

**UNOFFICIAL
STATE FIRE COMMISSION MEETING
LEWISBURG, WV
DECEMBER 12, 2008**

The official business meeting was called to order at 8:30 AM by Chairman Charles Eversole.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Charles L. Eversole, Chairman
Dale L. Clayton
Randy James
James L. Oldaker
David Tolliver

Bill L. Spencer, Vice Chairman
Larry Goodwin
Kenneth Morgan
Chuck Runyon

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

John Bailey, Secretary
Francis A. Guffey, II

Joseph J. Bostar, III
Victor Stallard, Jr.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Runyon made a motion to approve the minutes of October 31, 2008. Commissioner Spencer seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Bob Nevins, ISO
Ron Bateman, ISO
Ben Roy, NFPA
Murrey Loflin, WVU-FSE
Lanny Adkins, WVU-FSE
Bill Wilcox, WV Dept. of Education
Edward Hicks, WV Dept. of Education
Rick Rice, RESA I
Deron Wilkes, WVOEMS
Chief Kevin Taylor, Beckley FD
Jason Pizatella, Spillman, Thomas & Battle

STAFF PRESENT:

Sterling Lewis, Jr., State Fire Marshal
Nancy Olson, Secretary
Debbie Hudson, Secretary
Jeff Armentrout, ASFM

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you cards received from the families of Audrey Fife and Nancy Olson for the flowers sent by the Fire Commission for the loss of their loved ones.

STAFF REPORTS

Fire Marshal Lewis stated he had two issues to present for approval. First, approval is needed for a substation for the Morrisvale VFD located on the Boone/Lincoln county line. They have met all the requirements and staff recommends approval. Commissioner Runyon made a motion to approve this substation. Commissioner Oldaker seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Second, in Jefferson County, on box alarm assignments, everything has been worked out on that. We now have a map for each fire district in Jefferson County and their number of box alarms. Staff recommends approval on these assignments. Commissioner Runyon made a motion to accept staff's recommendation. Commissioner Spencer seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Fire Marshal Lewis stated on behalf of himself and his staff, he would like to wish all Fire Commission members and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

AGENCY REPORTS

Technical and Adult Training, Vo-Tech, Mr. Wilcox stated he appreciated the opportunity to work with the Fire Commission and with the Adult Education RESA coordinators. They all do a great job. He handed out a report for the last year that shows the totals on haz mat training and regular training. He stated he appreciated the opportunity to serve the people of West Virginia.

Training, WVU-FSE, Mr. Murrey Loflin stated the WV Weekend at the National Fire Academy had 93 people that attended and it was a very good weekend. He stated they are looking to partner with another state next year. They are looking at several other options for next year. He thanked Commissioners Oldaker and James who attended and for their support. The Memorial Service was on Sunday morning.

On January 26-30, 2009, they are offering their Fire Inspector I course at the State Fire Academy. He thanked Deputy Joe Leake for his help in setting this class up.

The Junior Firefighter Camp will be June 27 to July 2, 2009. They are partnering with Harrison County 4-H. They have space for 100 students this year. This is the third year for the junior firefighter camp.

They had scheduled two direct delivery courses for February but they have been moved to September 12 and 13, 2009. The courses were not ready yet.

He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Insurance Services Office (ISO), Mr. Robert Nevins stated they were pleased in October to have staff available to make a presentation on the draft concept of the fire suppression rating schedule. They continue to be in the development stage. They welcome any suggestions. ISO commissioned a survey of about 500 of the nation's fire chiefs. The results of that study have recently been released and he will get copies of that survey for the members of the Fire Commission.

Office of Emergency Medical Services – Mr. Deron Wilkes stated that trauma legislation was passed about 2 years ago. This legislation called for a centralized hospital emergency medical tracking asset center. This is a facility that exists to help hospitals, EMS agencies, and medical services to move the right patients to the right hospitals at the right time. Some hospitals don't have the services or personnel for a certain type of trauma. This facility is located at Flatwoods near the Regional Jail. They hope by spring to open the Consolidated Hospital Emergency Medical Tracking and Asset Center. It will be manned 24 hours a day and exists to move patients between facilities. Discussion followed.

He stated they are working to get the EMS crews trained in Haz Mat and how to keep this training up to date.

Another issue they are facing right now is the sudden influx of air medical services in and around the Parkersburg area. They have added three helicopters, one in Parkersburg, one in Wheeling and one just across the river in East Liverpool, Ohio. They have another one that wants to come online. They have heard rumors of more coming. They are trying to coordinate the aircraft and that they are being used appropriately at the right time for the right patient. Discussion followed.

