

WV STATE FIRE COMMISSION MEETING
Stonewall Resort • Roanoke WV, WV •

December 06, 2019

The official business meeting was called to order at 09:00AM by Chairman Grant Gunnoe.

ROLL CALL: by Administrative Secretary Kathryn Burns

Commissioners Present

Edward George, Grant Gunnoe, Dave Camp, Carl Eastham, Doug Estep, Martin Hess, Doug Mongold, Phil Hart, Jim Oldaker, Thomas Keefer, Ted Shriver and Virgil White.

Commissioners Absent- None

It is noted Counsel Stacy Nowicki is in attendance

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to accept and approve the minutes of the Fire Commission Meeting October 18th 2019 and Special Fire Commission Meeting on November 19, 2019. Commissioner White seconded the motion. The ayes and nays have been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

• Disciplinary Committee

Commissioner Eastham read the Disciplinary Committee Report from December 5th, 2019 as follows:

Disciplinary Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Minutes

December 05, 2019

Call to order

Commissioner Gunnoe called to order the regular meeting of the Disciplinary Committee Meeting at 9:15AM on December 5th, 2019 at Stonewall Resort, Roanoke WV.

Roll call

The following commissioners were present:

Carl Eastham
Doug Mongold
Edward George
Martin Hess
Ted Shriver

It is noted that Counsel Stacy Nowicki was in attendance.

Unfinished business

1. Consideration of Mason VFD Complaint Investigation Review (FDC FY19-017)

Howard Wood representing the Mason VFD Fire Board reported on the steps that had been taken by the board. He explained the Fire Board had taken the recommendations proposed to them in the meeting at the State Fire Marshal's office. The current Fire Chief has resigned and asked that his name be removed from the upcoming election ballot. It will be over a year before he could go back up for election.

Commissioner Mongold spoke and hopes that the Department has learned from this issue and reminded that the department needs to be honest during evaluations and that they automatically get 180 days to correct issues.

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to recommended to the full Fire Commission to recognize Mason's Fire Board representative's attendance at the meeting and accept the steps taken by the board that were recommended by the Committee seconded by Commissioner George. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

2. Consideration of WV Division of Labor Complaint (FDC FY20-08)

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to go into Executive Session at 9:22am seconded by Commissioner Hess. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to go out of Executive Session at 9:41am, seconded by Commissioner Hess. With the ayes and nays having been taken on voice vote the motion passed.

Commissioner George made a motion to recommend to the full Fire Commission to find probable cause on FDC FY20-08, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

New business

None

Adjournment

Commissioner Mongold moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:45am, seconded by Commissioner George. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to accept the report. It was seconded by Commissioner George. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner Shriver read the Legislative, Codes & Regulatory Committee Report from December 5th, 2019 as follows:

Legislative, Codes and Regulatory Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Minutes

December 5th, 2019

Call to order

Commissioner Gunnoe called to order the regular meeting of the Legislative, Codes and Regulatory Committee Meeting at 9:55AM December 05, 2019 at Stonewall Resort, Roanoke WV.

Roll call

Commissioner Shriver conducted roll call.

The following commissioners were present:

Jim Oldaker
Tom Keefer
Edward George
Ted Shriver

The following commissioners were absent: Mark Stroop.

It should be noted SFC Counsel Stacy Nowicki was in attendance as well.

Unfinished Business-

1. Consideration of Appeal Request for Rockhaven Bed & Breakfast, Harper's Ferry, WV after 3year allowance to provide a 3rd floor fire escape. (Lynne & Christian Pechuekonis).

Deputy Sharp noted that no one in attendance today but may be here tomorrow.

Commissioner Shriver addressed the Committee and those in attendance and apologized for missing the October meeting where this issue was discussed. He explained his concerns after reading §29-3-16c and its' possible interpretations. He ended with suggesting that the staff do further research and find why it was written the way it is. Discussion entertained.

A discussion ensued between Committee members and Counsel about the code, its intent, language and the right to grant a variance.

Additional discussion about the number of total bedrooms and the number of the exits available to the public was held.

A question was raised concerning the Commission rights. Counsel explained their interpretation of the Statute to the Commission for clarification.

Commissioner Keefer noted that we also then need to include a review of the language.

It was noted by Commissioner Shriver that citizens want to have a good sense of safety when they enter a building and that he had looked at their B & B's website there is language on their website that states the space is ADA oriented but not strictly ADA compliant.

