

**UNOFFICIAL
STATE FIRE COMMISSION MEETING
VIENNA, WV
DECEMBER 4, 2009**

The official business meeting was called to order at 8:40 AM by Chairman Charles Eversole. Chairman Eversole thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. He also thanked Vienna FD and Chief Goodwin for their hospitality in hosting this meeting and the 100th Anniversary for the State Fire Marshal's Office.

Secretary Spears stated he wanted to address the meeting and that he understands the tough job that the Fire Commission has. It's not always easy to represent the interests of different groups. He feels the Fire Commission has done an outstanding job in making sure that all rules, regulations, standards and state laws are always met. That's not always easy. He came to the meeting to recognize Commissioners who have served several terms and are ending their time on the Commission. He presented certificates of appreciation from MAPS and the Governor to Commissioners Oldaker, Stallard and Runyon. Secretary Spears read the names of the Commissioners who were also being recognized but were not present: David Tolliver, Joseph Bostar, Francis Guffey, John Bailey and Kenneth Morgan.

Fire Marshal Sterling Lewis thanked the Vienna Fire Department for their hospitality for hosting the Fire Commission meeting and hosting the reception for the Fire Marshal's 100th Anniversary. He stated he wanted to recognize individuals that have served above and beyond the call of duty. He recognized Bernard Cothorn and Ed Sheppard, Mineral Wells FD; Jim Ancell, RESA V; and Fire Chief Danny Goodwin, Vienna Fire Department.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Charles L. Eversole, Chairman
Chuck Runyon, Secretary
Larry Goodwin
Thomas Keefer
Ted A. Shriver
Victor Stallard, Jr.
Virgil White

Bill L. Spencer, Vice Chairman
Dale L. Clayton
Randy James
James L. Oldaker
Carl Sizemore
Bob Sullivan

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Spencer made a motion to approve the minutes of October 23, 2009. Commissioner Runyon seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Murrey Loflin, WVU-FSE
Lanny Adkins, WVU-FSE
Mark Doty, WVU-FSE
Bill Wilcox, Dept. of Education

Mike Freeman, RESA VII
David Plume, RESA VIII
Jim Ancell, RESA 5
Edward Hicks, Dept. of Education

Ron Brown, NFSA
Bob Nevins, ISO
Jason Pizatella, Amerigas
John Paul Jones, Jr., HC OEM
Kevin Rhodes, Pond Creek VFD
Lloyd T. VanHorn, McKinleysville FD
Darrell Ennis, Cabell Co Chief's Association
Jarred Kirk, Harts VFD
William Frazier, Jr., Guyan River VFD
Darrell Gates, Waverly VFC
Mike Anderson, Mineral Wells VFD
Bernard Cothorn, Mineral Wells VFD
Thomas Miller, NVFC/Sissonville VFD
Brandon Tibbs, NCVFD
John Ashcraft, New Cumberland VFD
Douglas Estep, Boone County Mutual Aid/Morrisville VFD
Robert S. Miller, Cabell Co Fire Chiefs & WV State Fire Chiefs Association

Roderick Armstrong, RESA 5
Ron Bateman, ISO
Ron Brown, NFSA
Dave Camp, VFIS
Paula Smith, McMechen FD
Stephen Duncan, New Haven FD
Kim Marshall, Deerwalk VFD
Jason E. Moore, Harts VFD
Joshua Vance, Guyan River VFD

Ed Sheppard, Mineral Wells VFD
Jay Parsons, Mineral Wells VFD
Don Sprouse, NCVFD

STAFF PRESENT:

Sterling Lewis, Jr., State Fire Marshal	Tony Carrico, Deputy Fire Marshal
Nancy Olson, Secretary	Joe Leake, Deputy Fire Marshal
Debbie Hudson, Secretary	Reed Cook, Deputy Fire Marshal
Carol Nolte, Deputy Fire Marshal	

COMMENTS

Mr. Tom Miller, Sissonville VFD and National Volunteer Fire Council, stated in regards to the Recruitment and Retention Committee in which he participated a few weeks ago, there was a vehicle fire within sight of the Capitol dome and the local fire department was toned three times and no one responded. Two hours later, there was an auto accident with injuries 2.1 miles from the Capitol Dome and no one responded. He stated he feels that the Fire Commission should look into this situation and look at recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters as a priority and look at active strategies including legislation, policies, whatever it takes to recruit new members.

