

WV STATE FIRE COMMISSION MEETING

February 6th, 2026

TC Energy Building, Charleston WV

The official business meeting was called to order at 9:05am by Vice Chairman Douglas Mongold.

ROLL CALL: by Kathryn L Burns

Commissioners Present

Carl Eastham, Doug Estep, Edward George, Grant Gunnoe, Tom Keefer, Brian Jones, Doug Mongold, Jim Oldaker, Ted Shriver and Virgil White.

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

Commissioners Absent

Steven Byers, Phil Hart and Grant Gunnoe

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Oldaker made a motion to accept and approve the minutes of the Special December 4th, 2025 meeting and the December 5th, 2025 meeting, seconded by Commissioner Estep. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

RECOGNITION

A moment of silence and recognition was held for Chief James S Richmond who passed on January 8th, 2026. Chief Richmond had over 7 decades of service to the public via the Fire Service, as a Fire Service Instructor and as an originating member of the WV State Fire Commission.

The Fire Commission recognized Firefighter Westley Quinn as well as the departments from Hurricane, Pt Pleasant, Winfield, Eleanor, Teays Valley, St. Albans and Nitro for their heroic efforts on December 2nd, 2025. They were all important parts of a team effort in a very difficult technical rescue on Route 35 in Mason County WV involving a tractor trailer hanging over a bridge over 100 feet above the ground.

SFMO & DIVISIONAL REPORTS:

Deputy Mark Stewart provided the Inspections and Plan Review reports and entertained questions.

Deputy Baltic gave the Investigations Report and entertained questions.

Marshal Tyree presented the Services, and his Operations report to the Commission containing staffing, legislative updates, and fire department funding loss updates and entertained questions. One item he noted was the upcoming Sunset Provision for the State Building Code of August 1, 2027. Currently Building Code Stakeholder's meetings are on hold, but he hopes to have them in the Spring.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

VFD Equipment and Grant Committee did not meet.

Fire Department Services Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Minutes

February 5th, 2026

Call to Order

Commissioner Oldaker, called to order the regular meeting of the Fire Department Services Committee at 11:01am on February 5th, 2026 at the TC Energy Building, Charleston WV

Roll Call

The following commissioners were present:

Jim Oldaker
Brian Jones
Phil Hart
Doug Mongold
Grant Gunnoe

The following commissioners were absent:

Steven Byers

Unfinished Business

1. Consideration of AFFF Disposal.

No update available.

New Business

1. Consideration/Report on Temporary Fire Officer Certifications.

- a) Chad Bowen (Main Harts Creek VFD)
- b) Brandon Collins (Main Harts Creek VFD)

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission to approve the applications as listed, seconded by Commissioner Jones. 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) Steven Holdren (Beaver)
- b) Edward Ware (Selbyville)

- c) William Miller (Lizemore)
- d) Mitchell Rusiecki (Start City)
- e) David Broadwater (Reedsville)
- f) Colby Anderson (Slansville)
- g) Brandon Jones (Shavers Fork)
- h) Michael Conners (McMechen)
- i) Chris Bennett (Athens)
- j) James Porter (Bunners Ridge)
- k) Matthew Beiter (Clearview)
- l) Joshua Brown (Madison)
- m) Jarrod Summers (Winfield)
- n) Robert Horn (Jefferson County)
- o) Donald Howard (Stone Church)

Commission Hart made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission to approve the applications as listed, seconded by Commissioner Jones. 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) Reedy VFD
- b) Walton VFD
- c) Clover Roane VFD
- d) Gandeeville Harmony VFD

No Action Needed.

4. Consideration of Fire Department Recertification

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

- a) Bancs VFD
- b) Keystone VFD
- c) Roderfield VFD
- d) Welch VFD
- e) Davy VFD

Commissioner Hart made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission the recertification of 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 Fire Department with Perfect Evaluations Recertification.

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

- a) Glasgow VFD
- b) Spencer Roane 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 Boundary Areas for Boomer VFD and Montgomery VFD.

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to recommend to the full Fire Commission to approve the submitted boundary areas, however upon a concern raised by Chief Marty Blakenship (Glasgow VFD), regarding some of the rugged terrain involved in the effected boundary adjustment, Commissioner Mongold withdrew his motion.

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to recommend to the full Fire Commission to table the item until Mr. Blankenship's concerns could be addressed, seconded by Commissioner Gunnoe. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Adjournment

Having no additional business, Commissioner Mongold moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:11am 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

February 5th, 2026

Call to Order

Commissioner Eastham called to order the regular meeting of the Disciplinary Committee at 12:14pm on February 5th, 2026 at the TC Energy Building in Charleston WV.

Roll Call

The following commissioners were present:

Carl Eastham
Ted Shriver
Doug Mongold
Edward George
Grant Gunnoe

The following commissioners were absent:

Steven Byers

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Commissioner 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.