Deputy Sharp noted the owners had discussed that item at their last meeting and how they explained the necessity to be able to navigate stairs.

Commissioner Shriver asked if there was any other discussion and there were no responses.

Commissioner Keefer made a motion to recommend to the full Fire Commission to request staff and counsel to further review the technicalities and legalities of what the Commission may do and to take appropriate action as necessary, seconded by Commissioner George. With all of the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

New business

1. Consideration of George Ramsey (City of Milton) as a Provisional Property Maintenance and Housing Inspector & Residential Building Inspector
2. Consideration of Lucas Lemine, (Greenbrier County) as a Provisional Residential Building Inspector.

Commissioner Oldaker made a motion to recommend to the full Fire Commission the approval of Lucas Lemine as a Provisional Residential Building Inspector and the approval of George Ramsey as a Provisional Property Maintenance Housing Inspector & Residential Building Inspector seconded by Commissioner Keefer. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner Oldaker made a motion to go into Executive session at 10:10AM, seconded by Commissioner George. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

Commissioner Shriver made a motion to come out of Executive session at 10:44AM, seconded by Commissioner Oldaker. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

Adjournment

Commissioner George moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:45AM, second by Commissioner Oldaker. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner Oldaker made a motion to accept the report. It was seconded by Commissioner Shriver. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

• Fire Department Services Committee

Commissioner Mongold read the Fire Department Service committee report from December 5th, 2019 as follows:

Fire Department Services Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Minutes

December 05, 2019

Call to Order

Commissioner Mongold called to order the regular meeting of the Fire Department Services Committee at 10:48AM on December 05, 2019 at Stonewall Resort, Roanoke WV.

Roll Call

Commissioner Mongold conducted a roll call. The following commissioners were present:

Dave Camp
Doug Mongold
Jim Oldaker
Phil Hart

The following commissioners were absent: Mark Stroop

It is noted that Counsel Stacy Nowicki was in attendance.

Unfinished Business-

1. Consideration of North Fork VFD Update

Assistant Fire Marshal Bradley Scott discussed the steps the Northfork VFD have already completed and he believes they are very sincere in addressing the issues they have had. He pointed out the purchase of air packs to the Commissioner soon to be completed.

Commissioner Mongold asked if they were headed in the right direction and if and when they will reopen. The staff responded in the affirmative and noted it should be by the end of January.

No Action Needed.

New Business

1. WV State Auditor's Office – VFD Proposed Agreed Upon Procedures

Michelle Hodge and John Bess representing Chief Inspector's Division of the WV State Auditor's office addressed the Commission.

Commissioner Gunnoe asked what action the State Auditor's office is seeking from the Fire Commission.

The representatives explained they want the Commission to agree to the procedures the auditor is going to do for all of the Volunteer Fire Departments.

Counsel explained that the Fire Commission does not have that jurisdiction. We can't tell you how to perform an audit and there is nothing in that statute that empowers us to do anything.

Ms. Hodge explained their interpretation was that the Fire Commission is the governing body of VFDs and they didn't want have to seek out approval from all of the individual departments as they wanted to have consistent auditing procedures. She also explained the auditing standards and why they need approval.

Commissioner Gunnoe addressed Ms. Hodge and Mr. Bess and explained that the Commission won't be taking any action that states the Commission does or doesn't endorse the procedures. He noted there was confusion about what we could or should do but on advice of Counsel there is nothing we can do. However, there are those in attendance that may have additional questions regarding the audit you would be willing to entertain those.

There was additional discussion from the auditors as to why they determined the Fire Commission was the governing body. They also noted how the process would go if they had to seek agreement from all 428 departments and the possible results or difficulties if they don't agree to the procedures.

Marshal Tyree inquired if the bill that was written included the Fire Commission.

Ms. Hodge noted that if the Commission doesn't approve the procedures then their only alternative is to have each VFD do so and if they don't agree to them then they will have to report that to the Legislature

Counsel and Commissioners explained why the Fire Commission can't give the approval they are seeking but perhaps the auditors need to seek out a Legislative fix and should speak with their counsel regarding that.

Ms. Hodge asked if there were any issues with the Compliance Manual. They don't need any action but just wanted to see if the Commission noted anything that was incorrect.

