

Fire Commission Meeting

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

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

Chaplain Litchfield (Warren) gave opening prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Warren gave a short report on our sick and/or injured members. Warren asked everyone to keep Barry Johnson from Company 49 and Ed and Audrey Thurston from Company 23 in our prayers.

Fire Chief Bashoor (Chief) provided remarks about over-time reduction measure that might be necessary to curb the over-time expenditures stating that the County may need more VSU time from the Volunteer compliment. The Chief then provided a short report on the new County apparatus arrivals. Chief Bashoor closed with an open invitation to his Holiday Party on December 11, 2014 and announced that there is still space available for purchasing seats at the County Executive's Inaugural Ball being held at National Harbor the evening of December 1, 2014.

Volunteer Services Command (VSC) Deputy Chief McClelland (Jim) spoke about the outstanding Fit Tests and the need for all operational personnel to get their Fit Test completed/scheduled by January 1, 2015. Effective January 1, 2015, all personnel/members outstanding and not scheduled will receive an operational suspension until their 2014 Fit Test is completed. Jim stated that any Company that has personnel that have left the service that their face pieces should be turned-in to Apparatus Maintenance in order to get those individuals removed from the list and database. Jim mentioned that the requests for 1st quarter VSU funds should be turned in to his office by November 21, 2014. Lastly, Jim mentioned that the OCS (Stores) is now doing back-orders on supplies for issue to the Stations.

Deputy Chief Neal Dennis (Neal) spoke briefly about the 2016 budget process beginning and about the OMB request for a 2 percent reduction in the Fire Department 2015 budget. Neal then stated that the 508 checks have been requested but have not come in.

Administrative Assistant Archie O'Neill (Archie) provided an update to the new member physical process indicating that the wait time for obtaining physicals has significantly improved from some 49 days to 19 days. A line chart was provided indicating the improvement.

Volunteer Recruiter Brittany Smith (Brittany) was recognized by the Chairman. Brittany indicated that she recently received information that there is 2 physical appointment times available for Monday, November 24th and should any company have new applicants awaiting a physical, they should contact Concentra.

Career Commissioner Kenny Stack (Kenny) stated that he has been working on issues with a written PPE policy pertaining to the bunker gear issued by Prince Georges County. Kenny hopes his report completed by the next Commission meeting.

Commissioner Bigony (Jon) expressed his thanks for all the assistance rendered to the Bowie Volunteer Fire Department during the recent funeral events for Life Member and Retired Career Fire Fighter Thomas Mechanti. Jon then reported that there was a new version of the SERF document out and all Stations should be using the F3 version when ordering supplies. Jon then asked if anyone knew the status of CB 90 as there was supposed to be a hearing at the CAB on that bill today.

Commissioner Taylor (Bill) provided a list of meetings and events he attended including Commission Work Sessions, public events for the Fire Cadet program and a meeting about the rehabilitation work for Fire Station 27. The labor for much of this work will be provided by the apprentices in plaster and cement mason work, local 891 who are enrolled in the Vocational Trades program in the Prince Georges County High School system. Bill then stated that he took part in the interview process for the new Civilian Commissioner position and assisted with review of newly collected documents pertaining to the Hillside Volunteer Fire Department.

Vice Chairman King (Buddy) presented the following individuals for LOSAP awards:
Stephen Mandragoes, #2099 – Co. 36 – 29 years of service – effective 12-01-2014 –

Motioned and approved

Craig Moe, # 2203 – Co. 10 – 39 years of service – effective 01-01-2015 –

Motioned and approved

Several Company Reports were read for approval:

