

**UNOFFICIAL  
STATE FIRE COMMISSION MEETING  
WHEELING, WV  
AUGUST 7, 2009**

The official business meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM by Chairman Charles Eversole. Chairman Eversole thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Charles L. Eversole, Chairman  
Chuck Runyon, Secretary  
Larry Goodwin  
James L. Oldaker  
Bob Sullivan

Bill L. Spencer, Vice Chairman  
Dale L. Clayton  
Randy James  
Ted A. Shriver  
Virgil White

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:**

Thomas Keefer  
Victor Stallard, Jr.

Carl Sizemore

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Commissioner Runyon made a motion to approve the minutes of June 12, 2009. Commissioner Spencer seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner Goodwin made a motion to approve the minutes of June 29, 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  
Ron Brown, NFSA  
Bob Nevins, ISO  
Ron Bateman, ISO  
W. Eric Gadd, Spilman, Thomas & Battle

Rick Rice, RESA 1  
David Plume, RESA VIII  
Stan Traylor, RESA 6  
Roderick Armstrong, RESA 5  
Sis Amos, Boggs Run VFD

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Sterling Lewis, Jr., State Fire Marshal  
Nancy Olson, Secretary  
Debbie Hudson, Secretary  
John Oliver, Assistant Fire Marshal  
Mike Trabert, Assistant Fire Marshal

Tony Carrico, Deputy Fire Marshal  
Joe Leake, Deputy Fire Marshal  
Reed Cook, Deputy Fire Marshal  
Michael Barrick, Assistant Fire Marshal

All new Fire Commissioners introduced themselves and gave a little background.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

None

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

None

## **STAFF REPORTS**

Fire Marshal Lewis stated the Building Code and Fire Code rules have been filed with the Secretary of State's Office and with the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee to start the legislative process.

The State Fire Marshal's Office welcomed all the new Fire Commissioners and looks forward to working with each one. Fire Marshal Lewis requested that any requests should come from the Chairman, Vice Chairman or Secretary.

Fire Marshal Lewis stated the Investigation Division has arrested six (6) more firefighters for arson bringing the total to 20 firefighters arrested for arson. There is possibly five (5) more to be arrested in the near future. He commended Deputy Fire Marshal Reed Cook and his division for the work they are doing in this situation.

## **AGENCY REPORTS**

**Technical and Adult Training, Vo-Tech,** Mr. Rick Rice stated that Mr. Wilcox is in Charleston working on budgetary situations. He stated the Haz Mat Introduction should be ready to present to the Fire Commission at the next meeting in October.

He stated the ASSET Conference will be held at Canaan Valley on the first weekend of November. They bring all their instructors, fire, EMS and law enforcement together and it is solely for the instructors. Everyone is invited to attend.

Mr. Rice stated there were numerous classes taught this summer. Summer is usually a slack time. They are glad to see more classes being requested.

He stated they welcomed all the new Commissioners and are welcome to call them any time.

**Training, WVU-FSE,** Mr. Murrey Loflin handed out a DVD of the Junior Firefighter Camp. They had 83 campers, 52 from West Virginia with the others from a variety of other states. He thanked Commissioners Oldaker and James for helping out. They were there the whole week.

He stated that on August 10<sup>th</sup> a Fire Inspector I class is being held at the State Fire Academy. They have 26 registered. This is the second class of Fire Inspector I being taught. They are hoping to offer Fire Inspector II.

The WV Weekend scheduled at the State Fire Academy in September has been cancelled. They only had 3 people signed up.

The WV Weekend at the National Fire Academy is scheduled for October 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. There are 30 signed up. They are partnering with Delaware.

WVU-FSE has partnered with the Division of Forestry. They are offering the red card certifications September 13-19 at the State Fire Academy. This class gives a red card for Wildland Firefighting.

Discussion followed regarding the Junior Firefighter Camp and people attending from out of state. Commissioner James stated he would like to develop a orientation class as to what the Fire Commission and Fire Marshal's Office is and what they do. They had a total of 20 instructors (several were female) which were all volunteer.

**Insurance Services Office (ISO), Mr. Robert Nevins** stated a 10 week project was started to survey every fire department in all the states. There are 600-700 full-time field staff working on this project. They are in the 4<sup>th</sup> week now and they are putting them in a database. They are only taking pictures and not doing complete evaluations.

**Office of Emergency Medical Services** – No Report.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Training Committee, Commissioner James.** See attached report.