A discussion was held about the concerns the Commissioners had with the Compliance manual in particular the definition of what is a Volunteer Fire Department and Combination Fire Department. Ms. Hodge addressed that concern and noted it could be revisited.

The discussion between the Commission and the auditors went back to the Procedures.

The Commission understands where the auditors are coming from and the auditors understand the Commissions thinking. The auditors just had concerns with the reports being consistent.

Commissioner Mongold raised a concern that he felt it was the intention to make the Commission be the bad guy. The auditors noted that wasn't their intention and that is why they asked us to agree and didn't tell us to. They also understand the Commission feels that don't

have the legal right to agree. If their counsel disagrees then they can reach out to the Commission's counsel.

Commissioner Gunnoe stated that at the end of the day we both want the same thing. We want the departments to prove to the legislature and the public that they are operating properly and using the proper accounting procedures.

Commissioner Keefer wondered if Fire Boards would be audited and Ms. Hodge explained how that is done. It is not the same process.

Ms. Hodge will speak with their legal counsel.

Counsel told Ms. Hodge and Mr. Bess to feel free to have their counsel contact them.

Ms. Hodge asked if they wanted them to come back for the Full Fire Commission tomorrow.

Commissioner Gunnoe responded they could if they wished to talk but it wasn't necessary as the two counsels will need to get together.

No action needed.

1. Fire Officer I and II Applications

None Submitted

2. Fire Departments to be Recertified:

Assistant State Fire Marshal Bradley Scott presented a list of departments that met all requirements to be recertified:

- a. Union VFD
- b. Clintonville VFD
- c. Rupert VFD
- d. Renick VFD
- e. Mud River VFD
- f. West Hamlin VFD
- g. Ronceverte VFD
- h. Duval VFD
- i. Dallas VFD
- j. Coalwood Caretta VFD
- k. Limestone VFD

- I. Cameron VFD
- m. St. Joseph VFD

3. Fire Departments with perfect evaluations to be Recertified

Assistant State Fire Marshal Bradley Scott presented a list of departments for recertification that had perfect evaluations:

- a. South Charleston FD
- b. South Morgan VFD
- c. Great Cacapon VFD
- d. St. Albans FD

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

4. Report on Fire Departments Receiving 180 Days to Achieve Compliance:

Assistant Fire Marshal Bradley Scott gave a report on fire departments receiving 180 day to achieve compliance as follows:

- a. Grantsville VFD
- b. Arnoldsburg VFD
- c. Upper West Fork VFD
- d. Wilderness VFD
- e. Paw Paw VFD
- f. Berkeley Springs VFD
- g. Leading Creek VFD
- h. City of Dunbar VFD

Commission Camp made a motion to recommend to the full Fire Commission to accept the report, seconded by Commissioner Oldaker. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Deputy Scott updated the Commissioners about the Module program. A brief discussion was then held between the Commissioners, Staff and those in attendance about Module training

programs and the benefits such as completion rate, less waste of monies and the length of time they are good compared to the traditional programs.

Adjournment

Commissioner Hart moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:25AM, seconded by Commissioner Oldaker. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner Oldaker made a motion to accept the report. It was seconded by Commissioner George. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

• Training Committee

Commissioner White read the Training Committee Report from December 5th as follows:

Training Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Minutes

December 05, 2019

Call to order

Commissioner White called to order the regular meeting of the Training Committee at 11:25AM December 05, 2019 at Stonewall Resort, Roanoke WV.

Roll call

Commissioner White conducted a roll call. The following commissioners were present:

Virgil White
Tom Keefer
Jim Oldaker
Doug Estep
Edward George

The following commissioners were absent:

It is noted that Counsel Stacy Nowicki is in attendance.

Unfinished Business

1. Consideration of Fire Officer Training Review for Volunteer Fire Departments.

Commissioner White explained that during the workshop held in November they were able to address the concerns of legislators that the courses were geared to paid fire fighters. Their finding was that very little of the course pertained only to paid fire fighters and that volunteers would not be tested on it.

Commissioner Oldaker made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission that a letter be sent to Interim Committee, seconded by Commissioner George. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

2. Consideration of WVPST Training Curriculum Updates.

Commissioner Keefer made a motion recommend to the full Fire Commission to approve the WVPST Training Curriculum updates, seconded by Commissioner Hess. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

3. Consideration of EPA Hazardous Materials Firefighter Awareness, Operations and Technician Courses.

Deputy Sharp stated there will be a speaker at the Full Fire Commission meeting.

