

**STATE FIRE COMMISSION MEETING
HILTON GARDEN INN
MORGANTOWN, WV
OCTOBER 12, 2012**

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

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Bob Sullivan, Chairman
Grant Gunnoe
Doug Mongold
Ted A. Shriver
Virgil White

Larry Goodwin
Robert S. Miller
Rick Scott
Carl Sizemore

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

Gary Bonnett
Randy James

Michael Butcher
Thomas Keefer

A moment of silence was held for Virgil Flinn, former Fire Chief, Lubeck Fire Department, who had passed away, and Brian Willis, firefighter from Shinnston Volunteer Fire Department, who died of cancer.

Fire Marshal Sterling Lewis asked everyone to remember Carol Nolte in their prayers as she fights breast cancer. He also stated that Nancy Olson will be retiring on October 31st. She has worked for the Fire Marshal's Office for 34 years and will be missed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Gunnoe made a motion to accept and approve the minutes of the August 17, 2012 meeting. Commissioner White seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner White made a motion to accept and approve the minutes of the August 28, 2012 special meeting. Commissioner Scott seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

Fire Department Standards Evaluation Committee – Commissioner Sizemore stated they reviewed twelve (12) equivalency applications for Fire Officer 1. Nine (9) applications were approved. There were 3 applications that were not approved. The following Fire Officer I applications were approved:

Robert Gray	Ansted Fire Department
John Cox	Beaver Fire Department
Russell McCullough	Gilmer County Fire Department
Richard Dorsey	Gilmer County Fire Department
Jack McCartney	Gilmer County Fire Department
Edwin Riffle	Gilmer County Fire Department
William Jenkins	Gilmer County Fire Department
Jeremy Gosnell	Trap Hill Fire Department
Ray Bryant	Buffalo Creek Fire Department

Nine (9) applications were reviewed for Fire Officer II with six (6) being approved. Three (3) applications were not approved. The following applications for Fire Officer II were approved:

George Underwood	Lake Fire Department
David Bishoff	Moorefield Fire Department
Ray Bryant	Buffalo Creek Fire Department
Nathan Bush	Gauley River Fire Department
John Cox	Beaver Fire Department
Robert Gray	Ansted Fire Department

Commissioner Mongold 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.

Recruitment, Retention and Research Committee – Commissioner Mongold stated the Committee has included research to their committee's objectives. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Miller made a motion to accept the Committee's report. Commissioner Sizemore seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Legislative Committee – No report, however, staff has been attending meetings of the Legislative Interim Committee regarding reorganization of the Fire Commission.

Fire Department Services Committee – Commissioner Sizemore made a motion to accept the Committee's report which is attached. Commissioner Mongold seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Codes and Regulatory – Commissioner Shriver stated the Committee did not meet.

STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S REPORT

Fire Marshal Lewis stated he did not have anything to report. Business as usual.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Building Code – has been filed as an agency approved rule to Secretary of State's Office and Legislative Rule Making Review Committee. Meeting was held on September 10th regarding sprinkler exception in 2012 to one and two-family dwellings.

A meeting was held with Home Builders Association and a compromise was reached. This compromise will go before the Rule Making Committee in November.

Volunteer Firefighters' Training, Equipment and Operating Standards – No action taken since rules were submitted to Secretary of State and Legislative Rule Making Review Committee.

Racine VFD – This situation has been taken care of.

NEW BUSINESS

Harrison County Commission – First Due Areas of Fire Departments – Mr. Ron Watson, Harrison County Commissioner, stated there is a problem on which fire departments should respond to a small section of Harrison County. The County Commission feels the area should be given to Boothsville VFD, however, Shinnston VFD and Bridgeport VFD both feel they should be given the territory. Residents of this section put together a petition and presented it to the County Commission who then sent it to the Fire Commission for changes to be made. Several residents and fire chiefs spoke to the Fire Commission to give their point of view.

Chairman Sullivan stated this item would be tabled until the December meeting.

