

WV STATE FIRE COMMISSION MEETING
Pipestem Resort, Pipestem WV

December 2nd, 2022

The official business meeting was called to order at 9:00am by Chairman Grant Gunnoe.

ROLL CALL: by Kathryn L Burns

Commissioners Present

Steven Byers, Dave Camp, Carl Eastham, Doug Estep, Edward George (via conference call), Grant Gunnoe, Phil Hart, Tom Keefer, Brian Jones, Doug Mongold, Jim Oldaker, Ted Shriver and Virgil White.

Commissioners Absent

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to accept and approve the minutes of the October 7th, 2022 Fire Commission Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

RECOGNITION

Marshal Tyree spoke about the presentation at Pocahontas County High School for student and staff who had assisted with a wreck scene by forming a bucket brigade.

SFMO & DIVISIONAL REPORTS:

Marshal Tyree gave the Investigations Report, and his December 2022 report to the Commission containing NFIRS information, staffing, legislative, updates, and fire department funding loss updates. He also spoke of planned visits, meetings and received correspondence.

Entertained Questions – None

Deputy Dave Blaylock gave the Fire Services Department Report and the Inspections/Review Divisional Report. He commended the work done by Ms. Alice Morrison on the Firefighter Certificate Repository Database.

Chairman Gunnoe asked that letter of appreciation be prepared for Ms. Morrison on behalf of the Fire Commission.

Entertained Questions – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Disciplinary – Had no business and did not meet.

Legislative – Had no business and did not meet.

VFD Fire Service Equipment and Training Grant Fund - Had no business and did not meet.

(Marshal Tyree reported that all grants have been processed and that currently there is one pending payment at the Auditors office. Once that test document goes through then the others will be submitted. There are also a few departments working out address or tax issues with their vendor status).

Fire Department Services Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Minutes

December 1st, 2022

Call to Order

Commissioner Mongold called to order the regular meeting of the Fire Department Services Committee at 10:00AM on December 1st, 2022 at Pipestem Resort, Pipestem WV.

Roll Call

The following commissioners were present:

Doug Mongold
Jim Oldaker
Phil Hart
Brian Jones
Dave Camp

The following commissioners were absent:

None

Unfinished Business

1. Consideration of Tornado VFD/Westside VFD Inc #2

Commission Oldaker made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission to accept the name change, seconded by Commissioner Hart. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

2. Update on Fayette County Firefighters Association 911 Complaint

Marshal Tyree reported on the letter sent to the Fayette County Commission and the resulting meeting held with 2 members of the Fayette County Commission. He noted the issue brought before the Fire Commission had been resolved but that the Fayette County Commission plans to continue working with the local Fire Departments and the State Fire Marshal's Office as they work on any additional changes in the future. The Fayette County Commission also requested general information on what it would take to form a county department and it was provided.

No Action Taken

3. Consideration of Amending Policy/Procedure to Establish a Fire Department or Fire Prevention Unit

Marshal Tyree discussed 87CRS6 and the “Requirements for WV Fire Departments” policy that was put into place in October of 2014. He believes there is need for updates to the policy due to the evolution of Fire Departments at the County level. This would help the Counties who are considering a County Fire Prevention Unit or County Fire Department, as well as the Commission, Staff, and local VFDs. It is the office’s recommendation that a committee on the matter be formed to review the policy and make some recommendations at the February meeting.

Chairman Gunnoe noted that he believes that we already have the tools necessary, but we need to make sure the agency knows the procedure and can provide clear information to Counties who are considering such a move.

Commissioner Oldaker made a motion to recommend to the Full Commission that the Chairman establish a review Committee, seconded by Commissioner Hart. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

New Business

1. Consideration of Request for Maps and Aid Agreements

Assistant State Fire Marshal Scott addressed the Committee regarding the reasoning behind the request and Marshal Tyree presented a template of a letter to be sent to the Fire Departments requesting their Maps and Aid Agreements.

