

## **Fire Commission Meeting**

Wednesday, August 6, 2014

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

*Chaplain Litchfield* gave opening prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and provided a short report on the membership's sick and injured. Warren asked that we keep Jeff Wyvil, Joe and Joann Robinson in our prayers.

*Chief Bashoor* (Chief) stated his congratulations to all the Association Tribute recipients then digressed to the new apparatus entering the county fleet. Four (4) Engines and one (1) Truck will be delivered in approximately 30 days. The next order will include one (1) Engine, one (1) Tower and twelve (12) Ambulances. The Chief stated that the hose test trailer is a work in progress and should be completed soon. The Chief spoke briefly about the new county IT programs implemented recently and spoke of the challenges trying to get everyone trained on the new systems. This will be somewhat of a lengthy process and so he asked that we bear with him and the county so we can get everyone acclimated to the new systems. The Chief stated that currently the Fire Department has approximately 1600 personnel both career and volunteer listed as "out-of-date" and that discussions will be held with the volunteer leadership to determine what steps need to be taken to significantly improve the compliance rate of the department. The Chief then spoke about the compliance rate on Epcr reporting and billing compliance. Currently we are at a 56% compliance rate and this needs to improve significantly. Discussions will be held with the Commission as to determine what disciplinary measures should be taken should this rate not improve. The Chief stated we are losing millions of dollars in ambulance billing due to non-compliance of the reporting requirements. Acting Fire Chief (AFC) Harve Woods stated that Station 818 has placed seven (7) of their members out of service (OOS) due to non-compliance of requirements and *Association President Mellits* stated that the Association would be open to discussing other available options with the Chief on testing procedures. The Chief stated that he is willing to hold these discussions with the volunteer leadership. The Chief closed with the notification that Retired Paramedic Andy Bluestein's 14 year old son had passed due to a continued illness/ infection he received after successfully being treated for Leukemia. Please keep Andy and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

*Deputy Fire Chief McClelland* (Jim) stated he is currently scheduling meetings with each of the departments Volunteer Chief's and President's in order to obtain an over-all needs assessment of the various volunteer corporations.

*Deputy Fire Chief Dennis* (Neal) stated that the Department has lost close to \$400,000.00 in ambulance billing money due to missing signatures on the Epcr reports. The Department is tracking these issues along with the missing social security numbers (SSN) for the patient that was transported. Consideration is being made to only use the last four (4) digits of the patients SSN on the report for tracking and billing purposes. Neal stated that the Emeds training is on-going and the department receipts for the month of July totaled approximately 1.3 million dollars. Neal digressed to Logistic and Supply and stated that the past back orders were being filled and some orders were being delivered to the stations. Neal then spoke about the Personal

Protective Equipment (PPE) issues and stated that discussions were had with the Office of Central Services (OCS), the Fire Department, the vendor-Municipal Emergency Services (MES) and the manufacturer-Morning Pride in order to work-out the issues and problems with delivery to the end users. *Chairman Tucker* requested that he be provided a copy of the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant paperwork for the PPE that is currently being stockpiled at Logistics. Jay reminded everyone that the Station Management Audit is scheduled for Saturday, August 23, 2014 at 0800 hours.

*Deputy Fire Chief Barksdale* was in attendance tonight and stated that he had no report.

*Chairman Tucker* (Jay) opened his report with some information about the Amos 508 Funds possibly being increased in fiscal years 2015, 2016 and 2017. Further information on this will be provided when it's known. Jay spoke briefly about the Pat Tag and PPE gear measuring procedures that are now in place. Jay had Commissioner Kuenzli explain the gear measuring procedure. Jay then went on to talk about the pending LOSAP legislation currently held up in the PSFM Committee and that he is scheduling a meeting with Councilwoman Toles in order to influence her into moving the legislation out of committee and on to legislative action. Jay mentioned that the Commission had met during work session and determined that a maximum order per request for EMS gloves would be set at 25 boxes of gloves per request. Jay stated that the Commission would meet with AFC Woods on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month in order to stay abreast of the current and future CIP projects. This should allow the Commission to better assist in managing the CIP budget and effectively move these projects to completion. Jay closed with a notification that the Commission will meet in work session on Monday, August 18, 2014 in order to perform a review of LOSAP records for the Hillside VFD, old Station 6.

*Vice Chairman King* (Buddy) presented the following individuals for LOSAP awards:

Wm. Stanton – Co. 10, 34 years, effective 8/1/14 - **motioned and approved pending submission of additional requested paperwork**

Edwin Lehan – Co. 33, 37 years, effective 10/1/14 – **motioned and approved**

Richard Lehan – Co. 33, 32 years, effective 10/1/14 – **motioned and approved**

Hubert Walker – Co. 38, 36 years, effective 10/1/14 – **motioned and approved**

Buddy then requested approval of the following annual reports:

Co. 56 – 2013 Annual Report – **motioned and approved**

Co. 01 – 2013 Annual Report – **motioned and approved**

*Civilian Commissioner Taylor* (Bill) provided the Commission with his attendance report at the following functions:

Commission Work Sessions – July 15 & 23, 2014

Company 857 – Boat Dedications at Ft. Washington Marina

County Association Tribute Function – Station 823

Recruitment and Retention meeting-August 3, 2014-Station 808

LOSAP meeting with Council Chairman Mel Franklin, District 9

*Commissioner Kuenzli* (Randy) reported on the July VRS classes stating 60 personnel were register for two (2) classes with 10 personnel listed as no-shows. Randy stated that there would be only one class location during the month of August. Randy read a request from Station 801 to

expend \$4,500.00 of their allotted small tool money to be applied towards the purchase of a new Amkus, Sismo hydraulic pump for their rescue tools with the balance of the purchase price coming from their own funds (motioned and approved). Randy then requested to move Co. 7's second Ambulance request (tabled in July) out of table and revising their request to match Co. 12's (ambulance agreement) for fuel, PM's and insurance. A motion and second was obtained and after some discussion the motion failed due to the fact this would still add a vehicle to the fleet. Randy read a request from the Bowie Volunteer Fire Department to utilize Training Fund money to purchase and replace several pieces of CPR training equipment used in the VRS classes and the Bowie CPR training program. The total of this request is \$7,559.00, the motion was made and after some discussion the motion was approved.

Randy then presented a request from Bladensburg, Station 9 for equivalency training approval for:

Brandon Rice – FF1/FF2, required IS Training, CPR – **motioned and approved**

Jeremy Aleo – Va. Training, Pro-board FF1/FF2, IS Training, CPR – **motioned and approved**

Nathan Grawehr – Pro-board FF1/FF2, IS Training, CPR – **motioned and approved**

Commissioner Breen (Bobby) read a request from the Brandywine Volunteer Fire Department to spend \$3,506.55 from Station Management Funds for new emergency lighting for Chief 40 and Chief 40A's vehicle's – motioned and approved. A second Station Management expenditure from Brandywine in the amount of \$4,357.13 to reimburse expenses paid from their corporate account for miscellaneous expenses with a list of receipts attached- motioned and approved.

Commissioner Bigony (John) stated that Version F1 of the SERF documents and catalog are now active on the Fire Commission website. Some audience personnel expressed concerns with the new system overwriting on the document layout. John stated he had not experienced that issue and would look into it. John reiterated that some items not used in the Fire Service had been removed from the Stores listing in order to make it user friendly to our members.

Commissioner Bodrick (Tyrome) stated that a finger print training class had been scheduled for August 13<sup>th</sup> and September 15<sup>th</sup> to be held at the Fire Services Building (FSB). Tyrome commented on a couple of issues dealing with Concentra and new member physicals. Tyrome explained that we, the Commission have stressed to Concentra the absolute need for more evening and Saturday physicals. Tyrome mentioned that the Concentra contract expires in March of 2016. Tyrome said that according to records the no-show appointment rate is trending down and future no-shows will be identified and emailed to the respective Volunteer Chief for appropriate action.

Commissioner Stack (Kenny) stated that Logistics and Supply is currently carving down the back orders and in many cases delivering items requested to the stations. Kenny then stated that he will start to send out the Monthly Fit Test list to the stations.

County Association President Mellits (Pete) brought up a request to have training monies to pay for an Association PIO to take part in a Webinar being conducted on Media issues. The cost is \$79.00 for the 1<sup>st</sup> attendee and \$39.00 for additional attendees. Questions were raised as to the

value of the program and financial pro's and con's. Pete stated that once completed and a quiz is responded to then the attendee/s would be eligible for a continuing education certificate for their successful attendance. *Commissioner Tucker* indicated he would work on this issue. Pete then stated that many of the legislators are having picnics and summer community events and all should attend these affairs in order to remain in-touch with their legislators. The next Association meeting will be hosted and held at Morningside, Co. 27. Pete asked for help with the County Fair coming up in September and reminded everyone to register on the Association Website.

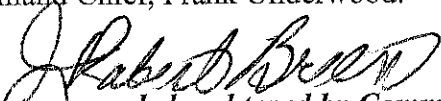
Brian Lau brought up some issues with the Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) program and how Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) raises are provided. Brian stated that no COLA raises have been approved nor provided since 2008 when Prince Georges County (PG) did away with COLA raises by legislative actions -those actions affect the LOSAP recipients. Brian also stated that Christine Barker with the Information Management Division (IMD) should be able to run any series of query requests from the County's Risk Management System (RMS) program and provide that same information to the Fire Commission however no EMS data would be available as that is provided separately through the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) program.

Hyattsville-Co.1 requested a copy of the signed document approving their new ambulance which their approval took place last year. *Chairman Tucker* stated he will locate the paperwork and provide them a copy.

Allentown Road-Co. 32 requested to place a new Chevrolet Tahoe in service, and they were informed to fill out and submit all appropriate paperwork for the purchase. However, they were asked to keep in mind that there are currently no new additions being added to the Fleet.

Motion to adjourn was approved; next Commission meeting will be August 20, 2014.

Closing prayer was provided by Past President, Past Commissioner and Past Volunteer Services Command Chief, Frank Underwood.



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