

**STATE FIRE COMMISSION MEETING
COUNTRY INN & SUITES
CHARLESTON, WV
APRIL 20, 2012**

The official business meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Chairman Bob Sullivan.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Bob Sullivan, Chairman	Gary Bonnett
Larry Goodwin	Grant Gunnoe
Randy James	Robert S. Miller
Doug Mongold	Rick Scott
Ted A. Shriver	Carl Sizemore
Virgil White	

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Michael Butcher
Thomas Keefer

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner White made a motion to accept and approve the minutes of the February 10, 2012 meeting. Commissioner Mongold seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner Sizemore made a motion to change the heading on the agenda to Country Inn & Suites. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Public Comments:

Commissioner Bonnett stated he and Kevin Taylor, Beckley Fire Department, had attended several meetings regarding the Interstate and Intrastate Mutual Aid Plan. There is a draft agreement for bordering states and they would like the Fire Commission to endorse this agreement. Jimmy Gianato, Director, Homeland Security, stated he had reviewed the proposed agreement. He stated there is an EMAC agreement already between states. He stated there is an Intrastate Mutual Agreement which rolled out this week and is used for major incidents. Much discussion followed.

Commissioner Gunnoe asked about the RRT program not being under the State Fire Marshal's Office. Mr. Gianato stated he is trying to get a handle on it. Discussion followed.

Committee Reports:

Training Committee – Commissioner James gave his report. A copy is attached to these minutes. Commissioner Goodwin made a motion to accept the committee's report. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Standards Evaluation Committee – Commissioner Sizemore stated they reviewed 89 equivalency applications for Fire Officer 1 and 2. Fifty-two (52) applications were approved for Fire Officer I and 24 approved for Fire Officer II. There were 13 applications that were not approved. Commissioner Mongold made a motion to accept the Committee's report. Commissioner White seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Legislative Committee – Commissioner Gunnoe stated there was a general discussion on legislation and mutual aid. No votes were taken. The Committee discussed SB 596 in regards to Carbon Monoxide Detectors. They would like the Fire Marshal's Office to pass this information to the fire departments and code officials. They are still looking into HB 4107 in regards to training for fire departments.

Codes and Regulatory – Commissioner Shriver stated the Building Code has been filed in the Secretary of State's Office and is out for public comment. It was decided to leave the annual fee at \$100.00 for the Home Inspector License. There was discussion on the Fire Code. Commissioner Miller made a motion to accept the Committee's report. Commissioner Scott seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

State Fire Marshal's Report

Fire Marshal Lewis introduced new employees of the State Fire Marshal's Office: Brian Whittington, Josh Amos, Tim Chastain and Bradley Scott.

He stated there were 1004 inspections, 175 plans reviewed, 503 license checks, 305 requests for fire investigations, and 75 fatalities this fiscal year with 42 fatalities since January 1st.

He stated staff has been preparing rules and he thanked staff and Stacy DeLong, Counsel.

Chairman Sullivan asked if they have been working on ideas about fire deaths and arson fires. There was a discussion on home sprinklers.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Review of current and new Legislative Rules – The Building Code has been filed and is in the comment period now.

They are finishing up the Fire Code and it will be filed for public comment.

The Training and Equipment Rule is circulating and will be filed for public comment. They need the stakeholders to return their comments ASAP. This is for volunteer fire departments only.

Commissioner Shriver made a motion to allow the State Fire Marshal's Office to file the Fire Code and Home Inspector Rules. Commissioner Sizemore seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Matewan VFD – Supervisor Provaznik visited the Fire Department last week. They have met all requirements of the evaluation process. No vote needed. The order that was enacted will expire.

Wharncliffe VFD – The Fire Commission voted to recertify in February if all conditions of the evaluation were met. As of March 14, they have completed all conditions. No vote needed. Order will expire.

NEW BUSINESS

New Creek VFD (Boundary Dispute) – They are in a dispute with Maysville VFD regarding first due area. A review of the area has already been started. Maysville VFD is considering opening a substation. A section of Corridor H will be opening which may change boundaries also. It is staff's recommendation that the Fire Commission hold on to the complaint until the interstate is complete and re-evaluate which should be sometime this fall.