Chairman Gunnoe noted that the requirement already exists for departments to provide the most recent information to the Fire Marshal’s office and that no action was necessary, and Staff could proceed with the letter.

No Action Taken

2. Consideration of Fire Officer Applications

Assistant State Fire Marshal Bradley Scott presented the following applications for approval.

- a. Michael Filliaggi FO 2

Commission Hart 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. Consideration of Fire Chief Applications

Assistant State Fire Marshal Bradley Scott presented the following applications for approval.

- a. Robert Perry (Valley)
- b. Glenn Meadows (Chapmanville)
- c. Thomas Powell (Hundred)
- d. Ralph Brown (Cora)
- e. William C Jones (City of Charleston)
- f. Chris Schilling (Westside VFD Inc #2)

Commissioner Jones 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.

4. Consideration of Fire Department with Perfect Evaluations Recertification

Assistant State Fire Marshal Bradley Scott present the following Perfect Evaluations for Recertification.

- a. Hanover VFD
- b. Coal Mountain VFD
- c. Ridgeley VFD
- d. Short Gap VFD
- e. Patterson Creek VFD
- f. Fort Ashby VFD
- g. Fountain VFD
- h. Wiley Ford VFD
- i. North River VFD
- j. Capon Bridge VFD
- k. Romney VFD
- l. Mullens VFD

Commissioner Oldaker made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission the recertification of the listed departments, noting their perfect evaluations, seconded by Commissioner Jones. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

5. Consideration of Fire Department Recertification

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

- a. Smithville VFD
- b. Terra Alta VFD
- c. Washington District VFD
- d. Selbyville VFD
- e. Ellamore VFD
- f. Harman VFD
- g. Whitmer VFD
- h. Coalton VFD
- i. Frost VFD
- j. Cass VFD

Commissioner Hart made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission the recertification of the listed departments, seconded by Commissioner Jones. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

6. Report on Fire Department Receiving 180 Days to Achieve Compliance.

ASFM Scott briefed the Committee on the Departments receiving 180 days.

- a. Capon Springs VFD
- b. Slanesville VFD
- c. Augusta VFD
- d. Levels VFD
- e. Springfield Valley VFD

No Action Taken.

Adjournment

Having no additional business, Commissioner Oldaker moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:26am 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.

Chairman Gunnoe noted that based on the positive numbers of departments receiving perfect evaluations the system put into place regarding evaluations appears to be working.

Training Committee Meeting Report

Meeting Minutes

December 1st, 2022

Call to order

Commissioner White called to order the regular meeting of the Training Committee at 10:30am on December 1st, 2022 at Pipestem Resort, Pipestem WV.

The following commissioners were present:

Virgil White
Jim Oldaker
Doug Estep
Tom Keefer
Dave Camp
Doug Mongold

The following commissioners were absent:

None

Unfinished Business

1. Update on Firefighter Training Certification Access/Repository Program

Deputy Chief Bailey discussed the letter that had been sent to the Training providers legal department regarding the information being sought (a copy of class rosters, student registration if applicable and certificates issued). WV Public Service Training has already responded that the information could be provided. WVU Fire Services is still reviewing the request.

Deputy Dave Blaylock provided a physical demonstration on how the on-line repository system works. He went through the process from beginning to end. He noted the options available to us and the requirements that are necessary to move forward in the process.

Staff entertained and answered the Committee's questions and/or concerns with the process. In particular a concern arose regarding how individuals with like names could be identified correctly.

Commissioner Keefer made a motion to recommend to the Full Commission the use of the system with the stipulation that the State Fire Marshal's Office Staff continue to work with the training providers on how to get the unique number/identifier added to the training providers registration certificate, seconded by Commissioner Estep. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

2. Consideration of Practical Test Points Value for Firefighter Series Certification or Use of Modular Model

Jamie Weller of WV Public Service Training presented information to the Committee on Firefighter 1 data for FY 2020-2022. Out of those findings there was a very small percentage of persons who had failed to finish the program due to not being able to pass (.0072). Based on the results of their research WV PST recommends that the current program be continued for another year and then revisited in December of 2023. He entertained and answered questions on the information he provided. A discussion ensued on how chiefs, departments and the training providers could assist or encourage those that did not pass but still had a desire to do so.

