

Fire Commission Meeting

Wednesday, October 1, 2014

Meeting began at 1931 hours gaveled by Chairman Tucker. A sign-in sheet was passed around.

Chaplain Litchfield (Warren) gave opening prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and gave a short report on the membership's sick and injured. Warren requested that we keep Joe Robinson and Tommy Stommel from Company 26 in our prayers.

Fire Chief Bashoor (Chief) provided a short report to the membership on several issues of concern.

- DCFD radio encryption should happen prior to or around the late part of November
- The PPE purchased with a past UASI grant can be used for issue to Volunteer members
- Update on the FY 15 Budget which currently shows a 12 million dollar gap county-wide (Fire Department's share is approximately 3 million dollars)
- General Order Workgroup should be releasing a revised General Order 6-1 shortly and open it up for comment by the Chief's and President's
- Thursday, October 2 there will be a meeting with the County vendor on the new SAP information management system and the Chairman of the Fire Commission has been invited to attend the meeting
- Friday, October 3, 2014 at 1100 hours, the Prince George's County Fire/EMS Department will be holding their Hall of Fame ceremony honoring the Departments past employees that have left the Department to become employed as a Fire Chief in some other jurisdiction
- A combination open house and fire prevention activity is planned for Saturday, October 4, 2014 at Station 806

Deputy Chief Barksdale (Chief Barksdale) was recognized and commented on the notification procedure policy change that was recently released and on stations that have a pre-alert feature. Station personnel should not be self-dispatching themselves to a call for service. Personnel are to wait until Public Safety Command (PSC) vocalizes the dispatch of the call. Running assignments could change due to need.

Volunteer Services Deputy Chief McClelland (Jim) reported that his office is currently working on a revision to General Order 5-19 dealing with the purpose of use for ambulance billing money. Jim stated that his office should be able to distribute the June-July-August expenditure figures on Stores by next week and lastly Jim reported that he still has about 11 Stations to meet with in order to complete his review of Station needs.

PGCVFRA President Walker (Chuck) reported that the next PGCVFRA Association meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 8, 2014 at Station 48, hosted by Station 28.

Chairman Tucker (Jay) reported to the membership that the Fiscal issues being felt by the fire department are in-fact County-wide issues, affecting all county agencies and that the Commission has just received their 1st financial data report for the fiscal year which began July 1, 2014. Jay stated that he is hopeful that the mobile fit testing program will begin January 2015. The Commission had an update meeting with Assistant Fire Chief Wood on that status of CIP projects and program. All projects are waiting for purchase orders to be cut and these are being delayed due to the SAP system. Jay reminded everyone that a Departmental Funeral Kit has been put together that contains bunting and rope. The kit is available for use by contacting the Commission Office.

- Jay then requested a motion and approval for the documentation wording to be used for new member “Physical Failures” and “Requests for Further Information” – **motioned and approved**
- Jay then requested a motion and approval for the Commission to continue with their Medical Review Board activities. This issue was reviewed in a recent work session and the conclusion was that the MRB activities should continue and the Commission is to work on placing Dr. Jodrie on the Board – **motion and approved**
- Jay requested an expenditure authorization for Allentown Road VFD, Stations 32 & 47, \$2232.82 each station for a total distribution of \$4465.64 to be used for emergency lighting on their new Tahoe Chief’s vehicle – **motioned and approved with the provision that the vehicle be visibly marked per the PGFEMS Department approved guidelines**

Jay reminded everyone in attendance that the LOSAP enhancement 2nd reading and vote would take place on October 21, 2014 and everyone is needed to pack the Council hearing Room.

Vice Chairman King (Buddy) presented a request for LOSAP approvals for the following individuals:

- William Hawkins, Station 5, 25 years of service, effective 07/01/14 – **motioned and approved**
- Diane Smith, Station 55, 25 tears of service, effective 07/01/14 – **motioned and approved**

Buddy then requested that a representative from Stations 23, 36 and 39 see him after the meeting.

