

WV STATE FIRE COMMISSION MEETING

Via Conference Call

January 6th, 2025

Call to Order

Chairman, Commissioner Gunnoe, called to order the special conference call Fire Commission meeting at 11:00 am on January 6th, 2025, at the State Fire Marshal's office in Charleston, West Virginia.

Roll Call

The following commissioner was present in person:

Grant Gunnoe

Marshal Tyree and Counsel were also present in person.

The following commissioners were present by phone:

Carl Eastham

Edward George

Phil Hart

Brian Jones

Thomas Keefer

Doug Mongold

Ted Shriver

Virgil White

- A quorum was present

The following people attended via conference call to participate in the meeting:

Corey Marcum, Complainant

Donnie Chavis, Complainant

Doug Messer, Lenore Volunteer Fire Department President

Robbie Bailey, IV, Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal

Mark Stewart, Deputy Fire Marshal

Unfinished Business

1. Consideration of Fire Chief Revocation/Suspension
 - a. FDC 2024-027
 - b. FDC 2024-028

During the conference call, Mr. Marcum asked to speak. He stated that he didn't feel safe in his position with the current chief in charge. He also stated that the chief had still been around while he was suspended. He further stated he was afraid he would be kicked off of the volunteer fire department during a meeting being held this evening.

During the conference call, Mr. Messer asked to speak. He stated that he had not seen the chief around or on any calls. He also clarified that the meeting to be held on Monday evening, January 6, 2025, was the regularly scheduled monthly meeting and the meeting was not being held to discuss potential discipline for Mr. Marcum. Mr. Messer asked the Fire Commission if any firefighter should be tolerated in cussing another firefighter. Mr. Messer was directed to Section 9 of the By-laws of the Lenore Volunteer Fire Department which states "No profanity in the station, on scene, or any time that you are representing the LVFD." Mr. Messer was further advised that the Board of Directors for the Lenore VFD would need to handle any incidences of profanity.

During the conference call, Commissioner Eastham stated it was not okay for the Lenore VFD Board of Directors to take disciplinary action against Mr. Marcum in retaliation after the decision of the Fire Commission was issued.

Also, during the conference call, Commissioner Mongold agreed with Commissioner Eastham's statement and noted that it would be a problem for the Lenore VFD Board of Directors to take disciplinary action against the complainant.

After discussion of the matter, Commissioner White made a motion to accept the recommendation sent to the State Fire Commission by the Lenore VFD Board of Directors that the chief's served suspension had been sufficient, that the suspension be lifted, that it was up to the Lenore VFD Board of Directors when the chief would assume his duties, that any other issues with the chief would proceed with additional discipline and that the Lenore VFD would continue to be monitored by the State Fire Commission. Commissioner Eastham seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, the motion carried.

Adjournment

Having no additional business, Commissioner George moved to adjourn the meeting without objection. Meeting adjourned.