Mr. Doug Estep, Morrisvale VFD, stated he is 100% for training but his members work all week. We ask people to join the fire department and then we ask them to take all this training and they get discouraged. He feels that more and more is being asked of firefighters.

Ms. Paula Smith stated she feels that Tom Miller and Doug Estep have said it all. She asked if anyone has done a cost study on what it will cost to do the new classes. She wanted to know if there would be any financial aid available.

Robert Miller stated he agrees with everything that has been said but doesn't have any answers.

Commissioner Stallard stated that maybe fire departments could come and state what courses they do NOT want to take. This may help to cut down on some courses. Commissioner Oldaker stated that is what he was trying to say regarding the list of courses.

Sterling Lewis, Jr. State Fire Marshal, stated that everyone that spoke is right. Every Fire Commissioner represents their organizations very well. He stated he stands firmly on both sides. The NFPA Standard of 2008 is the national standard and he doesn't think we should want to be below the national standards.

William Frazier, Jr. Chief, Guyan River VFD, stated he just wanted the Fire Commission to think about the little fire departments when they are setting the standards for fire departments.

Jared Kirk, Harts VFD, stated he has been on the fire department for 10 years and there are some things he doesn't have. He was 16 years old when he joined the fire department. They have only a few people that respond when a fire call comes in. He has tried to talk to some people to join. The first thing they ask is what do I have to have and you say 70 hours, they hesitate. If we tell them 120 hours, they are going to turn and run. He stated that people just don't have the time to take courses.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Commissioner Sullivan made a motion to move the Training Committee Report and any discussion associated with that report to the "Unfinished Business" section of the meeting. Commissioner Runyon seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner James stated the Training Committee met on December 3, 2009, at 0900 hours at the Wingate Inn in Vienna. There were 19 participants. Chairman James distributed the agenda with the minutes of the October meeting attached.

First order of business was the status of the MOU (which stands for Memorandum of Understanding) between the Dept. of Education and WVU. Bill Wilcox reported that both entities had met, discussed, agreed, and had the necessary signatures for adoption at the full Commission meeting on Friday.

Next came a report on the Hazardous Materials Orientation class. Distribution had begun with favorable results.

Commission Chairman Eversole appointed Commissioner Clayton and asked that WVU and the Dept. of Education appoint one each to a committee to begin the process of cleaning up and revamping the approved class list. This list is currently "Attachment 2" of the Training Certification Form.

WVU, RESA, and the rest of the Training Committee discussed the new Firefighter 1 course. Chairman James asked that the education members meet and produce a summary of their courses. Options for the requesting agencies was the topic of discussion for the remainder of the morning. It was the consensus of the group that the requesting agency, the instructors, and the regional coordinators or WVU staff, as the case may be, come to complete agreement as to the delivery and timeline of the course. Some options are, but not limited to: The complete Firefighter 1 course as one class, continuously taught through to completion. Or: The First Aid / CPR core, the Firefighter 1 core, then the Hazardous Materials Operations. Or: Any other combination that is agreed to by all parties involved,

The summary of the NFPA 1001, 2008 Edition compliant Firefighter 1 course is to be posted on various formats so that all interested and affected parties can view its content.

The meeting adjourned at 1220 hours.