Commissioner Keefer made a motion to recommend to the full Fire Commission to approve the EPA Hazardous Materials Firefighter Awareness only, seconded by Commissioner Oldaker second. With the Ayes and Nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

4. Training Complaints

Marshal Tyree read the agreement that has been proposed during the November 7th, 2019 Training workgroup meeting.

“When a conflict or question arises from a recognized WV State Fire Commission Certification Course, both State training agencies (WVPST and WVUFSE) shall consult between agencies to confirm student’s placement and status in a course and whether the student’s course completion can be continued. If a student’s coursework status is found to be in excess of one year since the coursework had commenced, the course must be started over by the student. A course continuation request will be evaluated within a reasonable time-frame by the training agency and their decision will be final.”

After he completed it was suggested the Commission do it as a policy as opposed to an agreement.

Commissioner Keefer made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission the they approve the *Policy Adoption on Inter-Agency Training Acceptance*, seconded by Commissioner Estep. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

New business

1. Consideration of Evaluation of Training Curriculum Updates Pilot Program Policy #3

Commissioner Oldaker made a motion to recommend to the full Fire Commission they approve the Evaluation of Training Curriculum Updates Pilot Program Policy #3, seconded by Commissioner Keefer. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

2. Staff/Counsel

Marshal Tyree addressed the Commissioners making them aware that during the recent Round Table for ASSET it was suggested that we provide a place on our website where Fire Departments can share Recruitment and Retention ideas and/or strategies. The idea is moving along quickly and hopefully we will have some success with it.

3. WVU Fire Service Extension

WVU Fire Service Extension Director Mark Lambert discussed that a new trailer had been acquired for training, that State Fire School is being moved to July or August and may be shortened somewhat. He also noted that their new ML spent two weeks in NY on training. He explained going forward when they send Certifications to Fire Departments, they are going to require signatures.

4. WV Public Service Training/WV Dept. of Education

PST Coordinator Dave Plume thank the Fire Commission for their participation at ASSET. It was a successful conference. He asked about the responsibility regarding the beneficiary form they received from Marshal Tyree and was informed they only needed to provide the form. Mr. Plume also noted the Managing a VFD class is coming up and information is on their website.

PST Coordinator Robbie Bailey noted that the ESCAPE 2019 is approaching and it will be the 39th year. Digital version of the brochure went out this past week and is on Social Media. They have 114 different sessions across 5 and ½ days. They appreciate the SFMO staff and hope to have a good year.

Adjournment

Commissioner White moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:53pm, seconded by Commissioner George. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to accept the report. It was seconded by Commissioner Keefer. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

• Operations Committee

Fire Marshal Tyree stated that his staff and he will present their division reports and he will finish with the overall agency reports.

Deputy State Fire Marshal Casto shared the report on the Inspections Division for the period of October 1, 2019 through October 31, 2019.

REPORT TO THE STATE FIRE COMMISSION

Inspections and Plan Review Division

FOR THE PERIOD OF:

October 1, 2019 through October 31, 2019

Inspection Type	October
Initial	23
Annual	174
Follow-up	17
Complaints	25
Construction	103
Final	53
System	34
Fireworks	1
AGST	1
TOTAL	431

Complaint Type	October
Fire Code	19
Electrical	4
Blasting	1
Fireworks	0
Explosive Magazines	0
Licensing	1
TOTAL	25

OCCUPANCY PERMITS **21**

3 Marshals assisted at WVU Evansdale Campus Chemistry Lab incident – assisted WVU Health & Safety, Morgantown Fire Department, State Police Bomb Squad, and Investigations Division

License Checks	October
Electrician	13
Fire Protection Worker	2
Low Voltage	2
Pyrotechnician	0
TOTAL	17

Warnings	4
Citations	10

Criminal Complaints 0
Execute Arrest Warrants 0

PLANS REVIEWED 133

(does not include walk-in consultations with architects and designers)

TRAINING RECEIVED

Several Marshals attended IAAI Conference in Morgantown – 3 days
All Personnel attended in-service training at the Charleston office – 3 days
1 Plan Reviewer attended National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg – 1 week
3 Marshals attended IAEI Seminar in Fairmont – ½ day
4 office personnel attended CPS/First Aid training in the Charleston office – ½ day
3 Marshals and 2 Plan Reviewers attended IAEI Training in Nitro – 1 day

TRAINING GIVEN

1 Marshal worked with staff on upcoming county wide drills – 3 hrs
1 Marshal presented Fire Marshal’s office to public safety class – 2 ½ hrs
1 Marshal conducted training to staff at Pleasants Co Physical Plant – 4 hrs
1 Marshal provided radio training to Marshals in the Charleston office – 2 hrs
1 Marshal provided training to Marshals in Charleston office – 1 hr
1 Marshal provided CPR/First Aid training personnel – 2 days

Deputy Casto entertained questions.

