

WV STATE FIRE COMMISSION MEETING

Pipestem Resort
Pipestem WV 25979

PLEASE NOTE:

The following minutes have been provided and are considered unofficial,
until they are submitted for approval at the next scheduled meeting.

The official business meeting was called to order at 9:03am 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, Brian Jones, Doug Mongold, Jim Oldaker, and Virgil White (via conference call).

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

Commissioners Absent

Tom Keefer and Ted Shriver

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to go into executive session at 9:04am, seconded by Commissioner Byers. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to leave executive session at 9:09am, seconded by Commissioner George. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Chairman Gunnoe noted that no business took place during the session.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to accept and approve the minutes of the February 7th, 2025 Fire Commission Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Jones. 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 and Plan Review Reports.

Marshal Tyree gave the Services and Investigations Report, and his Operations report to the Commission containing staffing, legislative, agency wide updates and fire department funding loss information.

One item of note was the emergency rule ran for §87-1. The circumstances constituting the necessity for the emergency rule are:

An emergency exists requiring that this emergency rule be promulgated to address the time-sensitive nature of the upcoming fair and festival seasons in the Spring and Summer seasons of 2025 with relation to limited use food preparation facilities. This rule could not be amended through the legislative process until 2026 and there is an emergent need for the exception included in this emergency rule this summer. This emergency exists for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare of those attending fairs this summer as the Fire Code establishes the safeguarding of life and property from the hazards of fire and explosion. Also, the emergency exists to comply with the time limitation to have this emergency rule in place this summer, as there were situations last summer that necessitated a change in the rule.

Marshal Tyree explained that in addition a public hearing will be required on §87-1 to amend the existing rule and will be scheduled as soon as possible.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The Legislative & Codes, Recruitment and Retention and OSHA Committees did not meet.

Fire Department Services Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Minutes

April 3rd, 2025

Call to Order

Commissioner Byers, called to order the regular meeting of the Fire Department Services Committee at 10:03am on April 3rd, 2025, at Pipestem Resort, Pipestem WV 25979.

Roll Call

The following commissioners were present:

Steven Byers
Jim Oldaker
Phil Hart
Brian Jones
Dave Camp
Doug Mongold
Grant Gunnoe

The following commissioners were absent:

None

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

1. Consideration of Temporary Fire Officer Certifications.

- a) Anthony Bowden (Smoot)

Commissioner Hart 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) Joshua Crowe (Ridgeley)
- b) Joseph Long (Erbacon)
- c) Jeffery Farris (Chattaroy)
- d) Kevin Abbot (Monongah)
- e) Matthew Barlett (Shinnston)
- f) Adam Smith (Spencer Roane)
- g) Gregory Myers (Clover Roane)
- h) John Dunn (Jumping Branch/Nimitz)

Commissioner Oldaker made a motion to recommend 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.

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

ASFM Scott briefed the Committee on the Departments receiving 180 days

- a) Madison VFD
- b) Danville VFD
- c) Iaeger VFD
- d) Handley VFD
- e) Nettie VFD
- f) Cairo VFD
- g) Smithville VFD
- h) Harrisville VFD
- i) Racine VFD

- j) Smoot VFD

No Action Necessary.

4. Consideration of Fire Department Recertification

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

- a) Clay VFD
- b) Lakewood VFD

Commissioner Mongold 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.

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

- a) Whitesville VFD
- b) Bancroft VFD
- c) Rt 34 VFD
- d) Chesapeake VFD
- e) Teays Valley VFD
- f) Pratt VFD
- g) Ellenboro VFD
- h) Pennsboro VFD
- i) Morrisvale 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 Mongold. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Adjournment

Having no additional business, Commissioner Oldaker moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:13am 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.

Disciplinary Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Minutes

April 3rd, 2025

Call to Order

Commissioner Mongold called to order the regular meeting of the Disciplinary Committee at 10:15am on April 3rd, 2025 at Pipestem Resort, Pipestem WV 25979.