Fire Marshal Lewis stated he had been getting questions from Incident Commanders on the new policy regarding vests. He stated he feels the Fire Commission may have to make a determination on this at some point in the future. Mr. Wilkes stated they use the Class 3 ANSI requirement. Discussion followed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Training Committee, Commissioner James stated that there were 14 participants at the committee meeting. The first order of business dealt with the language pertaining to the definition of certificates on the training approval request. It was reiterated that the Fire Commission only certifies curriculum, not agencies. After much discussion, Ron Bateman from ISO submitted a draft sentence. The definition of a certificate will be submitted to the Fire Commission as follows: "Certificates will be awarded to all successful students. This certificate will bear the name of the sponsoring agency. Certificates bearing the name of the WV State Fire Commission will only be awarded for courses taught by WVU Fire Service Extension or RESA certified instructors. Certificates not bearing the name of the WV State Fire Commission shall be reviewed for approval by the WV State Fire Marshal's Office during the fire department evaluation."

The next item discussed was the recommendations of the US Chemical Safety Board. Department of Education RESA submitted a first draft proposal. The draft took the form of a orientation level for persons not trained in Haz Mat or a refresher for field personnel. WVU Fire Service Extension partnered and helped develop this idea. The

partnership should have a report by the February 19th meeting in Flatwoods. Marshal Lewis proposed that comments, inputs and opinions to future changes, such as instructors, curriculum may be brought to the public's attention through a public hearing or open forum format. This comment period could be held on the evening prior to the regular scheduled meetings of the Fire Commission. No official action could take place at these meetings but comments and opinions could be noted, studied and acted upon at a later date. Murrey Loflin stated that due to the heavy schedule that included the planning and execution of the WV Weekend at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, he had not had a chance to finish reviewing the Weather Emergency Class submitted by Tom Miller of Sissonville. He will look it over and send it to his RESA counterpart for review.

Commissioner James read a fax from Kim Sovine representing the WV State Community and Technical College. Ms. Sovine had been scheduled to give a presentation but had to cancel due to weather. She was to explain WV State's proposed associate in applied science studies and fire science degree. Many questions and thoughts were discussed. Commissioner James asked for guidance of the education members of the Training Committee. Bill Wilcox and Murrey Loflin volunteered to gather information. This includes meeting with Jim Skidmore, Chancellor of State's Community and Technical College. Ms. Sovine will be placed on the agenda for the February meeting.

Commissioner James asked for a motion to accept the change to the previously read definition of certificates. Commissioner Runyon so moved. Commissioner Tolliver seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

FD Standards Evaluation, Commissioner Oldaker stated the Committee reviewed four applications for Fire Officer I equivalent certification and made the recommendation that they be approved. They are Terry Lilly and Gregory A. Giles of Dunbar Fire Department; Mark A. Miller and Eldon V. Kimble, Jr. of South Morgan Volunteer Fire Department. Commissioner Spencer moved to accept the recommendation of the Committee. Commissioner James seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioners Oldaker and James attended the WV Weekend at the National Fire Academy. He stated it was a wonderful opportunity to attend training there. He stated he wished there was more participation from firefighters.

Recruitment and Retention Committee, Commissioner Runyon stated they had attended several meetings with Committee F Legislature and with the WV State Firemen's Association lobbyist and also a lobbyist from the Professional Firefighters. An excellent report was presented by Tom Miller on the LSOP program. Much discussion was held with the Committee. There was some discussion concerning Brickstreet. There was a suggestion that a survey be done regarding how many firefighters and non firefighting members be done to determine rates. Discussion followed.

Procedures Development Committee, Commissioner Bailey. No report.

Special Issues, Commissioner Bostar – No report.

Legislative and Budget, Commissioner Spencer – Everything is going along.

Home Inspectors, Building Code Officials, Building and Fire Code Committees, Commissioner Guffey – Fire Marshal Lewis stated that the Legislature is looking at certifying the propane industry (technician providers) and at this point in time, will be housed in the Fire Marshal's Office. Requirements for certification, fees established and rules set will be done by the Fire Marshal's Office.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The following officers were elected for 2009:

Chairman:	Charles Eversole
Vice-Chairman:	Bill Spencer
Secretary:	Chuck Runyon

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

Commissioner Runyon stated that the next Fire Commission Meeting be held on February 20, 2009 in Flatwoods, WV with Work Session on Thursday, February 19, 2009; and the April meeting be held on April 16 & 17, 2009 in Beckley, WV; and the June meeting be held on June 11 & 12, 2009 in Charleston, WV in conjunction with the State Fire Marshal's 100th Anniversary Celebration. Commissioner Tolliver made a motion to accept these recommendations. Commissioner James seconded the motion. The ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Commissioner Runyon thanked the Fire Commission and Fire Marshal's Office for an outstanding year and wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Commissioner James thanked everyone for all their help with the Training Committee.

ADJOURN

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sterling Lewis, Jr.
State Fire Marshal