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

- 1) Consideration of FDC 2025-031
- 2) Consideration of FDC 2025-032
- 3) Consideration of FDC 2025-033
- 4) Consideration of FDC 2025-034
- 5) Consideration of FDC 2025-035
- 6) Consideration of FDC 2025-036
- 7) Consideration of FDC 2026-001

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to recommend to the full Commission that no Fire Commission action is needed on FDC 2025 031, 032, 033, 034, 036, and FDC 2026-01 and for the Fire Marshal's Office will handle the

complaints, seconded by Commissioner George. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to recommend to the full Fire Commission to find probable cause on FDC 2025-035, seconded by Commissioner George. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Adjournment

Having no additional business, Commissioner Mongold, moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:39pm. without objection. Meeting adjourned.

Commissioner White 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.

Legislative Codes Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Minutes

December 3rd, 2025

Call to Order

Commissioner Shriver called to order the regular meeting of the Legislative and Codes Committee meeting at 11:12am on February 5th, 2026 at the TC Energy Building in Charleston WV.

Roll Call

The following commissioners were present:

Jim Oldaker
Brian Jones
Tom Keefer
Edward George
Ted Shriver
Doug Mongold
Grant Gunnoe

The following commissioners were absent:

None

Unfinished Business

1) Discussion/Consideration of WV Fire Prevention and Control Plan

No Action Taken.

a) Chairman Gunnoe Plan/Discussion on WV Fire Death Rate

Chairman Gunnoe spoke to the Committee and those in attendance on the approach he would like to see the Commission take in trying to address and reduce the WV Fire Death Rate. He feels that the Commission does a good job on areas of Fire Department Training and Evaluations and other matters, but that the WV Fire Death Rate is an area that needs to be given the Commission's best efforts. That effort will include the Commission educating itself on past and present fire deaths, including but not limited to, the age of the victims, whether it is a single or multi-family home, the fire location, coverage in the area, the results of any investigation and other important information. With that knowledge the Commission can recommend solutions to the WV Legislature, other Commissions or Agencies that may be the AHJ and take its own steps to reduce the WV Fire Death Rate.

Mark Lambert (WVU Fire Services Extension) offered to provide statistics for the past 10 years that he has gathered to the Commission.

Commissioner Mongold noted areas of concern he finds while responding to calls and agrees that perhaps the Commission could bring these concerns to the appropriate AHJ.

CW Sigman (Kanawha OEM) spoke of the leading causes of Fire Deaths both Nationally and Locally. He feels the

key to reducing the number of Fire Related Deaths is in prevention.

New business

None

Adjournment

Having no additional business, Commissioner George moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:36am 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.

Recruitment and Retention Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 5th, 2026

Call to Order

Commissioner Oldaker called to order the regular meeting of the Recruitment and Retention Committee at 11:47am on February 5th, 2026 at the TC Energy Building, Charleston WV.

Roll Call

The following commissioners were present:

Jim Oldaker
Doug Estep
Phil Hart
Doug Mongold
Grant Gunnoe

The following commissioners were absent:

Steven Byers

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

1. General Discussion on Recruitment and Retention.

- a) ASFM Bradley Scott reported on a Recruitment and Retention round table held at Carver Career center on January 12th, 2026, with representatives from the House of Delegates, Delegate Howell and Delegate Jennings as well as school staff members and the principal. At the round table the principle expressed that social media could be a means of attracting the youth to the Fire Service and that they had sent out a survey to Juniors and Seniors in Kanawha County Schools. Delegate Jennings spoke of a bill he planned to introduce that would provide a stipend to be funded through the County, that could be drawn from after a certain number of service years had been reached. Another bill being introduced would provide free vehicle plates and registration for Fire Service members.

Mark Lambert of WVU Fire Service Extension was also at the meeting and he heard some results of the survey. One thing asked was "Did you want to be a Volunteer Firefighter", which 97% responded no, however when asked if they knew what a Volunteer Firefighter does, 60% did not know. So perhaps if they knew, they might have an interest.

Commissioner Oldaker further reported on some concerns regarding the funding mechanism for the bill ASFM Scott previously discussed. He also mentioned bill SB 716 which would reduce the Firefighter response required participation rate from 30% to 10% to qualify for the Firefighter tax credit, however that is still in progress and may be changed to 20%.

Tommy Miller (WVSFA and NVFC) reminded the Committee to look at SAFER Grants as there are over 11 SAFER Grants available and that there should be a better fire department response to these grants.

Adjournment

Having no additional business, Commissioner Estep moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:01pm without objection. Meeting adjourned.

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

OSHA Emergency Response Standard Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Minutes

February 5th, 2026

Call to order

Commissioner Keefer called to order the meeting of the OSHA Emergency Response Standard Committee Meeting at 10:06 on February 5th, 2026, at the TC Energy Building, Charleston WV.

Roll call

The following commissioners were present:

Tom Keefer
Edward George
Doug Mongold
Grant Gunnoe

The following commissioners were absent:

Virgil White

Unfinished business

1) Update on OSHA Emergency Response Standard.

Tom Miller, NVFC Director and State of WV OSHA Task Force member, spoke to the Committee about the most recent information available to him regarding the pending changes to the OSHA Emergency Response Standard. He provided a Power Point presentation (attached) to the Committee with bullet points on the revisions and their potential effects on VFDs. He entertained and answered questions from the Committee as well as those in attendance.

