

Fire Commission Meeting

February 17, 2016

Meeting began at 1930 hours gaveled by Vice Chairman King. A sign-in sheet was passed around.

Chaplain Report, Chaplain Hetz (Harry) gave an invocation prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and provided a short update on our sick and injured members.

Office of the Fire Chief, Chief Bashoor (Chief) advised that he along with others from the Department had testified in Annapolis against HB 19 and requested that everyone keep the pressure on the politicians in order to defeat this Bill. Chief then advised that the AVL Taskforce is working, that to date the AVL system is found to be working 90 % of the time. The Executive Officer, AFC Doubleday requested that all members should forward real complaints with the system to the taskforce or website for investigation. Chief Bashoor continued his report advising that the new County website is scheduled to be live on April 1, 2016 and that this will be the Departments depository for all General Orders. Chief closed his report stating that the 911 Stair climb/Walk will be held on September 10, 2016 and he is in the hallway selling tickets.

Volunteer Services Command, DFC McClelland (Jim) stated that the Department is accepting nominations for the Valor Awards luncheon and program scheduled to be held on April 27th. Jim recognized AFC Harve Woods. Harve provided an update on PPE supplies and requested that all Stations with excess PPE should return it to Logistics so that reusable PPE can be serviced and put back out into the field. Laurel VFD, Mr. Lau asked a question about the expiration date on the PPE, hoods and gloves. Harve responded the active life of PPE is 10 years from the date of manufacture. The manufacture date can be found on the labeling in the gear.

Support Services Command, DFC Barksdale (Ben) provided a short update on the RMS training, stating that the training is on-going and that all personnel need hand-on training to become comfortable with the new program. Ben provided an update on the new SCBA system stating that the purchase order should be cut next week and that the vendor, MES, will be doing the fit tests for the new HT face piece. The new purchase will include approximately 9 compressors systems along with new cascade systems for the Stations. This will allow for a compressor to be located in every battalion and also for mobile compressors.

Commissioner Stack (Kenny) requested an expenditure authorization for Station 14 to use \$3894.00 from the Training Funds for the Rescue Training program they are hosting – **Motioned and Approved**

Commissioner Dougherty (Brian) requested a change of motion on the new insurance program originally motioned and approved at the January 20th meeting and it read as follows: *Motion to approve the recommendation that the County Government will pay the insurance premium of \$1000.00 for all firefighting apparatus, ambulances and support vehicles currently in the operational fleet as long as the 2 and 1 policy is followed and these vehicles are under the County fuel and maintenance.*

The requested change to the motion reads as follow: Motion to approve the recommendation that the County Government will pay the insurance premium for all firefighting vehicles.

ambulances and support vehicles currently in the operational fleet as long as the 2 and 1 policy is followed and these vehicles are under County fuel and maintenance. The allowable policy deductible will be set at \$1000.00/vehicle/occurrence. – **Motioned and Approved**

Commissioner Taylor (Bill) advised of his attendance at the Audit held on February 13th and that he attended a meeting at the VFW “St. Florian 911 Lodge” which proved to be a real eye opening experience for him. Bill asked everyone to please spend your Uniform money and then requested the following motion to fund the new LOSAP recordation Pilot for a period of 90 to 120 days with 4 stations and the Commission involved in the Pilot – **Motioned and Approved**

Commissioner Kuenzli (Randy) requested approval for the following motions:
Station 7 - \$5637.20 – Chief’s vehicle lighting – **Motioned and Approved**
Station 55 – place their 2016 Ambulance in service with County supported fuel and maintenance only, Station 55 will cover the insurance funding – **Motioned and Approved**
Randy closed his report stating that VRS is on-going this week and reminded everyone of the VRS registration change that took place in January. Randy said that some Stations are still struggling with the registration process.

Commissioner Wilson (Rick) stated that he had no report tonight.