Roll Call

The following commissioners were present:

Carl Eastham (via conference call)
Doug Mongold
Steven Byers
Edward George
Grant Gunnoe

The following commissioners were absent:

Ted Shriver

Unfinished Business

1) Consideration of FDC 2024-24

Commissioner Gunnoe made a motion to go into executive session at 10:16, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner Byers made a motion to leave executive session at 10:36, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Per motion at the February Disciplinary Committee meeting, probable cause was found on FDC 2024-024 (Cottageville) and Chief Morrison was asked to attend the April Committee meeting.

The basis of the complaint was the lack of preparedness as a Fire Department Engine on a fire scene had no water and at the same scene there were children in another In-Service Department Vehicle.

In a written response to the letter notifying the department of the complaint, Chief Morrison stated that he had already addressed the truck not being properly prepared with the Firefighters responsible in doing so. As for the children, he responded to the scene without the use of red lights or siren and parked at a residence away from the scene and at no time did the children exit the vehicle. He was not aware that having children in the vehicle was not allowed.

Commissioner Mongold asked Chief Morrison to step up to the podium and Chairman Gunnoe inquired if there was anything else he wished to add. Chief Morrison explained it was an oversight regarding the truck not having

water and it had been addressed with those involved. As for the children, it was a mistake on his part for not being aware that they could not be in the vehicle.

Chief Morrison was asked if the department had a written policy about children in department vehicles to which he replied he would have to look at the policy and by laws, but he plans on implementing said policy if it doesn't exist.

Commissioner Gunnoe made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission that the Fire Marshal's office work with Chief Morrison to ensure that the appropriate policy with the necessary language to be in compliance with State code, be put in place by the department and provided to the Commission for the June meeting, seconded by Commissioner George. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner George made a motion to recess the Disciplinary Committee at 10:47am, seconded by Commissioner Camp. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner Mongold called the Committee back to order at 11:57am.

New Business

Commissioner Gunnoe made a motion to go into executive session at 11:59am, seconded by Commissioner George. With the ayes and nays having taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner Gunnoe made a motion to leave executive session at 12:37pm, seconded by Commissioner Byers. With the ayes and nays having taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

- 1) **Consideration of FDC2025-001**
- 2) **Consideration of FDC2025-002**
- 3) **Consideration of FDC2025-003**
- 4) **Consideration of FDC2025-004**
- 5) **Consideration of FDC2025-005**
- 6) **Consideration of FDC2025-006**
- 7) **Consideration of FDC2025-007**
- 8) **Consideration of FDC2025-008**
- 9) **Consideration of FDC2025-009**
- 10) **Consideration of FDC2025-010**
- 11) **Consideration of FDC2025-011**
- 12) **Consideration of FDC2025-012**

13) Consideration of FDC2025-013

14) Consideration of FDC2025-014

15) Consideration of FDC2025-015

Commissioner Gunnoe made a motion to find probable cause on FDC 2025-009 and for Fire Marshal Office staff to conduct additional investigation into the complaint, by contacting those on scene and reviewing the NFIRS report, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Adjournment

Having no additional business, Commissioner George moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:42pm 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

April 3rd, 2025

Call to Order

Commissioner Keefer called to order the regular meeting of the Training Committee at 10:48 on April 3rd, 2025 at Pipestem Resort, Pipestem WV 25979.

Roll Call

The following commissioners were present:

Jim Oldaker
Doug Estep
Tom Keefer
Dave Camp
Doug Mongold
Grant Gunnoe

The following commissioners were absent:

Virgil White

Unfinished Business

1. Discussion of NFPA 1010.

Commissioner Gunnoe stated to those in attendance that the Consideration of NFPA 1010 won't be on the main agenda until the Training Committee has had enough time to review it thoroughly.

Members of the Committee brought up various concerns about NFPA 1010 such as: The physical exam requirements, who is the AHJ, is it the Fire Commission or the local Fire Department, what are the potential changes in the number of training hours needed, how it could affect the training entities, and several other areas of concern.

Mr. Lambert with WVU-FSE would like to have a list of the Committees concerns so they can be addressed.

Commissioner Gunnoe stated that when this matter does go to the full Fire Commission, that **all interested parties** are to be made aware that it will be on the agenda and should attend.

For clarification Commissioner Gunnoe asked Marshal Tyree if any change could be made via the pilot program, and Marshal Tyree responded it could.