New business

None

Adjournment

Commissioner Gunnoe moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:00am without objection. Meeting adjourned.

Commissioner George 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.

Training Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Minutes

February 5th, 2026

Call to Order

Commissioner White called to order the regular meeting of the Training Committee at 11:36am on February 5th, 2026 at the TC Energy Building, Charleston WV.

Roll call

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. Discussion/Consideration of NFPA 1010 Support Personnel Standard and Commission Approval.

Tabled in December 2025, No Action Taken.

New Business

1) Public Service Training Report

Robert Bailey reported that the Annual report will be supplied to the Fire Commission in April. They are very busy, with the Escape Conference starting in 3 weeks and that there will be a round table on Sunday, March 1st, 2026. If anyone needs lodging, they can reach out to him. They also have a lot of IFSAC items on the front burner.

2. WVU-Fire Service Extension Report

Mark Lambert reported that Fire School is coming up and Junior Camp is from June 13th to the 19th, 2026 and the Commission is always welcome. State Fire School will be Wednesday, July 29th, 2026, through Sunday, August 2nd, 2026. They plan on concentrating on the basics. Mr. Lambert also stated that in relationship to the OSHA standards discussed earlier, per a previous conversation with her, Senator Capito has a great interest in seeing that Firefighters get the appropriate training.

Tom Miller (WVSFA and NVFC) noted that on March 14th and 15th, 2026 there will be free classes on Hazmat and Decon at the Citizens Fire Company in Charles Town.

Adjournment

Having no additional business, Commissioner Mongold moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:46am 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.

FULL COMMISSION MEETING

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1) Consideration of AFFF Disposal.

During Marshal Tyree operations report it was noted that he has not gotten responses from the two Companies he had reached out to regarding the estimate for the cost of disposal. He wondered if it was a logistics issue due to needing multiple pick-up locations. He will contact the companies again.

No Action Taken.

2) Discussion/Consideration of WV Fire Prevention and Control Plan.

See Legislative and Code Report

No Action Taken.

3) Consideration of Discussion/Consideration of NFPA 1010 Support Personnel Standard and Commission Approval.

See Training Report

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to table the item, seconded by Commissioner Jones. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

4) Update on OSHA Emergency Response Standard.

See OSHA Standard Report

No Action Taken.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Consideration/Report of Temporary Fire Officer Certification.

See FDS Report

- a) Chad Bowen (Main Harts Creek)
- b) Brandon Collins (Main Harts Creek)

Commissioner White 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.

2) Consideration of Fire Chief Applications.

See FDS Report

- a) Steven Holdren (Beaver)
- b) Edward Ware (Selbyville)
- c) William Miller (Lizemore)
- d) Mitchell Rusiecki (Star City)
- e) David Broadwater (Reedsville)
- f) Colby Anderson (Slansville)
- g) Brandon Jones (Shavers Fork)
- h) Michael Conners (McMechen)

- i) Chris Bennett (Athens)
- j) James Porter (Bunners Ridge)
- k) Matthew Beiter (Clearview)
- l) Joshua Brown (Madison)
- m) Jared Summers (Winfield)
- n) Robert Horn (Jefferson County)
- o) Donald Howard (Stone Church)

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

See FDS Report

- a) Reedy VFD
- b) Walton VFD
- c) Clover Roane VFD
- d) Gandeeville Harmony VFD

No Action Needed.

4) Consideration of Recertification of Fire Departments.

See FDS Report

- a) Bancs VFD
- b) Keystone VFD
- c) Roderfield VFD
- d) Welch VFD
- e) Davy 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.

5) Consideration of Perfect Evaluation Recertification of Fire Departments.

See FDS Report

- a) Glasgow VFD
- b) Spencer Roane VFD

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to recertify the departments noting their perfect evaluations, seconded by Commissioner Estep. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

6) Consideration of New Boundary Maps for Boomer and Montgomery VFDs.

See FDS Report

Commissioner Oldaker made a motion to table the item, seconded by Commissioner White. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

- 7) **Consideration of FDC 2025-031**
- 8) **Consideration of FDC 2025-032**
- 9) **Consideration of FDC 2025-033**
- 10) **Consideration of FDC 2025-034**
- 11) **Consideration of FDC 2025-035**
- 12) **Consideration of FDC 2025-036**
- 13) **Consideration of FDC 2026-001**

See Training Report

Commissioner Eastham made a motion that the Fire Commission will take no further action on FDC 2025 031, 032, 033, 034, 036 and FDC 2026-001, and for the Fire Marshal's Office to handle the complaint, seconded by Commissioner Oldaker. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to find probable cause on FDC 2025-035, seconded by Commissioner White. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

SPEAKERS:

None

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Potential June meeting locations

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING(S):

Committee Meetings - 10:00am Wednesday, April 8th, 2026, and Commission Meeting 9:00am Thursday, April 9th, 2026
2025, location Canaan Valley Resort.

ADJOURN:

Commissioner White made a motion to adjourn at 10:03am without objection. Meeting adjourned.