None

State Fire Marshal Tyree shared the report on the Fire Services Division for October of 2019 and January 01, 2019 through October 31, 2019.

October 2019

1 Electrician Licenses issued:	204	86	Online
2 Temporary Electrician Licenses issued:	28		
3 Pyrotechnician Licenses issued:	9		
4 Blaster Licenses issued:	48		
5 Fire Protection Licenses issued:	41		
6 Building Code Official Certifications issued:	4		
7 Home Inspector Certifications issued:	14		
8 Electrical Inspector Certifications issued:	4		
9 Fireworks Display Permits issued:	9		
10 Explosive Magazine Permits issued:	3		
11 Explosive Magazine Applications reviewed:	4		
12 Exam Applications processed:	200		
13 Number of Applications Returned:	33		
14 Number of tests graded:	132		
15 Letters of Good Standing issued:	19		
16 Miscellaneous:	10		

Summary:

Total Licenses Issued:	330
Total Certifications Issued:	22
Total Permits Issued:	12
Total Applications Processed:	200

Consumer Fireworks

Permanent:	0
Temporary:	0
Wholesaler:	0
Outdoor Storage:	0
Novelties:	27

Summary:

Total Certificates Issued:	27
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January 1, 2019 through October 31, 2019

1 Electrician Licenses issued:	15,791 (5,186 online, 8,711 Lockbox, 2,011 office)
2 Temporary Electrician Licenses issued:	104
3 Pyrotechnician Licenses issued:	663
4 Blaster Licenses issued:	882
5 Fire Protection Licenses issued:	567
6 Building Code Official Certifications issued:	57
7 Home Inspector Certifications issued:	184
8 Electrical Inspector Certifications issued:	52
9 Fireworks Display Permits issued:	300

10 Explosive Magazine Permits issued:	557
11 Explosive Magazine Applications reviewed:	110
12 Exam Applications processed:	2,398
13 Number of Applications Returned:	460
14 Number of tests graded:	1,895
15 Letters of Good Standing issued:	155
16 Miscellaneous:	48

Summary:

Total Licenses Issued: 18,007

Total Certifications Issued: 293

Total Permits Issued: 857

Total Applications Processed: 2,398

Consumer Fireworks

Permanent:	52
Temporary:	228
Wholesaler:	20
Outdoor Storage:	182
Novelties	737

Summary:

Total Certificates Issued: 1,219

ASFM Harms gave the report on the Investigation Division for the period of January 01, 2019 to October 31, 2019.

Total Number of Fires 01JAN19 to 31OCT19 – 549

Accidental – 81

Incendiary – 136

Undetermined – 326

Fatality Total 01JAN19 to 31OCT19 -- 37

Injury Total 01JAN19 to 31OCT19 – 11

Total \$ loss 01JAN19 to 31OCT19 - \$36,394,649

ASFM Harms gave the report on the Investigation Division for the period of October 01, 2019 to October 31 2019.

Total Number of Fires 01OCT19 TO 31OCT19 – 54

Accidental – 9

Incendiary – 6

Undetermined – 39

Fatality Total 01OCT19 to 31OCT19 -- 4

Injury Total 01OCT19 to 31OCT19 – 1

Total \$ loss 01OCT19 to 31OCT19 - \$9,740,700

Total \$ loss 31OCT19 that are declared Incendiary - \$135,000

Total number of fires cleared by arrest or exceptional means – 1

Total \$ loss 01JAN19 to 31OCT19 that are declared Incendiary - \$1,366,740

Total number of fires cleared by arrest or exceptional means – 42

ASFM Harms explained the incident at Morgantown as an experiment that had gone wrong.