Commissioner James asked that WVU and RESA add their input (not their committee reports) at this time concerning the Firefighter I course. He made a motion that the report be accepted. Commissioner Sullivan seconded the motion. Commissioner Oldaker stated the report from the Department of Education was too vague and needed to be more in-depth. Discussion followed regarding the courses required for Firefighter I from Murrey Loflin, WVU-FSE, Bill Wilcox, Dept. of Education, Lloyd T. VanHorn, McKinleyville FD, and Tom Miller, Sissonville VFD. Commissioner Oldaker stated the Training Committee requested a list of courses from WVU-FSE and the Dept. of Education to be forwarded to the fire departments. This list should be available after the first of the year. After much discussion, a vote was called for and the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner Sullivan made a motion to move the effective date from January 1, 2010 to July 1, 2010 on the NFPA 1001, 2008 Edition. Commissioner Runyon seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

None

CORRESPONDENCE

Boone County Firefighters Mutual Aid Association
Shepherdstown Fire Department, Inc.

STAFF REPORTS

Fire Marshal Lewis stated the number of firefighters arrested is now at 35 in the last 20 months.

They have had assistance from the FBI, Special Investigations, on seven (7) fire departments for various financial problems.

An evaluation form has been developed in coordination with a new database that Deputy Carrico's division has put together in reference to 87-6, the certification of fire departments. Under this new evaluation procedure, it is staff's recommendation that under Title 87-6, Certification of Fire Departments, recertify Madison Volunteer Fire Department in Boone County. Commissioner Runyon so moved. Commissioner Spencer seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Fire Marshal Lewis stated a formal complaint was received on Bradley-Prosperity VFD, Raleigh County. He had to determine if it was a valid complaint. He stated there were issues that needed to be corrected. A letter was sent to the Fire Chief. A plan of correction was requested. He was given 90 days to correct the problems. An evaluation was conducted on the fire department. It is staff's recommendation that the Fire Commission let the process continue until the 90 days are up without any further investigation. Commissioner Sullivan made a motion to accept staff's recommendation.

Commissioner White seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

The WV State Fire Marshal's Office wishes everyone a Happy Holiday.

Commissioner Stallard made a motion that staff develop a new commission member orientation packet for new Commissioners. Commissioner Goodwin seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

AGENCY REPORTS

Technical and Adult Training, Vo-Tech, Mr. Wilcox handed out their annual report. He stated the DVD and posters on the Haz Mat Orientation video have been distributed to regional coordinators. He thanked Mr. Ed Hicks for all his work on this project.

He thanked Jim Ancell for all his service to the RESA program.

He stated the MOU between the Department of Education, WVU-FSE and the Fire Commission was ready for signing. It's basically a renewal of the original agreement.

Training, WVU-FSE, Mr. Murrey Loflin thanked everyone for their work on the MOU. He stated WV weekend is scheduled for February 27 & 28. Two one-day classes are being held, one is Fire Modeling and the other is Fire Behavior. And one (1) two-day class will be taught called Leadership II. They are taught by NFA instructors. The cut off date is January 22nd.

He stated April 4-10, 2010, they are conducting a course on Haz Mat Incident Management. Information is on their websiste.

The WV Weekend at the National Fire Academy, Emmitsburg, MD is October 16-17. They will be partnering with the State of Delaware.

Junior Firefighter Camp is June 26-July 1, 2010. They are expecting 100 campers this year and hope this will help with recruitment and retention for the fire departments. They are looking for some new and different programs.

They are continuing the Fire Inspector curriculum. They have been working with Deputy Fire Marshal Leake. They are going to offer the course twice in 2010, one in March and one in September. They are also working with Deputy Fire Marshal Reed Cook to offer a course for Fire Investigation I. They will be Pro-Board Certified and are 40 hour classes.

Insurance Services Office (ISO), Mr. Robert Nevins stated he had nothing to report but would answer any questions anyone might have.

Office of Emergency Medical Services – No Report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Training Committee, Commissioner James. Report moved to Unfinished Business.

