

WV STATE FIRE COMMISSION MEETING
Cacapon State Resort Park, Berkeley Springs WV

August 4th, 2022

The official business meeting was called to order at 9:05am 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, and Virgil White.

Commissioners Absent

Ted Shriver (Conference call not available at Cacapon)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to accept and approve the minutes of the June 3rd, 2022, Fire Commission Meeting, seconded by Commissioner White. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

RECOGNITION

Chairman Gunnoe recognized all first responders throughout the State.

SFMO & DIVISIONAL REPORT:

Deputy Chief Bailey gave the Investigations Report, Inspections/Plan Review Divisional Report and Marshal Tyree's June 2022 report to the Commission containing staffing, legislative updates, coloring calendar contest information and fire department funding loss updates. He also spoke of planned visits and meetings planned for Marshal Tyree as well as the Fire Alarm Install in Huntington WV with participants from Marshal's Football team. The install went very well, and he thanked the Marshal Players for their work.

Entertained and answered questions from the Commission.

Deputy Dave Blaylock gave the Fire Services Department Report.

Entertained and answered questions from the Commission.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Fire Department Services Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Minutes

August 4th, 2022

Call to Order

Commissioner Mongold called to order the regular meeting of the Fire Department Services Committee at 10:00AM on August 4th, 2022 at Cacapon State Resort Park, Berkeley Springs WV.

Roll Call

The following commissioners were present:

Doug Mongold
Jim Oldaker
Phil Hart
Brian Jones
Dave Camp

The following commissioners were absent:

None

At this time the Committee moved to item #7 under new business to accommodate the speaker in attendance on the matter.

New Business

- 7. Consideration of Request by Jefferson County Commission for discussion/decision regarding permitting and approvals for Jefferson County, including initiation and/or modification of current Jefferson County Emergency Service Agency Fire approvals or in the alternative, County Fire Department or Fire Prevention Unit approvals and the County's utilization of dual trained employees.**

John Nissell (County Administrator for Jefferson County,) Nathan Cochran (Assistant Prosecutor for Jefferson County providing legal assistance for the County Commission), Michelle Gordon (Finance Department Jefferson County) and Bob Burner (Jefferson County Emergency Services Agency) all addressed the Committee on the request noting that protecting the citizens of Jefferson County is paramount to them.

A discussion ensued between the Committee Members, Jefferson County representatives and those in attendance on how the request could be accomplished. The Committee noted that the Fire Commission does not have jurisdiction over Ambulance services and recommended the Jefferson County Commission look at the model currently in use by Berkeley County Fire. The Committee offered to work with Jefferson County on the issue as both entities are committed to public safety and noted all interested parties should be at the table. The Commission does support the idea and suggested the County Commission first work with the State Fire Marshal's Office on what would be necessary to get an FDID number, as Berkeley County did.

A recess of the Fire Department Services Committee was called at 11:06am and was resumed after the remaining Committee Meetings and a break for lunch till 1:45pm.

Chairman Mongold called the meeting back to order at 1:50pm.

Unfinished Business

1. Update/Report on Fire Department Response Data

ASFM Scott reported that in most cases 911 can't provide the scratch rate information as it is not something they track and do not have the staffing to do so. The item is to remain on the agenda and Staff is tasked to continue to pursue options on the matter.

New Business

1. Consideration of Tornado VFD/Westside VFD Inc #2

Deputy Chief Bailey presented the application submitted for a new Fire Department named Westside Volunteer Fire Department Inc #2.

The Commission inquired if the following criteria had been met:

A letter of support from the County Commission and the County Fire Association. (None Received).

A letter of comment from neighboring fire departments. (None Received).

Boundary Map submitted by proposed new department. (None Received)

Appropriately executed papers of dissolution for Tornado VFD. (None Received)

Commissioner Hart made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission to table the item, until the October meeting at allow the resubmission of corrected and additional required documents, seconded by Commissioner Jones. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

2. Consideration of Fire Officer Applications

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

- a. Chad Smarr (Jefferson) FO 1-2

Commission Oldaker 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.

