

## Fire Commission Meeting

Wednesday, November 5, 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 and provided a short report on our sick and injured members. Warren asked that we keep Joe Robinson, Gene McClelland, Sonny Thorne and Sharon Trader in our prayers. Warren also mentioned that a member from Station 10 had passed away.

Office of the Fire Chief (DFC Jim) Jim reported for Fire Chief Bashoor that a meeting was held with Dr. Jodrie on Monday, November 3, 2014 about his coming on-board as the Commissions medical advisory liaison person to the Medical Review Board. Jimmy also reported on the status of the VSU memo that would be coming out shortly, an updated General Order 5-19 which would better define the spending allowances for the Ambulance Billing monies, On-Line Infection Control training and Mobile Fit Testing. Jim mentioned that the Department is still in the process of cleaning up the outstanding fit testing but compliance rates are much improved.

Commissioner Stack (Kenny) reported that a current fit test status report had been sent out recently and that our compliance rates are looking better. Kenny also reported that he will be meeting with IAFF Local 1619 members of the Safety Workgroup in order to gather information requested by the Fire Chief about the need for individual measurements for PPE. The Chief is basically looking to find where this requirement came from and where it is documented. Kenny reminded everyone that any stations having SCBA face pieces that have been lost will need to get a police report completed and also complete a Fire Department Lost/Damage Report and turn same into the Commission.

Commissioner Bigony (Jon) identified the enhancements to the LOSAP Bill that was recently passed by the County Council and stated that the County Executive should be signing the Council Bill into law on or about December 22, 2014. Jon further stated that it is his understanding that the bill states that the "Death Benefit" clauses will take effect as of July 1, 2014 which would provide for additional funds to be disbursed retroactively for the members that have passed away since that date.

Vice Chairman King (Buddy) requested that the revised version of the Fire Commission By-Laws be approved - **motioned and approved**  
Buddy also requested that the Annual Training Report compiled by the LOSAP Committed be approved – **motioned and approved**

Commissioner Taylor (Bill) reported on his activities since the last Commission meeting which included his attendance at the County Council hearing on the LOSAP Bill, a meeting with the Cement Finishers Local about some much needed repairs and enhancements to Station 27, a meeting with a vendor for a Fire Department document storage system that could be used by all stations and the Commission work session on document collection from the building that use to

house the Hillside Volunteer Fire Department, Station 6. The Commission collected some 6 large bags of documents from that location. They were found by County officials from DPIE. The collected documents are stored in the Commission office and will be reviewed for their need and then boxed up for appropriate storage.

Commissioner Kuenzli (Randy) noted that the November Volunteer Recruit School has 20-22 students signed up as of this date and there will be a maximum limit set on the class size so the Chief's and President's need to get their people registered as soon as possible. Randy then requested Fire Fighter 1 Equivalency approvals for the following volunteer personnel:

Mr. Taylor Grigg – Co. 14 – Pro-Board certified – **motioned and approved**

Mr. George Cornog – Co. 14 – IFSAC certified – **motioned and approved**

Randy then requested approval on the Medical Review Board evaluation for Mr. James MacLuny – Co. 10 – **motion and approved**

Commissioner Breen (Bobby) presented and requested approval for the Commission meeting minutes for the October 15<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting – **motioned and approved**

Bobby then presented several Expenditure Authorization Requests – **motioned and approved**

Chairman Tucker (Jay) made the announcement that the long awaited Station Management checks have been mailed directly to the Stations thereby bypassing the Commissions ability to account for receipt of the checks to the individual corporations. Jay stated that we will continue to work on some type of accountability measure that meets the Commission's needs. Jay mentioned that the State of Maryland now distributes the 508 monies in lump sum payment once a year and questions how the County will distribute these funds. Will there be a once a year disbursement or will the County continue to distribute quarterly?

Jay then requested an approval for Oxon Hill VFD to be added to the new distribution plan for this year. – **motioned and approved**

Jay requested approval to add Dr. Jodrie to the Medical Advisory Board for the Commission. – **motioned and approved**

Jay asked the Commissioners to begin thinking about adding an EMS medical Physical into the new member physical procedures and to come up with the necessary requirements for that type of physical. Jay reported that he had 22 personnel that have responded to become trained in performing the Mobile Fit Testing and that training will begin soon. Jay stated that Bonnie has not received any formal training on the new SAP system and this hampers the Commissions ability to get accurate data and reports as needed.

Jay then mentioned that he, Vice Chairman King and Secretary Breen attended a meeting in Barry Stanton's office at the CAB in order to bring to light the inability of the Commission to perform their duties as require by the MOU, due to the general lack of information being provided to the Commission. Jay has received a response from the County Fire Chief that basically identifies the majority of the problems the Commission is having all goes back to the new SAP system and commits that we will work together to adapt and overcome these difficulties.

PGVFRA President Walker (Chuck) was recognized and stated his thanks for all the hard work everyone did on the passing of the LOSAP bill. Chuck stated that Council action on CB 90 is scheduled for November 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm in the Council hearing room.

Riverdale VFD President Lamphier (Steve) reported on the updated data that was released to the Volunteer Stations recently and that many discrepancies have been noted and brought forward to the County Fiscal Affairs personnel. These discrepancies will be examined and worked on as needed. Steve reiterates that obtaining and reporting accurate patient information and insuring that member affiliations are correct is paramount in correcting these problems.

Laurel VFD, Past Commissioner Bryan Lau (Bryan) asked questions of the Commission pertaining to several issues. Bryan wanted to know if Prince Georges County Fire/EMS Department had reported the annual fire statistics to the Maryland Fire Marshalls Office as this has a bearing on the distribution of the 508 funds. Bryan also wanted to know if the Commission was aware of the planned CIP project for a CPAP facility to be built for the Fire Department. Bryan asked if we had received any reports from the various workgroups established by the County Fire Chief and lastly Bryan asked about nominations for the upcoming Commissioner elective process. Chairman Tucker advised that the Commission will bring forth answers to Bryan's questions to the best of our ability.

West Lanham Hills VFD, Past Chairman John Alter (John) expressed his thanks to Commissioners Bigony, King and Taylor for all their hard work and countless hours dealing with the LOSAP enhancement bill. John asked a question about money specifically identified for small tool purchases and if that money had been loaded into the budget and if the Commission had any idea when the 508 money would be distributed. John's last question dealt with the Station Management money.

Southern Maryland Insurance, Ken Wyvil (Ken) introduced a new member of his insurance team, Ms. Cindy Brown. Cindy has been working with other members of his staff to see that all of our insurance needs are met.

Chaplain Litchfield (Warren) provided a benediction prayer and then a request to adjourn was made. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 19, 2014.

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