After a lengthy discussion it was proposed that a workgroup be set up in the afternoon following the Committee meetings at the June meeting to review NFPA 1010.

No Action Taken.

New Business

1. Public Service Training Report

No report.

2. WVU-FSE Report

Mark Lambert of WVU-FSE reported - The 2024 pass fail rates; He made the Committee aware that their Junior Camp was named the National Junior Camp of the Year by the National Volunteer Firefighters Council and the award will be presented on the last day of Camp on June 19th, 2025. To that camp they are adding some nutrition classes and for the 16-17 age attendees they will address PTSD and suicide prevention; WVU-FSE is working with the Propane Gas association to do 3 training classes to include both classroom and field training. The association is very concerned about firefighters getting the appropriate training and they have allocated monies for the training; The Tri-State Fire Chief school was held in Cabell county and was well attended; FF1 as a college level class is going to be offered over 2 semesters and if you pass the class, skills and test you will be Pro-board certified; He noted for informational purposes that the National Fire Academy is not offering any classes right now; Lastly he and another professor are about to publish a paper on Fire Fatalities in WV in order to build a foundation on why there are so many fatalities.

Marshal Tyree asked if the National Fire Academy had the ability to contract off campus classes and Mr. Lambert replied that it was not available at this time. Marshal Tyree inquired of Mr. Lambert what the cost to replicate what they do at the NFA burn cells they build. Mr. Lambert thought it would be anywhere from \$250,000 to \$500,000.

Adjournment

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

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.

FULL COMMISSION MEETING

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Consideration of Temporary Fire Officer Certification.

See FDS Report

- a) Anthony Bowden (Smoot)

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to approve applications as listed, seconded by Commissioner Jones. 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) Joshua Crowe (Ridgeley)
- b) Joseph Long (Erbacon)
- c) Jeffery Farris (Chattaroy)
- d) Kevin Abbot (Monongah)
- e) Matthew Barlett (Shinnston)
- f) Adam Smith (Spencer Roane)
- g) Gregory Myers (Clover Roane)
- h) John Dunn (Jumping Branch/Nimitz)

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to approve applications as listed, seconded by Commissioner Byers. 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) Madison VFD
- b) Danville VFD
- c) Iaeger VFD
- d) Handley VFD
- e) Nettie VFD
- f) Cairo VFD
- g) Smithville VFD
- h) Harrisville VFD
- i) Racine VFD
- j) Smoot VFD

No Action Taken

4) Consideration of Recertification of Fire Departments.

See FDS Report.

- a) Clay VFD
- b) Lakewood VFD

Commissioner Byers made a motion to recertify the listed departments, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. 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) Whitesville VFD
- b) Bancroft VFD
- c) Rt 34 VFD
- d) Chesapeake VFD
- e) Teays Valley VFD
- f) Pratt VFD
- g) Ellenboro VFD
- h) Pennsboro VFD
- i) Morrisvale VFD

Commissioner Mongold 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) Consideration of FDC 2024-24

See Disciplinary Report

Per the recommendation of the Disciplinary Committee to find probable cause Chairman Gunnoe named the department as Cottageville VFD.

Commissioner Camp made a motion that the Fire Marshal's office work with Chief Morrison to ensure that the appropriate policy with the necessary language to be in compliance with State code, be put in place by the department and provided to the Commission for the June meeting, seconded by Commissioner George. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

SPEAKERS:

Bill Costomiris, the chief of Talcot VFD, addressed the Commission and requested that the Fire Commission speak with the State Auditors office regarding electronic submission of financial documents is secure. It would make the process of submitting the required information much easier. Marshal Tyree will reach out to Justin Robinson on the matter.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Tunnels to Towers
Legislative Request

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Potential meeting locations and date for the August meeting:

Chairman Gunnoe relayed that Commissioner Mongold has offered to host the meeting and the dates will be Thursday July 31st, 2025 for Committee Meetings and Friday, August 1st, 2025 for the Fire Commission meeting.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING(S):

Committee Meetings - 10:00am Thursday, June 12th, 2025 and Commission Meeting 9:00am Friday, June 13th, 2025 at Cacapon Resort Park.

ADJOURN:

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