FD Standards Evaluation, Commissioner Oldaker stated they had received two applications for Fire Officer I Equivalency Certification. They were reviewed and the Committee is recommending both be approved:

Rick C. Ball, Eastwood VFD
Eugene A. Cook, State Fire Marshal's Office

Commissioner Runyon made a motion to accept the committee's recommendation. Commissioner Clayton seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner Oldaker stated the Fire Officer II application process will be forwarded to Commissioner Sizemore.

Chairman Eversole thanked Commissioner Oldaker for his work on the Fire Commission.

Recruitment and Retention Committee, Commissioner Runyon stated he had nothing to report. He feels they have hit a dead end snag in the Legislature. He stated he would always be available to help in any way. Chairman Eversole thanked him for his work on the Fire Commission.

Special Issues Committee, Commissioner Goodwin stated his Committee is dealing with two or three difficult subjects. More information at a later date.

Procedures and Development Committee and Public Education Committee, Commissioner Clayton stated they have met and discussed the policies and procedures of how the Fire Commission works and business is conducted. They need to develop SOP or by laws or whatever is necessary to make a smooth process when something happens. They will also look at new curriculum and maybe look at other states and how they are structured.

Commissioner Clayton stated the main purpose of the Public Education Committee will be to assist Deputy Fire Marshal Nolte in the Public Education Division of the Fire Marshal's Office. They will try to help disseminate materials that are being sent out in regards to fire safety public education. They want to help get the information into the public's hands.

Commissioner Clayton stated that when fire departments are filling out their NFIRS reports, try to put in as much information as you can. Fire Marshal Lewis stated the latest report stated there were 87 fire departments that have received the 3 certified letters limit. They will still receive emails and calls that they are late. There are 187 fire departments that are short on fire reports this quarter.

Legislative and Budget – Commissioner Spencer stated things are moving along.

Home Inspectors, Building Code Officials, Building and Fire Code Committees, Commissioner Shriver and Commissioner Spencer stated there is a meeting on December 8th with the Legislative Rule Making Review Committee and Commissioner Shriver will be attending.

Commissioner Shriver stated there was some correspondence received from the Home Builders lobbyist in regards to the Building and Fire Codes. A report was received from Deputy Fire Marshals Leake and Carrico in regards to the Fire and Building Codes. They have been reviewed by the Legislative staff attorneys and they have made a few administrative revisions to those codes which has been approved by the Committee and the Fire Marshal's Office.

Mr. Corey Roblee, ICC, stated they developed the ICC codes which are adopted in the State Building Code for the State of West Virginia. He stated the ICC is working on the next cycle due out in 2012. He stated there was one code that might be of interest to WV. The residential sprinkler code was voted to be maintained in the 2012 codes. He stated there are opportunities on their website, called the stimulus tool kit. The Governor has signed a letter to the Department of Energy guaranteeing that the 2009 IECC will be adopted which will open millions of dollars in stimulus monies that will go back to the local building and fire departments. The stimulus dollars have to be applied for and there is a tool kit that will guide you through it online. They have a bill before Congress that will provide federal matching grant dollars for building and fire departments to be used in any way the departments see fit. It's a very generalized grant program. He requested the State Fire Commission send a letter of support for that legislation.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Commissioner Runyon made a motion the Fire Commission retain Commissioner Eversole as Chairman and Commissioner Spencer as Vice-Chairman. Commissioner Goodwin seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner Runyon made a motion to nominate Randy James as Secretary. Commissioner Goodwin seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Fire Commission Meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Express, Charleston, WV on February 19, 2010.

The April meeting will be held in the Lewisburg area on April 15-16, 2010.

The June meeting will be held in the Huntington area on June 17-18, 2010.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Chairman Eversole stated that he and Vice Chairman Spencer attended the Mid-Atlantic Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. Thirteen states are members of this group and they share valuable information regarding legislation, codes and other information.

Fire Marshal Lewis stated the final report on the Craigsville fire will be released at 6:00 PM on December 8th at the Summersville Armory. He thanked Deputy Fire Marshal Cook and his Division for all their hard work on this case.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Stallard made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Goodwin seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Sterling Lewis, Jr.
State Fire Marshal