Co. 30 – 2012 – Correction – motioned and approved

Co, 55 – 2014 as corrected – motioned and approved

Co. 10 – 2014 as corrected – motioned and approved

Co. 8 – 2012 as corrected – motioned and approved

Co. 8 – 2013 as corrected – motioned and approved

Co. 25 – 2011 as corrected – motioned and approved

Co. 7 – 2013 report and correction – motioned and approved

Commissioner Kuenzli (Randy) spoke to the Commissioners and body present about the submission of Officer Certifications and requested that the paperwork submitted should not be stapled as this makes it difficult to scan into the recordkeeping system. Randy spoke of the attendance at the last VRS class noting that 46 were enrolled, 2 dropped out, 2 retested and 14 either had missing documentation or failed to show-up for class. Randy then provided statistics for the October VRS class with 36 registered, 2 retests, 9 no-shows, 2 failures and 6 members with a 100% score. Randy then reminded everyone that for Equivalency students, the paperwork that must be brought is copies of their certifications and station training materials, a PPE requisition form, the SCBA authorization form and Form 2000. All of these documents must be submitted in order to process these individuals. Randy closed by notifying everyone that a 45-60 day lead-time is necessary to process requests for sponsoring training not associated with MFRI.

Commissioner Breen (Bobby) presented a request for approval of the minutes for the November 5th Commission meeting – Motioned and approved

Bobby presented a Station Management expenditure request from Co. 27 - furniture for their dayroom - \$4500.00 – **Motioned and approved**

Bobby presented a Station Management expenditure request from Co. 27 – new bedding for bunkrooms - \$5000.00 – **Motioned and approved**

Chairman Tucker (Jay) presented his report to the body touching on a few of the items from his agenda list that had not been covered. Those items included:

- 508 check distribution and information requested from Companies 19 and 29
- His attendance at the interview for prospective Civilian Commissioner Rick Wilson from Laurel, Maryland
- A request to have the Companies submit to the Commission a copy of the Station Management check recently sent out so the Commission has a means of QA/QC
- Jay stated that the VSU quarterly monies would be direct deposited into the Station Management accounts.
- Training class monies are available but do not include MFRI classes
- Meeting with Facilities Operations and Maintenance in order to better define what responsibilities the stations have and what responsibilities FOM will have with respect to the Station Management contract
- The Commission is still waiting for Bonnie to receive her training on the new SAP system
- Jay asked that if anyone knew of another jurisdiction that performs an EMS Only physical for Volunteers, please get the physical standards and provide them to him as the Commission is working on an EMS Only physical process but as of yet we have found no standards.
- Jay reminded everyone to be careful and watch their expenditure requests for Stores. We currently have a few companies coming close to their annual cap limit.
- Jay presented a request from Company 17 to purchase a new vehicle with 508 funds with the intention to place in-service to replace an older vehicle currently in the fleet – **Motioned and approved** with the understanding that the vehicle be marked according to the current approved guidelines.

PGVFRA President Walker (Chuck) was recognized and noted that he had taken part in the on-going PPE inventory and that a large amount of PPE has already expired or will expire within the next couple of years. Chuck stated that the next County Association meeting would be on Wednesday, December 10, 2014, hosted by Co. 30 and held at Co. 35.

Ladies Auxiliary President-PGVFRA (Kitty Gardner) was recognized and stated that they had no report.

Marlboro VFD President Jeff Wyvil (Jeff) was recognized and offered to host the December 17th Commission meeting at Co. 20 and that food would be served – motioned and approved

Allentown Road VFD President Ron Austin (Ron) was recognized. Ron informed the Commission that he had an EMS Only candidate that failed their physical and in-turn left and went to Charles County Station 12 EMS to volunteer.

Past Commissioner, Retired Deputy Chief Underwood (Frank) was recognized and notified everyone that the Wreaths across America event will be held on December 17th this year and

they are in need of several people to assist with the wreath placements since the program has expanded this year. The contact person is Chief 11.

Past Commissioner Lau (Brian) was recognized and advised the Commission that the recent changes to the Prince Georges County LOSAP program will need to be incorporated into our LOSAP documentation and that some of the reports being submitted need to be more definitive as to collateral duties performed. Brian then questioned the benefits that were being implemented in stages. Brian then questioned as to the status of the CIP program for FY2016. Brian's last question dealt with the death benefit increases and the language in the actual passed and approved Council Bill.

Motion to adjourn was approved; next Commission meeting will be December 5, 2014.

Closing prayer was provided by Chaplain Litchfield.

Minutes recorded and typed by Commissioner Bobby Breen, Secretary & District 4

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