Mr. Weller also presented the proposal that was requested by the Commission for an "Integrated Firefighter 1" program, discussed it pros and cons and entertained and answered questions.

Chairman Gunnoe thanked him for presentation and for the information previously provided. It has been very enlightening, and that WV PST should be proud of the work they have done.

Commissioner Keefer made a motion to recommend to the Full Commission that 1) the program be continued as is, 2) information is to be put out to the Chiefs to encourage retesting and 3) that the pass/fail rates be revisited in December of 2023, seconded by Commissioner Oldaker. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

A 15-minute break was taken at 11:50 and the meeting resumed at 12:05.

New business

1) Presentation by Emergency Management Division on Volunteer Fire Fighters – HazMat Training Grant Opportunity

Lisa Paxton and Tony Domingo with WV Emergency Management Division presented an overview of a Hazardous Material Emergency Preparedness (HMEP) grant program available to Volunteer Firefighters. This program will provide a stipend for the hours attended and she reviewed the necessary requirements for the program. It will be available through September of 2023. She entertained and answered questions.

Commissioner Estep made a motion to recommend to the Full Commission to endorse the program and disseminate the information, seconded by Commissioner Keefer. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

2) Review of Policy for Requirements for Local Fire Departments

Chairman Gunnoe noted that as heard earlier in the Fire Department Services meeting, updates to the policy are needed and that a committee will be formed to address those needs. He requested that this be put on the Training Committee agenda due to the apprenticeship training program that the paid firefighters are using may need to be reviewed to ensure it matches what we are requiring. This item will be on both the Training Committee and Fire Department Services Committee in February. He asks that the Commissioners, Counsel and Staff review the policy and related items between now and February for any areas needing updated.

A discussion ensued on the areas needing updated.

No Action taken.

Adjournment

Having no additional business, Commissioner Oldaker moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:41pm without objection. Meeting adjourned.

Commissioner Mongold 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.

FULL COMMISSION MEETING

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1) Update on Fire Fighter Certification Repository Program

See Fire Department Services Committee Report.

Commission White made a motion to use the system presented with the stipulation that the State Fire Marshal's Office Staff continue to work with the training providers on how to get the unique number/identifier added to the training providers registration certificate, seconded by Commissioner Keefer. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

Chairman Gunnoe requested that staff work on adding to the system so it may be used by Individual departments and/or their Chiefs as that would be very beneficial to the departments.

2) Consideration of Tornado VFD/Westside VFD INC #2

See Fire Department Services Committee Report

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to approve the name change, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

3) Update on Fayette County Firefighters Association 911 Complaint.

See Fire Department Services Committee Report

No Action Taken

4) Consideration of Practical Test Points Value for Firefighter Series Certification or Use of Modular Model

Chairman Gunnoe discussed the presentation given by WV Public Service Training and information provided by WVU Fire Services Extension at the previous day's Training Committee meeting (see Training Committee Report).

Commissioner White made a motion that going forward the Firefighter pilot modular training program is considered to be a regular training program, seconded by Commissioner George. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

No additional action needed but review of program effectiveness will be on December 2023 agenda.

5) Consideration of Amending Policy/Procedure on Establishing Fire Departments/Fire Prevention Unit.

Chairman Gunnoe provided a recap of the discussion during the Committee meeting (see Fire Department Services Committee Report).

Chairman Gunnoe noted that Commissioner Mongold and he will serve on the Committee to review applicable policies and work with staff on drafting proposed changes to be reviewed at the February 2023 meeting.

1) Consideration of Request for Maps and Aid Agreements

Chairman Gunnoe discussed the information provided during the previous day's Fire Department Services Committee meeting (see Fire Department Services report above).