Entertain Questions

None

Operations Report by State Fire Marshal Tyree:

**December 6, 2019
Fire Marshal's Report to Operation's Committee**

Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission:

- **Personnel Staffing:**
 - **New Employee:**
 - **Promotions/Reallocations:** Awaiting final approval of New Field Deputy, Services Division
 - **Resignation/Termination/Retirement:**

- We have **9 vacancies** within the agency: **Five (5) ASFM** in Training and Field Deputy for **Inspection Div.** and **One (1) Investigation Div.**, **one (1) Public Information Specialists** de-activated currently; **One (1) Divisional Director (DFM)** and **One (1) Admin Services Asst 1; Services** Division.

- **Legislative update:**
 - Annual Report Review

- **Fire Department Loss of Funding:**
 - (The two deadlines involved are the quarter deadline and then 90 days later, the grace period deadline. Other than being decertified, not submitting their NFIRS incident reports by the prescribed due date is the only way to lose their funding. It has nothing to do with the 180-day issue. Once they miss the grace period deadline, the money is lost and reallocated to the departments that were complying. There is no getting it back after hat.) Share info rec. letters from Treasury; we'll be making an inquiry to see if there are earlier notification/communications that can be provided to help and assist departments to prevent the loss of their distributions.

- **Grant Funding – Fire Equipment and Training Fund Option/Process**
 - **Provided update to Interim Committee and they agreed with decision of holding the \$12,641.54 until fund is increased.**

- **Two Significant Pursuits**
 - Filling of Sworn Positions
 - Advanced Research for Software and Technology infrastructure to enhance efficiencies within the Inspection Division; Fire Dept. Services Section, and Licensing and Certification Division
 - Goal: Begin launch at beginning FY 2021 with full implementation by October 2020.
 - 2020 WV Public Safety Expo: SFMO Class Offerings

- **Visits and Meetings**
 - Completed visits to the schools of Fire Safety Poster Award winners

- **Commendations:**
 - Cabell Co Board of Education Poster Contest Winner Recognition
 - Monday, Dec 16th recognized Eastwood VFD and Wood Co. Sheriff members for Life Save during the Wood Co. Commission meeting.

Public Education Accomplishments

OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2019

Media Releases – 3

- 2019 Fire Safety Poster Contest Winners Announced
- Change Your Clocks, Change Your Batteries
- W.Va. State Fire Marshals busts bogus would-be electricians

Social Media interactions – 210 new Facebook subscribers since Oct. 5th, weekly safety messages and news updates are disseminated through Facebook and Twitter. We total 10,434 subscribers. Top engagement post: ASFM Doug Gregory Retirement Post

18,006 people reached

3,765 post clicks

Public Education Network – 0 new members since Oct, 127 total members since April 2016.

Public interactions completed – 10

- Senior Advisory Committee
- Paducah KY Fire School: Pub Ed. Shed
- Firefighter Memorial
- Kanawha Health Dept. Fire Prevention Event
- State Fire Marshal 110th Anniversary Dinner
- Fire Prevention Day at Malden
- Smoke alarm installs with St. Albans FD
- Safety Information and smoke alarms to Birth to Three group
- Veterans Parade in St. Albans
- Diamond Baptist Senior Fire Safety Event

Ongoing Projects:

History Project: 110th anniversary of the founding of the WV Fire Marshal's Office will be celebrated in 2019 and as a part of this celebration, research is being done to include photos and bios of Fire Marshals' past. An anniversary edition booklet of the WVSFMO will be made available along with other commemorative items. To celebrate the anniversary, we are collecting interviews from former employees and retired Marshals and Deputies. The video will be available for viewing at the open house and 110th Anniversary celebration.

Poster Contest – The fourth annual State Fire Marshal Fire Safety Poster Contest took place in the summer and fall of 2019. The agency received a total of 75 submissions from all over the state. Students in grades K-5th have designed fire safety messages that were judged by DMAPS Secretary Jeff Sandy, whose Cabinet department includes the Fire Marshal's Office, judged the contest alongside Deputy Secretary Thom Kirk, Special Assistant to the First Lady Katie Speece, and Christy Day, coordinator for the Office of Communications at the W.Va. Department of Education. The poster submissions will be made into safety calendar that will be distributed in December. The winner of the contest and the 11 honorable mentions are visited by the Fire Marshal where they are recognized and given a plaque for their hard work.