Commissioner Bodrick (Tyrone) requested approval of the physical appeal findings for Malik Deal as approved for service – **Motioned and Approved**

Commissioner Breen (Bobby) requested approval of the February 3, 2016 meeting minutes as printed and sent electronically – **Motioned and Approved**
Bobby requested an expenditure approval as follows:
Station 26 - \$6500.00 – Banquet expenses and Awards – **Motioned and Approved**

Vice Chairman, Commissioner King (Buddy) requested approvals for the following LOSAP items:
Station 49 – 2015 Company Report as corrected – **Motioned and Approved**
Kelly Lippincott, # 23619 – research approval for 12 years – **Motioned and Approved**
Ronald Gill, # 1443 – research approval for 23 years – **Motioned and Approved**
Lewis Ratliff, #7498 – research approved for 22 years – **Motioned and Approved**
Tyrone Savage, #4902 – research approved for 25 years – **Motioned and Approved**
Raymond McRea, #5924 – Research approved for 23 years – **Motioned and Approved**
William Bowen, #00822, Co. 31, 25 years, effective 1/1/16 – LOSAP Award – **Motioned and Approved**
Joe DiPrima, #1197, Station 29 – additional service credit for 1994 – 1 year – **Motioned and Approved**
Buddy requested approval of the LOSAP Training Report – **Motioned and Approved**

PGCVFRA, Vice President King (Steven) advised that Chuck was in Annapolis for the HB 19 Bill and that there will be a Mega Bingo held at Accokeek VFD on April 24th.

LAPGCVFRA, Past President King (Jennifer) advised that there will be a Purse Bingo held at Branchville VFD on March 13th.

Marine Fire Rescue, President Demerit (Janet) was recognized and addressed the Commission and the attendees about her displeasure with the disrespectful way she was treated for the past Audit held on February 13th. Janet stated that when she was on the Commission, they held the Audit time from 8am until 12 noon. The Commission Chair took Janet's complaint and suggestions under consideration for future Audits.

Laurel VFD, Mr. Lau (Bryan) posed a question to the Commission about recent changes to the Insurance Program and commented on the changes of the Firefighter personal property changes. Bryan asked when the Commission nominations and elections would be held for this up-coming year. Secretary Breen advised that the changes to the Insurance policy would be put on the website under the "policies" tab. The Chair advised that nominations would be held the 2nd meeting in March followed by the election at the 1st meeting in April. Bryan Lau made a suggestion that policies of the Fire Commission be placed on the website as a resource so that the membership has access to complete information. There is a heading on the Fire Commission website for policies.

The citations in the minutes do not fully describe the actions taken by the Commission. Bryan cited several examples from the Insurance Documents that were not a part of the motion in the minutes. Bryan also cited another example where a claim less than the amount of the deductible on the County Insurance could be recovered from the County Self Insurance Agreement.

Bryan also suggested that the draft of the minutes be widely distributed prior to the meetings so that the public has a chance to comment before the minutes are adopted by the Fire Commission to create a permanent record.

Commissioner Breen followed up with a comment about how frustrated he is that he does not have access to the Minutes of the Fire Commission. Commissioner Breen stated that the minutes prior to 2014, are not on the County Website. Commissioner Breen said the minutes were on there in past, now they are gone.

Bryan then offered that the hard copies of the Minutes are in the Secretaries cabinet in the Fire Commission office, along with the recordings of many of the meetings. Electronic copies of the Minutes are on the hard drive that is in the possession of the Fire Commission. Bryan offered to get copies from his files for the period of time that he and John Mutchler were Secretaries of the Fire Commission. Commissioner Breen thanked Bryan for his help. Commissioner Breen also confirmed that policies of the Fire Commission will be put on the website of the Fire Commission.

West Lanham Hills VFD, Chief Alter (John) asked a question about the 2 and 1 policy in the Commissions Insurance Program changes, specifically in reference to the multi-house Stations. The Chair advised that he would be in touch with him to address these changes and that the Commissioners will look into the multi-house Stations for a resolution.

Silver Hill VFD, Treasurer Alferie (Mike) asked if the Commission could send out to all Stations a reminder notice along with a list of all items needed for future Audits.

Chaplain Huttenlock (Elaine) provided us with a benediction prayer to end the meeting and a motion to adjourn was entertained by the Chair – **Motioned and Approved**

Minutes recorded and typed by Commissioner/Secretary Breen

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph Breen", written in a cursive style.