Recertification of fire departments: Commissioner Gunnoe made a motion to approve the following fire departments for recertification, Commissioner White seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Back Creek Valley VFD	Bakerton FD
Beaver FD	Berkeley Springs VFD
Bluewell VFD	Buffalo Creek VFD
Capon Bridge VFD	Ceredo VFD
Charleston FD	Eleanor VFD
Fairmont FD	Gauley River VFD
Grandview VFD	Harman VFD
Junior VFD	Kingwood VFD
Lester VFD	Mason VFD
Midway VFD	Moorefield VFD
Paden City VFD	Parkersburg FD
Pax VFD	Prichard VFD
Romney VFD	Trap Hill VFD
Valley VFD	Winfield VFD

Commissioner Scott made a motion to revisit the following fire departments at the December meeting. Commissioner Gunnoe seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Armstrong Creek VFD	Athens VFD
Blennerhassett VFD	Clover-Roane VFD
Davis Creek VFD	Elizabeth-Wirt VFD
Gilbert VFD	Gilmer County VFD
Hundred VFD	Jacksonburg VFD
Johnstown VFD	Lake VFD

Lizemore VFD
Racine VFD
Smithburg VFD
Smithville VFD
Summit Park VFD
Welch VFD
Wileyville VFD

McClellan District VFD
Shinnston VFD
Smithers VFD
South Charleston FD
Wallace VFD
West Union VFD
Williamstown VFD

Commissioner White made a motion to review the following fire departments at the February meeting. Commissioner Goodwin seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Cabin Creek VFD
Farmington VFD
Richwood VFD

Capon Valley VFD
Greenwood VFD

Commissioner Gunnoe made a motion to revisit the following fire departments at the December meeting with notice of possible hearing if noncompliant. Commissioner White seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Davy VFD
Handley VFD
Sharples VFD
Upper West Fork VFD

Delbarton VFD
Keyser VFD
Sophia Area VFD

Commissioner Gunnoe made a motion to send the Flatwoods VFD to an immediate hearing for noncompliance. Commissioner White seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Kerry Moore Darrah stated she sent a complaint to the Fire Marshal's Office regarding an issue with Fairview VFD and Blacksville VFD. Fire Marshal Lewis stated he initiated an investigation into the matter. He feels the county boundary line is in the center of this situation. He stated the Fire Marshal's Office will investigate further.

Glenn Whittington stated that the next Fire Commission Meeting should be posted on the Fire Marshal's website. It was stated that the meetings are noticed on the Secretary of State's website.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Fire Commission meeting will be held at Days Hotel, Flatwoods, WV on December 6-7, 2012.

ADJOURN

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

TRAINING COMMITTEE MINUTES

The training committee met at the Hilton Garden Inn on October 11, 2012 at 13:10 hrs. Commissioners present were; Commissioner White, Commissioner Scott and Commissioner Miller. Topics Discussed were;
WVU

Mr. Doty with the Fire Service Extension commented on the Fire Training Weekend. He stated that there are (2) new classes being held this year. Fire Service Safety Culture: Who Protects Firefighters from Firefighters and Politics and the White Helmet. Mr. Doty further stated that the IFSAC and ProBoard Accreditation process is well underway and is in the finalization process.
WV Dept. of ED

Dr. Varner stated that the Technical Rescue Course is going as planned. It was also noted that the RESA 5 fire school help at WOOD County was a success with 345 completed enrollments.
Staff

Fire Marshal Lewis commented on the Fire Service Safety Culture Class stating it is well needed and cited an example of a recent incident in the state. Staff has a concern of a growing problem in this area. Staff also wanted to make note that the training rule is still in the process phase. Commission President Sullivan discussed the debacle of the interpretation of the water flow language. He stated that it was inadvertently was omitted but will be fix as a technical error. Staff concurred.

Commissioner White asked for WVU or WV Dept. of Ed to comment on his questioning pertaining to Pro- Board certification for Journeyman Firefighters. This is the Career Firefighter's NFPA 1001 Professional qualification. Commissioner Scott elaborated on the significance of the Proboard and IFSAC credentials if a firefighter wanted to move out of state and join or seek employment of a fire department. WVU Fire Service Extension Mr. Doty and Mr. Caravasos both stated that US Department of Labor would need to submit their curriculum for review to check the validity of their testing and this could be done in an administrative way and is part of the lengthy process of the approval/procedure process. It was also stated that in order to receive a ProBoard certification, it would have to consist of a written test and a set of practical skills. Mr. Caravasos stated the Fire Service Extension is more than willing to sit down and discuss the matter with the state's committee of the US Department of Labor. Commissioner Scott advised one of the committee members is on his department and he will discuss this matter with him and try and get a meeting set up. Staff inquired if this would affect the state code pertaining to the Apprenticeship program. Commissioner White stated that it would not; it would be an extra certification.

Public Comment

Joe Fratenoro with ISO wanted to let the Commission know that a new field rep for the state has joined their team. His name is Chad Michaels. Staff asked a question in regards to mapping by ISO for fire areas. Mr. Fratenoro promptly answered his question to Staff's satisfaction.
Meeting Adjourned at 13:35 hours

Virgil C. White Training Committee Chairman