52 Week Fire Prevention Guide – Fire departments and residents in West Virginia will have access to a fire safety planning guide that covers seasonal topics. The guide is created with a weekly and monthly topic that includes safety topics, historic fire information and important practices to keep in mind. The guide will be made available on the WV State Fire Marshal's Office Website.

Marshall Tyree entertained questions.

Commissioner Gunnoe thanked Marshal Tyree and the Staff for their work.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1) Consideration of Fire Officer Training Review.

Commissioner Oldaker made a motion to approve the Policy Adoption on Inter-Agency Training and seconded by Commissioner George. With the ayes and the nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

Commissioner White explained that during the workshop held in November they were able to address the concerns of legislators that the courses were geared to paid fire fighters. Their finding was that very little of the course pertained only to paid fire fighters and that volunteers would not be tested on it.

Commissioner White made a motion to send a letter explain their findings to the Interim Committee Meetings, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

2) Consideration of WV Public Service Training Curriculum Updates.

Commission White made a motion to approve the WVPST Training Curriculum updates, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

3) Consideration of EPA Hazardous Materials Firefighter Operations and Technicians Courses.

Christina Wagner addressed the Commission and explained the programs they provide.

Ms. Wagner entertained questions from the Commissioners.

The Commissioners explained their concerns about the JPRs.

Ms. Wagner is going to provide that information to the Commissioners so they can review it prior to the February 2020 Commission Meeting

No action at this time.

4) Consideration of North Fork VFD Update.

ASFM Scott updated the Commission.

No action is needed at this time. The Department is working to resolve all issues.

5) Consideration of Mason VFD Complaint Investigation Review (FDC FY19-017).

Commissioner Gunnoe explained the Investigation.

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to approve the steps taken by the Mason VFD Fire Board as they meet and exceed the Commission's requests seconded by Commissioner George. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

6) Consideration of WV Division of Labor Complaint (FDC FY20-008)

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to find probable cause on FDC FY20-08, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

Commissioner Gunnoe tasked the 2 Disciplinary Committee representatives and the Fire Marshal's office to meet with representatives from West Side VFD to reach a resolution. Once reached it will be brought back to the Commission at the February 2020 meeting.

7) Consideration of Appeal Request for Rockhaven Bed & Breakfast, Harper's Ferry, WV after 3 year allowance to provide a 3rd floor fire escape. (Lynne & Christian Pechuekonis).

No Speakers present.

Commissioner Shriver made a motion to request staff and counsel to further review the technicalities and legalities of what the Commission may do and to take appropriate action as necessary, seconded by Commissioner Oldaker, with all of the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

8) Consideration of §87.4 State Building Code

Commissioner George made a motion to un-table Consideration of §87.4 State Building Code, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

Commissioner Gunnoe invited speakers forward and noted the speakers will be allotted the same time to speak.

Tim McClintock with National Electrical Manufacturers Association addressed the Commission speaking against making any amendments to the 2017 NEC code.

David Smith with Eaton Corporation addressed the Commission speaking against making any amendments to the 2017 NEC code.

Don Iverson with Schneider Electric addressed the Commission speaking against making any amendments to the 2017 NEC code.

Charles Roskovensky with Home Building Industry addressed the Commission speaking against making any amendments to the 2017 NEC code.

Jack Jamison with WV International Association of Electrical Inspectors addressed the

Commission speaking against making any amendments to the 2017 NEC code.

Dale Oxley with Home Builders Association of WV spoke in support of adopting the 2017 NEC with amendments to ARC Fault breakers and Tamper Proof Receptacles.

Commissioner Gunnoe addressed those in attendance and explained the processes that had been taken in the past, the previous vote to adopt the 2017 NEC Code without amendments and the response from the elected officials. He asked if there are any members of the Commission that have a motion.

Commissioner White made a motion to amend the Building Code to remove the requirement of ARC Fault Circuit interrupters for 1 and 2 family dwelling except for the bedrooms and move that the staff be permitted to draft the appropriate language to effectuate the change, seconded by Commissioner Eastham.

Commissioner Gunnoe asked if any of the Commissioners had any comments.

Commissioner Shriver addressed the Commission speaking against making any amendments to remove the requirement of ARC Fault Circuit interrupters for 1 and 2 family dwellings. He expressed concerns over changing something that has already been passed and noted as he represents architects, he would be at risk of losing his license to vote for something that removes safety.

