

WV STATE FIRE COMMISSION MEETING

Quality Inn Summerville WV

October 10th, 2025

The official business meeting was called to order at 9:01am by Chairman Grant Gunnoe

ROLL CALL: by Malena Boggess

Commissioners Present

Carl Eastham, Doug Estep, Edward George, Grant Gunnoe, 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

Steven Byers,

Ted Shriver

Phil Hart

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to accept and approve the minutes of the August 1st, 2025 meeting, seconded by Commissioner White. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

RECOGNITION

None

SFMO & DIVISIONAL REPORST:

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, updates, and fire department funding loss updates.

Entertained Questions

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Fire Department Services Committee Meeting Report
Meeting Minutes
October 9th, 2025

Call to Order

Commissioner Byers, called to order the regular meeting of the Fire Department Services Committee at 10:04AM on October 9th, 2025 at the Quality Inn, Summersville WV.

Roll Call

The following commissioners were present:

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

The following commissioners were absent:

None

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

1. Consideration of Temporary Fire Officer Certifications.

- a) David Angus
- b) Anthony Bowden – Temp Certification Expired

ASFM Scott reported that Angus completed his certification - no action needed

A discussion was held among the commissioners and members of the training staff.

Commission Mongold made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission to reevaluate Anthony Bowden's fire chief application seconded by Commissioner Oldaker. 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) Clayton Young Jr (Cedar Grove)
- b) Jason Turner (Forest Hills)
- c) Bradley Knieriem (Martinsburg)
- d) Randy Chapman (Wayne)
- e) Jason Whisner (Paw Paw)

- f) Christopher Dellinger (Gassaway)
- g) Logan Preece (Kermit)

Commission Mongold made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission to approve the applications as listed, seconded by Commissioner Oldaker 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) Davis VFD
- b) Thomas VFD
- c) Middlebourne VFD
- d) Bancs VFD
- e) Berwind VFD
- f) Raysal VFD
- g) Coalwood/Caretta VFD
- h) Gary VFD
- i) Anawalt VFD
- j) Northfork VFD
- k) Keystone VFD

No Action Needed.

4. Consideration of Fire Department Recertification

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

- a) Danville VFD
- b) Nettie VFD
- c) Racine VFD
- d) Moundsville City FD
- e) Moundsville VFD
- f) Hamlin VFD
- g) West Hamlin VFD
- h) Kermit VFD
- i) Mud River VFD

Commissioner Mongold 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.

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

- a) Canaan Valley VFD
- b) Parsons VFD
- c) Shirley VFD

- d) Alma VFD
- e) Sistersville VFD
- f) Bradshaw VFD
- g) War VFD
- h) Kimball VFD

Commissioner Mongold 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 VFD to Dissolve

- a) Smithers VFD

ASFM Scott briefed the Committee on the condition of Smithers VFD

SPEAKERS:

Marty Blankenship: Fire Chief at Glasgow VFD- shared his findings while acting as an independent consultant for the Mayor of Smithers.

John McGinnis: Vice President for the Fayette Co Firefighters Association – Gave his opinion and addressed several key factors with the operations of Smithers VFD.

Anne Cavalier: Mayor of Smithers – shared her reasoning to why Smithers VFD needs another chance to make a plan of action to reopen Smithers VFD.

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to go into executive session, seconded by Chairman Gunnoe. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Chairman Gunnoe made a motion to come out of executive session, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Chairman Gunnoe made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission to suspend the operation of Smithers VFD and start the process of decertification based on legislative rule 87 CSR Series 6, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Chairman Gunnoe explained the process of decertification to Mayor Cavalier.

7. Consideration of AFFF Disposal.

A discussion was held among the commissioners regarding AFFF disposal.

Adjournment

Having no additional business, Commissioner Byers moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:10pm 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
October 9th, 2025

Call to Order

Commissioner Eastham called to order the regular meeting of the Disciplinary Committee at 12:25pm on October 9th, 2025 at the Quality Inn, Summersville WV.

Roll Call

The following commissioners were present:

Carl Eastham
Doug Mongold
Steven Byers
Edward George- via phone
Grant Gunnoe

The following commissioners were absent:

Ted Shriver

Unfinished Business

Chairman Gunnoe made a motion to enter executive session, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Chairman Gunnoe made a motion to leave executive session, seconded by Commissioner George. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

1) Consideration of FDC 2025-022.

New Business

- 1) Consideration of FDC2025-025**
- 2) Consideration of FDC2025-026**
- 3) Consideration of FDC2025-027**
- 4) Consideration of FDC2025-028**

Chairman Gunnoe made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission no Fire Commission action is necessary at this time on FDC 2025-022, 025, 026, 027 and 028 and the complaints will be handled by the Fire Marshal's Office, seconded by Commissioner Byers. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Adjournment

Having no additional business, Chairman Gunnoe moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:45pm without objection. Meeting adjourned.