3. Consideration of Fire Chief Applications

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

- a. David Crimm (Flemmington VFD)

Commissioner Hart made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission to approve the application, seconded by Commissioner Camp. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

- b. Joey Fields (Anawalt VFD) Hart Oldaker

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

c. Branson Henry (Leading Creek VFD)

Commissioner Hart made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission to approve the application, seconded by Commissioner Camp. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

d. Mike Baker (Sutton VFD)

Commissioner Hart made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission to approve the application, seconded by Commissioner Camp. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

e. Brian Dehaven (Back Creek Valley VFD)

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.

f. Josh Vance (Wharnccliffe VFD)

Commissioner Hart made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission to approve the application, seconded by Commissioner Jones. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

g. Chris Shilling (Westside VFD #2)

Commissioner Camp made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission to decline the application as no such entity exists, seconded by Commissioner Oldaker. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

h. Leslie Schoonover (Ellamore VFD)

Commissioner Hart made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission to approve the application, seconded by Commissioner Camp. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

i. John Roby (Banks District VFD)

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

4. Consideration of Fire Department with Perfect Evaluations Recertification

Assistant State Fire Marshal Bradley Scott present the following Perfect Evaluations for Recertification.

- a. Bruceton Brandonville VFD
- b. Albright VFD
- c. Tunnelton VFD
- d. Kingwood VFD
- e. Huttonsville Mill Creek VFD
- f. Banks District VFD
- g. Adrian VFD
- h. Buckhannon 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.

5. Consideration of Fire Department Recertification

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

- a. Clendenin VFD
- b. Clover Roane VFD
- c. Gandeeville Harmony VFD
- d. Newton VFD
- e. Pinch VFD
- f. Belle VFD
- g. Pennsboro VFD
- h. Cairo VFD
- i. Harrisville VFD

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

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

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

- a. Mount Grove VFD
- b. Aurora VFD
- c. Terra Alta VFD
- d. Pickens VFD
- e. Valley Head VFD
- f. Tygart Valley VFD
- g. Washington District VFD
- h. Selbyville VFD
- i. Warren District VFD
- j. Ellamore VFD

No Action Taken.

Adjournment

Having no additional business, Commissioner Oldaker moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:18pm 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.

Disciplinary Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Minutes

August 4th, 2022

Training Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Minutes

August 4th, 2022

Call to order

Commissioner White called to order the regular meeting of the Training Committee at 11:23am on August 4th, 2022 at Cacapon State Resort Park in Berkeley Springs WV.

The following commissioners were present:

Virgil White
Jim Oldaker
Doug Estep
Tom Keefer
Dave Camp

The following commissioners were absent:

None

Unfinished Business

1. Update on FireFighter Training Certification Access/Repository Program

A discussion was held to clarify what the Commission was seeking in a repository program. It was determined that a meeting between the Training Committee Chairperson and WV SFMO staff was to be held prior to the October Fire Commission meeting. The item is to remain on the agenda for any necessary vote.

No Action Taken.

New business

None

Other Business

A discussion was held between Committee members, Training Providers and others in attendance about a possible restructuring of the points value of practical tests and written exams due to a low passing rate on some Fire Fighter training. The item will be added to the October Commission meeting for further discussion.

Mark Lambert of WVU Fire Services Extension noted there were 72 in attendance at Junior Fire Fighter Camp and that WV Weekend at the National Fire Academy is planned for September 17th and 18th 2022.

Adjournment

Having no additional business, Commissioner Oldaker moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:22pm without objection. Meeting adjourned.

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

Legislative, and Codes Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Minutes

August 4th, 2022

Call to order

Commissioner George called to order the regular meeting of the Legislative and Codes Committee meeting at 12:26pm on August 4th, 2022 at Cacapon State Resort Park in Berkeley Springs WV.

Roll call

The following commissioners were present:

Jim Oldaker
Brian Jones
Tom Keefer
Edward George

The following commissioners were absent:

Ted Shriver (conference phone not available at Cacapon)

Unfinished Business

1. Update on 2020 HB 4558 (Article JJ13) VFD Tax Credit

Deputy Chief Bailey addressed the Commission on the information provided by the tax department. This credit takes effect in the 2023 calendar year.

No Action Taken

New business

None

Adjournment

Having no additional business, Commissioner Keefer moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:29 without objection. Meeting adjourned.