Commissioner Kuenzli (Randy) made several motions

- Company 13 is requesting approval to purchase a Hydro-ram from Fire Hooks Unlimited - \$2000.00 – **motioned and approved**
- Randy request an Equivalency approval for Ryan Mitchell, Station 9, stating that all necessary paperwork and training were in order – **motioned and approved**

Randy then advised that due to instructor availability and some equipment issues, there would only be 1 VRS class per month for the balance of the calendar year. Randy stated that people are still just showing up for class without any pre-registration through the system. Randy advised that without pre-registration, new members will not be allowed in the class.

Randy then presented some statistical data about the August VRS Class

49 registered with 7 no-shows, 3 incomplete, 2 failed and 4 with 100 percent grade
1 failed to provide proof of valid CPR Training
34 completed and there were 2 re-tests

Randy presented the statistical data for the September 2014 class as follows

27 registered, 10 no-shows, 1 incomplete, 2 failures, 3 received a 100 percent grade
Randy reminded everyone to please help and guide their new members when it comes to registering and fulfilling the paperwork requirements for the VRS class. There are entirely too many no-shows. The stations and Chief Officers need to deal with this issue on a Station level. The Fire Commission will notify the respective Chief Office of the no-shows. Please don't send a student that is not pre-registered because we will not accept them into class.

Commissioner Stack (Kenny) reminded everyone of the importance of attending the LOSAP hearing and vote on October 21, 2014. Kenny stated that as time progresses, the Stores ordering process seems to be getting better and that the Stores system no longer back-orders supplies. If you order it and don't receive it, you need to re-order the particular item/s on your next order. Kenny also reminded everyone that should you have a question about Ambulance Billing, please give him a call.

Commissioner Taylor (Bill) reported on his activities since the last meeting highlighting his attendance at the LOSAP hearing on September 9th along with other members of the Association and Commission. Bill attended a Commission Work Session on September 25th and attended an event at Flowers High School. Bill had a meeting with Deputy Fire Chief Neal Dennis about the High School Cadet Program.

Commissioner Breen (Bobby) presented several motions:

- A request from Bowie Volunteer Fire Department to carry-over excess Station Management Funds from last Fiscal Year for an impending project that had been pre-approved by the Fire Commission – **motion and approved**
- Bobby then presented a request from the Richie Volunteer Fire Department to carry-over excess Station Management Funds from last Fiscal Year for the Commission approved station enhancement project with work being performed after July 1, 2014 – **motioned and approved**
- Bobby presented an expenditure request from the Baden Volunteer Fire Department for the 2014 Company banquet expenses for catering – **motioned and approved**

Chairman Tucker (Jay) reminded everyone about the NFFF events to be held next weekend in Emmetsburg, Maryland and invited everyone to attend.

PGCVFRA Vice President Demerit, Station 56/57 (Janet) raised an issue with the new member physicals and the requirement for sleep studies with prospective personnel that have a neck circumference of 17" and larger. Chairman Tucker commented that the Commission was aware and had been in discussions with Concentra over this requirement. Jay reminded everyone that the Commission needs to be made aware of these issues as soon as they happen so that if possible we can intercede on the prospective member's behalf however this is currently the policy as is required by DOT.

Frank Underwood (Frank) went for a Fit Test at AMD and witnessed 2 personnel get turned away due to lack of required paperwork. Frank commented saying that the Chief's and President's need to do a better job of preparing their personnel for these testing requirements. Frank then questioned the approved process for acquiring replacement hose for hose that had been turned in due to damage from fire ground activity. Chairman Tucker reminded everyone that if the hose is damaged during fire ground activity then the insurance company should be getting involved in the process of repair/replacement as necessary. Lastly, Frank wanted to thank everyone for the support and well wishes he received recently during his father's untimely passing and subsequent funeral.

Motion to adjourn was approved; next Commission meeting will be October 15, 2014 at 7:30 pm at the Fire Service Building.

Closing prayer was provided by Chaplain Litchfield.

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

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