Commissioner White 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
October 9th, 2025

Call to Order

Commissioner White called to order the regular meeting of the Training Committee at 12:09pm on October 9th, 2025, at the Quality Inn, Summersville WV.

The following commissioners were present:

Virgil White
Jim Oldaker
Doug Estep
Tom Keefer
Doug Mongold
Grant Gunnoe

The following commissioners were absent:

None

Unfinished Business

1. Consideration of WVU FSE Curriculum Submission for Firefighter 1 and Firefighter 2 in NFPA 1010. (tabled at August meeting).

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

New Business

1. Consideration of sample certificate from WVPST.

A discussion was held among the commissioners and members of the training staff.

No action needed

2. Public Service Training Report

Discussion on upcoming training: Instruction Asset Conference at Canaan Valley is held December 5-7, 2025. And the ESCAPE Conference at Pipe Stem in late February 2026.

3. WVU-Fire Service Extension Report

Discussion on the possibility of starting a Jr Firefighter camp weekend in different counties, that could also offer some NFA classes. Working with Ohio to have a WV/OH weekend at NFA. Jr Firefighter camp is June 20th – 25th 2026.

Adjournment

Having no additional business, Commissioner Oldaker moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:23pm 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.

FULL COMMISSION MEETING

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1) Consideration of WVU FSE Curriculum Submission for Firefighter 1 and Firefighter 2 in NFPA 1010.

Commissioner White made a motion to approve the curriculum submission for Firefighter 1 and Firefighter 2 by WVU FSE, seconded by Commissioner Estep. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

2) Consideration of FDC 2025-22

Commissioner Eastham made a motion that no Fire Commission action is necessary at this time on FDC 2025-022 and the complaint will be handled by the Fire Marshal's Office, seconded by Commissioner White. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Consideration of Temporary Fire Officer Certification.

See FDS Report

- a) David Angus (certification completed)
- b) Anthony Bowden (temporary certification expired)

Chairman Gunnoe made note that no action was needed for David Angus.

Chairman Gunnoe made a motion to reevaluate Anthony Bowden's fire chief application, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

A discussion was held among the commissioners regarding Anthony Bowden's Fire Chief application.

Commissioner White made a motion to deny Anthony Bowden's fire chief application based on failure to complete required training per code 87:12:2, 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) Clayton Young Jr (Cedar Grove)
- b) Jason Turner (Forest Hills)
- c) Badley Knieriem (Martinsburg)
- d) Randy Chapman (Wayne)
- e) Jason Whisner (Paw Paw)
- f) Christopher Dellinger (Gassaway)

g) Logan Preece (Kermit)

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) Davis VFD
- b) Thomas VFD
- c) Middlebourne VFD
- d) Bancs VFD
- e) Raysal VFD
- f) Berwind VFD
- g) Coalwood/Caretta VFD
- h) Gary VFD
- i) Anawalt VFD
- j) Northfork VFD
- k) Keystone VFD

No Action Taken

4) Consideration of Recertification of Fire Departments.

See FDS Report.

- a) Danville VFD
- b) Nettie VDD
- c) Racine VDS
- d) Moundville City FD
- e) Moundsville VFD
- f) Hamlin VFD
- g) West Hamlin VFD
- h) Kermit VFD
- i) Mud River VFD

Commissioner Eastham 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) Canaan Valley VFD
- b) Parsons VFD
- c) Shirley VFD
- d) Alma VFD
- e) Sistersville VFD
- f) Bradshaw VFD
- g) War VFD

h) Kimball 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.

6) Consideration of VFD to Dissolve.

a) Smithers VFD

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to suspend the operation of Smithers VFD and start the process of decertification based on legislative rule 87 CSR Series 6, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

7) Consideration of AFFF Disposal.

No Action Needed.

8) Consideration of FDC 2025-025

9) Consideration of FDC 2025-026

10) Consideration of FDC 2025-027

11) Consideration of FDC 2025-028

Commissioner Eastham made a motion that no Fire Commission action is necessary at this time on FDC 2025-025, 026, 027 and 028 and the complaints will be handled by the Fire Marshal's Office, seconded by Commissioner Oldaker. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

12) Consideration of Sample Certificate.

No action needed

SPEAKERS:

None

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

February's Meeting will be in Charleston WV.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING(S):

Committee Meetings - 10:00am Wednesday, December 3rd, 2025 and Commission Meeting 9:00am Thursday, December 4th, 2025, location Morgantown Marriot Waterfront Place

ADJOURN:

Commissioner White made a motion to adjourn at 9:59am without objection. Meeting adjourned.