No Action Taken

2) Consideration of Fire Officer Applications.

Assistant State Fire Marshal Bradley Scott presented the following applications for approval.

- b. Michael Filliaggi FO 2

Commissioner Mongold 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) Consideration of Fire Chief Applications.

Assistant State Fire Marshal Bradley Scott presented the following applications for approval.

- g. Robert Perry (Valley)
- h. Glenn Meadows (Chapmanville)
- i. Thomas Powell (Hundred)
- j. Ralph Brown (Cora)
- k. William C Jones (City of Charleston)
- l. Chris Schilling (Westside VFD Inc #2)

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.

4) Consideration of Perfect Evaluation Recertification of Fire Departments.

- a. Hanover VFD
- b. Coal Mountain VFD
- c. Ridgeley VFD
- d. Short Gap VFD
- e. Patterson Creek VFD
- f. Fort Ashby VFD
- g. Fountain VFD
- h. Wiley Ford VFD
- i. North River VFD
- j. Capon Bridge VFD
- k. Romney VFD
- l. Mullens VFD

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

5) Consideration of Recertification of Fire Departments.

- a. Smithville VFD
- b. Terra Alta VFD
- c. Washington District VFD
- d. Selbyville VFD
- e. Ellamore VFD
- f. Harman VFD
- g. Whitmer VFD
- h. Coalton VFD
- i. Frost VFD
- j. Cass VFD

Commissioner Mongold 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.

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

- a. Capon Springs VFD
- b. Slanesville VFD
- c. Augusta VFD
- d. Levels VFD

e. Springfield Valley VFD

Chairman Gunnoe provided a recap of the discussion during the Committee meeting (see Fire Department Services Committee report).

No Action Taken

7) Review of Policy for Requirement for Local Fire Departments

Chairman Gunnoe provided a recap of the discussion during the Committee meeting (see Training Committee Report).

No Action Taken.

8) Election of Officers

Commissioner Chairman Gunnoe called for nominations for the Election of New Fire Commissioner Officers for 2023.

Commissioner Mongold nominated Grant Gunnoe for the office of Chairman, seconded by Commissioner White. No other nominations were made, and nominations closed.

Commissioner White nominated Doug Mongold for the office of Vice Chairman. No other nominations were made, and nominations closed.

Commissioner Mongold nominated Ted Shriver for the office of Secretary. No other nominations were made, and nominations closed.

A voice vote was held on all the nominations and passed unanimously.

9) Meeting Dates for 2023

A discussion was held on the proposed dates and the following dates and locations were agreed upon - February 2nd and 3rd at the State Fire Marshal's Office, Charleston WV, April 13th and 14th, at Blackwater Falls, Davis WV, June 1st and 2nd, location tbd, August 3rd and 4th, location tbd, October 5th and 6th location tbd, and November 30th and December 1st, location tbd.

No action required/taken.

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION:

No Report.

SPEAKERS:

None

CORRESPONDENCE:

Thomas Peyton, Peyton Law Firm (see Fire Department Services Committee Report)

Tim Richardson/Oak Hill Fire Department (see Fire Department Services Committee Report).

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Commissioner George brought to the attention of the Commission scholarships monies available to anyone who is in fire services in Fayette County and/or their children through the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation. Commissioners and Staff may reach out to him if they know of anyone in fire services in Fayette County who may be interested in the program.

Commissioner Shriver asked that the work on making the Building Code a Statewide program be continued in memory of Regina Skeen, the EEO of the WV Home Builders Association.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING(S):

February 2023 Committee Meetings 10:00am Thursday, February 3rd, 2023, WV State Fire Marshal's Office, Charleston WV. Commission Meeting 9:00am Friday, February 4th, 2023, WV State Fire Marshal's Office, Charleston WV.

ADJOURN:

Commissioner White made a motion to adjourn at 10:00am without objection. Meeting adjourned.