**FD Standards Evaluation, Commissioner Oldaker** stated they met on August 6<sup>th</sup>. The Committee received six (6) applications for review. They have been reviewed and four have been recommended for approval. They are:

James B. Ancell, Eastwood VFD  
Frank L. Odgin, St. Marys VFD  
P. J. Reilly, Buffalo VFD  
Randall E. Delancy, Williamstown VFC

He stated the committee recommends all for approval. Commissioner Runyon made a motion to accept the committee's recommendation. Commissioner Sullivan seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner Oldaker stated the committee would be continuing the work on the same program submission for Fire Officer II. He hopes to have it ready by the end of the year and plenty of time to work that process prior to the Fire Officer II requirement coming along in 2011.

**Recruitment and Retention Committee, Commissioner Runyon** stated they have nothing to report except they will be gearing up for the Legislative Session this year. They will be working with some different agencies and if anyone has any ideas for Recruitment and Retention, they will listen and try to work with them.

**Legislative and Budget** – Commissioner Spencer stated the Fire Code and Building Code have been submitted for the Legislative Session.

**Home Inspectors, Building Code Officials, Building and Fire Code Committees, Commissioner** – Commissioner Shriver stated that the Building Code and Fire Code has been forwarded to the legislature. He attended the June 16<sup>th</sup> hearing as an observer. There were several people there that commented for and against the codes. Most of the opposition was regarding the components that the National Electric Code as it relates to ground fault breakers and tamper resistant receptacles. At the June 29<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting, the 2009 International Code and the 2009 NFPA Codes were moved forward as the Fire Code. Chairman Eversole stated they had an organizational meeting and Commissioner Shriver will be co-chairing with Commissioner Spencer.

**TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Fire Commission Meeting will be held in Martinsburg on October 23, 2009 at the Holiday Inn. In December, we will be at Vienna FD.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Fire Marshal Lewis stated that on Thursday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, there was a reception celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fire Marshal's Office. He stated the three Assistant Fire Marshals that were instrumental in putting it together were John Oliver, Mike Trabert, and Mike Barrick. They did a wonderful job. Wheeling Fire Department arranged for the shelter. Deputy Fire Marshal Carrico did the cooking. Other donations were received from Cameron VFD, Cabelas, Sheetz, Walmart, Kroger and several others.

Commissioner Runyon stated that he would like to ask the Commissioners to present a plaque to the outgoing Commissioners. All Commissioners approved.

Commissioner Goodwin reminded everyone of the State Firemen's Convention that will be held in Vienna on August 20-22, 2009. He would like to invite everyone to the convention.

**ADJOURN**

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

Respectfully submitted,

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Sterling Lewis, Jr.  
State Fire Marshal

**Minutes**  
**W. V. State Fire Commission Training Committee**  
**August 6, 2009, Wheeling, WV**

The Training Committee met at Oglebay Resort, Wheeling, W.V. at 1500 hours. There were 22 participants. Chairman James distributed the agenda with minutes of the last meeting attached.

RESA V Coordinators Ancell and Armstrong spoke about a program where certificates are awarded for in-house training. These could be awarded for completion of training such as review of a chapter of the Firefighter instruction manual. They are printing certificates after receiving proper documentation from the departments. A reminder: If it isn't documented, it didn't happen. Commissioner Clayton asked ISO representative Ron Bateman the favored method of documentation. Mr. Bateman seemed to prefer the class roster with all the names on one sheet, but stressed that individual documentation is also acceptable.

The on-line blended learning courses were discussed. Currently Firefighter 1, Firefighter 2, Haz. Mat. Awareness, and Haz. Mat. Operations are available through Jones & Bartlett. The cost is \$150.00. Once the student begins the course, they have one year to complete the on-line portion, the practical test, and written test. Murrey Loflin, of WVU Fire Extension, stated that WVU is already teaching the new Firefighter 1, NFPA 1001, Standard course of ninety six hours.

**To summarize:**

The current Firefighter 1 manual is now obsolete. RESA states that the supplies might last until the end of the year. Therefore, time is of the essence. The new National Standard Firefighter 1 course, in addition to being used by WVU, is being piloted at several sites in the state. Despite complaints that more hours cannot be tolerated, early evaluations from the students indicate the opposite, that the course or some of its components are not long enough. The Department of Education and WVU are developing a written summary and outline of the new Firefighter 1 course and will present them to the Training Committee in October for a possible one year trial.

The meeting adjourned at 1630 hours.