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

See FDS Report.

1) Consideration of Updated Fire Officer Temporary Application.

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

See Training Report.

2) Consideration of WV Professional FF Master Firefighter Program.

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

See Training Report.

3) Consideration of Trilogy Emergency Vehicle Operator Course.

No action taken. Removed from agenda.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Consideration of Fire Chief Applications.

See FDS Report.

- a. James B Hinkle (Washington Bottom)
- b. Danny Browning Jr (Harts)
- c. Mike Kerekes (Berwind)
- d. Tyler Phillips (Leading Creek)
- e. Timothy Griffin (Frametown)
- f. Trent Speicher (Rivesville)
- g. Brandon Thacker (Chattaroy)
- h. John Lemley (Morgantown)
- i. Michael Leggett II (Pennsboro)
- a) Charlie Croy (Princeton)

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

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

See FDS Report.

- a. Leading Creek VFD
- b. Maysville VFD

No action taken.

3) Consideration of Recertification of Fire Departments.

See FDS Report.

- a. Reedy VFD
- b. Mason VFD
- c. Alderson VFD
- d. Renick VFD
- e. Petersburg VFD
- f. Anthony Creek VFD

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

4) Consideration of Perfect Evaluation Recertification of Fire Departments.

See FDS Report.

- a. Frankford VFD
- b. Fairlea VFD
- c. Ronceverte VFD
- d. Lewisburg VFD
- e. White Sulphur Springs
- f. Philippi VFD
- g. Belington VFD
- h. Junior VFD
- i. Bayard VFD
- j. Mount Storm VFD
- k. Mathias Baker VFD
- l. Capon Valley VFD
- m. Franklin VFD
- n. Moorefield VFD

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.

5) Consideration of East Lynn VFD Substation.

See FDS Report.

No action taken. Chairman Gunnoe noted that at this time it was informational only.

6) Consideration of Jefferson County Fire Prevention Unit's Request for a FDID number.

See FDS Report.

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to table the item until the Jefferson County Commission has a chance for further review and provides a letter of support, seconded by Commissioner White. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

7) Consideration/Review of Junior Fire Fighter's Do's and Don'ts.

See Training Report.

No action needed.

8) Consideration of FDS 2024-007.

No action was needed as the Committee took no action due to the complaint being closed.

SPEAKERS:

No additional speakers.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Meeting location proposal for December - First choice Snowshoe, second choice Parkersburg Blennerhassett hotel.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING(S):

Committee Meetings - 10:00am Thursday, October 3rd, 2024 at Flatwoods Conference Center, and Commission Meeting 9:00am Friday, October 4th at Flatwoods Conference Center.

ADJOURN:

Commissioner White made a motion to adjourn at 10:32am without objection. Meeting adjourned.