Hillberry Appeal (Building Code Official) – They have appealed a decision by the State Fire Marshal. This complaint related to grandfathering for licensing. License needs to be renewed before they expire and Mr. Hillberry didn't renew. Chairman Sullivan appointed Grant Gunnoe as Hearings Examiner to hear the appeal. Staff will choose a date.

Home Inspector Certification Legislative Rule – Taken care of in the Legislative Committee report.

Recertification of fire departments: Commissioner Gunnoe made a motion to approve the following fire departments for recertification:

Matewan VFD	Wharncliffe VFD
Banks District VFD	Chapmanville VFD
Coal City VFD	East Lynn VFD
Elkins FFD	Jane Lew VFD
Lubeck VFD	Meadow Bridge VFD
Mineral Wells VFD	Moundsville FD
Pipestem VFD	Pond Creek VFD
Ravenswood VFD	Reynoldsville VFD
St. Albans FD	Salem VFD
Sistersville VFD	Star City VFD
Stonewood VFD	Wayne VFD
Weston VFD	

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

Staff stated that Wharncliffe VFD is working on obtaining a 3000 gallon tanker truck. Forrest Trent from Wharncliffe asked if they could use state monies to purchase a security camera system for their fire station. Staff said yes, they could since it is covered under Fire House Improvements.

Valley VFD was evaluated on October 6, 2011 and a follow up visit was conducted on April 13, 2012. They still need some classes and have no funding source listed to get equipment. They are hoping for a grant. Commissioner Miller stated they are working on mutual aid agreements. Commissioner Sizemore made a motion to set a hearing date for Valley VFD. Commissioner Goodwin seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Montgomery FD was evaluated on October 26, 2011 and a follow up visit was made on April 12, 2012. Hose test is to be conducted by the county. They are still lacking fire officer training and they stated it would be done by June. Commissioner James made a motion that counsel send a letter to the fire department. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Point Pleasant VFD was evaluated on September 15, 2011 and a follow up call was made on April 16th to monitor the progress of any training and equipment deficiencies noted on the previous evaluation. Commissioner Scott made a motion that if the testing has not been done, a cease and desist order on the apparatus be made. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Town of Sophia VFD – A plan of correction was received on April 18, 2012. Will follow up at a later date.

Good of the Order

Mark Doty, WVU-FSE, stated that Junior Firefighter Camp is scheduled for June 23-28, 2012.

Morgantown Fire Department, in 2009, enacted a malicious burning law with a \$1,000 fine. They are asking permission to up the fine to \$2,000. The Fire Commission stated this is a local issue and they would need to go to their city council.

Time and Place of Next Meeting

The next Fire Commission meeting will be held in the Parkersburg area in June, 2012.

Adjourn

Commissioner Goodwin made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner James seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Minutes
WV Fire Commission
Training Committee Meeting
April 19, 2012, at Charleston

The West Virginia State Fire Commission Training Committee met at the Charleston Country Inn & Suites, at 1520 hours. Commissioners attending were James, White, Miller, and Mongold. Chairman James distributed the agenda with attachments.

Counselor DeLong opened the meeting with an update on the Legislative rule draft. Since new curriculum is now under legislative rule, this draft and subsequent procedures, will dictate how future courses will be handled. All stake-holders were presented this draft and will start making recommendations to the State Fire Marshal's staff.

The approved course list, Revision 20, was discussed. The two education partners will, in the future, have their own copies of courses available to junior firefighters.

Jim Oldaker, of the West Virginia State Firemen's Association, explained a problem that Lincoln County Fire School had experienced. He stated that this had been resolved. Chairman James advised the Committee that Revision 21 would be submitted to include the course "Firefighter Survival", approved during the Fire Commission meeting in August of 2011.

Mark Doty, of West Virginia Fire Service Extension gave a report on the recent blended learning Firefighter 1 course. Junior Firefighter Camp will be held June 23 to 28. A safety seminar will be held at the Fire Academy on April 28 and 29.

ISO representatives gave a report concerning their new field survey. At this time, the new survey should start being used in January of 2013.

In other discussion, Fire Marshal Sterling Lewis asked if the subject of oral testing might be revisited. He also questioned the procedures for making up missed class instruction hours. Rick Rice of RESA stated that for Fire Officer 1, missed hours can be made up online.

Discussion ended and the Training Committee adjourned at 1610 hours.

Randy James
Chairman, Training Committee
West Virginia State Fire Commission