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

Grant Funding Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Minutes

August 4th, 2022

Call to order

Commissioner Mongold called to order the meeting of the Grant Funding Committee Meeting at 12:30pm on August 4th, 2022 at Cacapon State Resort Park in Berkeley Springs WV.

Roll call

The following commissioners were present:

Steven Byers
Doug Estep
Phil Hart

Doug Mongold
Jim Oldaker

The following commissioners were absent:

None

Unfinished business

None

New business

1. Update on FY 2023 VFD Equipment and Training Grant Fund Program

Chief Deputy Bailey addressed the Committee noting the Grant was now open through September 15th, 2022 and applications could be completed on the State Vendor Self-Serve portal.

No Action Taken

Adjournment

Commissioner Hart moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:37pm without objection. Meeting adjourned.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1) Update on Fire Fighter Certification Repository Program

See Fire Department Services Committee Report.

No Action Taken

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Consideration of Tornado VFD/Westside VFD Inc #2

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to table the item, until the October meeting at allow the resubmission of corrected and additional required items, seconded by Commissioner George. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

2) Consideration of Fire Officer Applications.

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

- a. Chad Smarr (Jefferson) FO 1-2

Commissioner Mongold 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) Consideration of Fire Chief Applications.

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

- a. David Crimm (Flemmington VFD)
- b. Joey Fields (Antawalt VFD)
- c. Branson Henry (Leading Creek VFD)
- d. Mike Baker (Sutton VFD)
- e. Brian Dehaven (Back Creek Valley VFD)
- f. Josh Vance (Wharnccliffe VFD)
- g. Chris Shilling (Westside VFD #2)
- h. Leslie Schoonover (Ellamore VFD)
- i. John Roby (Banks District VFD)

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to approve the applications as listed with the exception of g. Chris Schilling (Westside VFD #2), 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 decline application g. Chris Schilling (Westside VFD #2) as no such department exists and the application was incomplete, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

4) Consideration of Perfect Evaluation Recertification of Fire Departments.

- a. Bruceton Brandonville VFD
- b. Albright VFD
- c. Tunnelton VFD
- d. Kingwood VFD
- e. Huttonsville Mill Creek VFD
- f. Banks District VFD
- g. Adrian VFD
- h. Buckhannon FD

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.

5) Consideration of Recertification of Fire Departments.

- a. Clendenin VFD
- b. Clover Roane VFD
- c. Gandeeville Harmony VFD
- d. Newton VFD
- e. Pinch VFD
- f. Belle VFD
- g. Pennsboro VFD
- h. Cairo VFD
- i. Harrisville VFD

Commissioner White 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.

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

ASFM Scott presented his report on the departments automatically receiving 180 to achieve compliance.

- a. Mount Grove VFD
- b. Aurora VFD
- c. Terra Alta VFD
- d. Pickens VFD
- e. Valley Head VFD
- f. Tygart Valley VFD
- g. Washington District VFD
- h. Selbyville VFD
- i. Warren District VFD
- j. Ellamore VFD

No Action Taken

7) Consideration of Request by Jefferson County Commission for discussion/decision regarding permitting and approvals for Jefferson County, including initiation and/or modification of current Jefferson County Emergency Service Agency Fire approvals or in the alternative, County Fire Department or Fire Prevention Unit approvals and the County's utilization of dual trained employees.

Gunnoe noted the presentation in yesterday's Committee meetings by Jefferson County. See Fire Department Services Committee Report.

RECURITMENT AND RETENTION:

Update on VFD Tax Credit. See Legislative Committee Report.

SPEAKERS:

Chief Roberts of Berkeley County Fire addressed the Commission inquiring how the Commission wanted his office to assist Jefferson County in their request as noted in item 7 under new business.

CORRESPONDENCE:

No Correspondence.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Commissioner Hart thanked Marshal Tyree and Deputy Chief Bailey for their service to the Community and in going above and beyond in assisting him.

Counsel Brandolyn Felton-Ernest thanked the Commission for all of their guidance and that she looked forward to working with the Fire Commission.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING(S):

October Committee Meetings 10:00am Thursday, October 6th, 2022, Hilton Garden Inn, Morgantown WV. Commission Meeting 9:00am Friday, October 7th, 2022, Hilton Garden Inn, Morgantown WV.

ADJOURN:

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