With all of the ayes and nays having been given on a voice vote the motion passed.

Commissioner Gunnoe once again addressed the audience explaining how and why the motion came to be.

Commissioner Gunnoe called for a 10 minute recess at 10:40AM.

The official business meeting was re-called to order at 10:55AM by Chairman Grant Gunnoe.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) Report on Fire Depts Receiving 180 Days to Achieve Compliance: Grantsville VFD, Arnoldsburg VFD, Upper West Fork VFD, Wilderness VFD, Paw Paw VFD, Berkeley Springs VFD, Leading Creek VFD, and City of Dunbar FD.

No motion needed

- 2) Consideration of Recertification of Fire Departments: Union VFD, Clintonville VFD, Rupert VFD, Renick VFD, Mud River VFD, West Hamlin VFD, Ronceverte VFD, Duval VFD, Dallas VFD, Coalwood Caretta VFD, Limestone VFD, Cameron VFD and St. Joesph VFD.
- 3) Consideration of Perfect Evaluation Recertification of Fire Departments: South Charleston FD, South Morgan VFD, Great Cacapon VFD and St. Albans FD.

Commissioner Oldaker made a motion to approve these applications (items 2 and 3), seconded by Commissioner George. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

- 4) Consideration of George Ramsey, City of Milton- Provisional Property Maintenance and

Housing Inspector & Residential Building Inspector.

Commissioner Shriver made a motion to approve the application of George Ramsey as a Provisional Property Maintenance Housing Inspector & Residential Building Inspector, seconded by Commissioner White. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

- 5) Consideration of Lucas Lemine, Greenbrier County- Provisional Residential Building Inspector.

Commissioner Shriver made a motion to approve the application of Lucas Lemine as a Provisional Residential Building Inspector, seconded by Commissioner White. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

- 6) Consideration of WV State Auditor's Office- VFD Proposed Agreed Upon Procedures

Stephen Conolly with the WV State Auditor's Office addressed the Commission to request they approve the VFD Proposed Agreed Upon Procedures. He explained why the agreement is being sought with the Commission and why the auditor's office felt the Commission could approve one unilateral agreement.

A discussion ensued and the Commission explained their concerns to Mr. Connolly and the Commission believes additional work needs to be done.

Commissioner Gunnoe noted that the first thing needing to be resolved is whether the Commission has the legal jurisdiction to take action as currently our Counsel does not believe it has that authority.

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to table the discussion seconded by Commissioner White, with the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

Commissioner Gunnoe explained no action was needed as the Fire Commission does not have the jurisdiction to approve the Procedures.

- 7) Consideration of Evaluation of Training Curriculum Updates Pilot Program Policy #3.

Commissioner Oldaker made a motion to approve the Evaluation of Training Curriculum Updates Pilot Program Policy #3, seconded by Commissioner George. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

- 8) Election of New Officers

Commissioner Chairman Gunnoe called for nominations for the Election of New Fire Commissioner Officers for 2020.

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to nominate and accept Grant Gunnoe for the office of Chairman, seconded by Commissioner George, with all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

Commissioner White made a motion to nominate and accept Doug Mongold for the office of Vice Chairman, seconded by Commissioner George, with all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to nominate and accept Ted Shriver for the office of Secretary, seconded by Commissioner White, with the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

Recruitment & Retention- Networking with Fire Departments and Sharing Successful Ideas

Speaker-

Correspondence

Good of the Order- 2020 Fire Commission Dates and Locations

February 6 & 7, 2020 Charleston, WV

April 16 & 17, 2020 Location Suggestions?

June 4 & 5, 2020 Charleston, WV

August Dates?, Moorefield, WV

Other events you may be interested in for 2020:

Legislative Reception Beni Kedem Shrine January?

ESCAPE Pipestem Conference- February 25th – March 1st

Sissonville Fire School- March 6-8 and March 13-15

FDIC -April 19-25

WV Public Safety Expo- May 6-9

Junior Firefighter Camp- June?

WV State Fireman's Association Convention, Cottageville, WV- August 27-29

Time and Place of Next Meeting(s)- Committee Meetings Thursday February 6, 2020 and Fire Commission Meeting Friday February 7, 2020 @ the WV State Fire Marshal's Office, Charleston, WV.

ADJOURN:

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to adjourn at 11:32AM, second by Commissioner White, with all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.
