

Fire Commission Meeting

August 5, 2015

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

Chaplain Report, Chaplain Litchfield (Warren) provided a short opening prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and provided us with an update on our sick and injured members.

Office of the Fire Chief, Deputy Chief McClelland (Jim) announced that the Chief's Office had submitted a revised budget proposal to the County Executive's Office and is now awaiting further guidance on the budget submission. The July Ambulance billing statements should be out shortly and the Department has reached a 95 % compliance on annual Fit Testing. Jim stated that we are still waiting for the card printer for the mobile Fit Testing equipment and that the Station Management Contract addendum has been revised by the Office of Law on SCBA face pieces and the spending period for the VSU money. Jim closed his comments with the announcement of the Joint Services Air Show to be held September 19th at Joint Base Andrews. Anyone wishing to participate should contact his office.

Assistant Chief Doubleday (Allen) stated that he would be in the hallway selling 50/50 tickets for the 911 Stair-Climb and reminded everyone of the Stair-Climb on September 12th. The Department is still looking for participants and sponsors for the event.

Chairman Tucker (Jay) reminded everyone of the upcoming Station Management Audit on Saturday, August 29, 2015 beginning at 0800 hours in the Burton Room at the Fire Services Building.

Riverdale VFD, President Lamphere (Steve) provided a brief report on Ambulance Billing and a meeting that was held on July 19th with representatives from McKesson, the billing agent. Steve stated that there are still issues with member affiliations and completeness of the submitted reports. These issues need to be corrected by our stations in order to ensure that the stations are receiving the correct amount of billing revenue.

Chairman Tucker (Jay) announced that on Tuesday, August 18th, a Commission work session would be held to discuss insurance issues and the upcoming 508 program. Jay read off a list of volunteer members assigned to the various County workgroups and advised that if any stations have issues with obtaining PPE from Logistics, the stations should be contacting the Commission office for help and guidance with these issues.

Commissioner Taylor (Bill) stated that he attended the Commission work session on July 21st along with fellow Commissioners and that he attended the Public Safety Student Career Awareness Day with various members from Prince Georges County public safety agencies as well as the PG County recruiter, the States Attorney's office, fellow Commissioners and representatives from the County Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association on July 29th at the Prince Georges Community College in Largo, Maryland.

Commissioner Stack (Kenny) advised that he has been working on PPE issues that he was alerted to and updated us on the Patriot Fire contract with the County stating that the paperwork necessary for vendor confirmation has been submitted to the Office of Central Services for consideration and approval. Kenny stated that the Recruiter Car will be in the shop for a few repairs starting on Friday, August 7th.

Commissioner King (Buddy) requested the following LOSAP Award approvals:

Jeff Dickey, #4775, Station 11, 29 years of service, effective 7/1/15 – **Motioned and Approved**

Michael Murphy, Station 10, 26 years of service, effective 8/15/12 – **Motioned and Approved**

Anthony Jaskulski, #1767, Station 33, 28 years of service, effective 6/1/15 – **Motioned and Approved**

Buddy advised that he is missing the receipt for Approved Company Reports for 2014 from Stations

8, 12, 17 and 32. Buddy reminded everyone that the 2015 reports are due into the Commission by September 1, 2015 and of the need for Direct Deposit forms when making member award submissions.

Buddy stated that the VFIS Beneficiary Forms are no longer used. The beneficiary form #4579 was designed to designate the beneficiaries for the County Volunteer Accident and Health Insurance Policy and the Death Benefit provided by the County Code, Section 11-329. Buddy stated that he is working on research for Lynn Strybing and Station 24 Auxiliary Members.

Commissioner Wilson (Rick) provided a short update on the pending closing of the Laurel Hospital and the intentions to open an Ambulatory Care facility in its place. Dimensions Healthcare has reported that they are losing money by operating the hospital and feel the community would be better served with the Ambulatory Care unit.

Commissioner Kuenzli (Randy) requested approval for an expenditure for Station 7 in the amount of \$2500.00 for a new ice machine – **Motioned and Approved**

Randy provided the group with some current VRS statistics and requested the following Fire Fighter I equivalency approvals:

Bryan Drastal, Station 9 – **Motioned and Approved**

Justin Olansky, Station 9 – **Motioned and Approved**

John Bede, Station 29 – **Motioned and Approved**

Commissioner Bodrick (Tyrone) requested approval for the following Physical Appeals:

Everic Snead, Station 28 – motion to approve for admission – **Motioned and Approved**

Dereck Dwuma, Station 14 – motion to approve for admission – **Motioned and**

Approved

Commissioner Breen (Bobby) requested approval for Station 5 to carry-over \$14,196.55 in their 2015 Station Management Funds – **Motioned and Approved**

Bobby read an Expenditure Request from Station 5 for \$2500.00 for hi-visibility jackets for their drivers – **Motioned and Approved**

Bobby requested approval of the July 15 meeting minutes as distributed – **Motioned and Approved**

Commissioner Tucker (Jay) announced the dedication of Rescue Engine 27, to be held on Saturday, August 8, 2015. The unit will be dedicated to Charlie Phillips. The event is scheduled for 4:00 pm at their Station. Jay then called on Les Hendricks to provide a short update on Charlie Phillips medical condition. Jay reminded everyone that the Commission has funding available for training however the funding has to be used for training courses open to all of our members and is not to be used for MFRI sponsored training courses. Jay then requested approval of \$4980.00 for replacement of the Honor Guard Uniforms – **Motioned and Approved**

Commissioner Stack (Kenny) reminded everyone to spend their Tool and Uniform funds prior to January 1, 2016. Due to the new SAP system, when using these funds paperwork sometimes get bogged down and by spending early in the year we can have time to track problems and straighten them out.

PGCVFRA President Walker (Chuck) reported that the next County meeting would be held at Station 38 on Wednesday, August 12, 2015. Chuck advised that the schedule for the 2015 Pump Tests has gone out for the 1st, 2nd, 4th and 6th Battalions. The 3rd, 5th and 7th Battalion stations will be pump tested sometime later this year, hopefully at Station 40.

PGCVFRA 2nd VP Porter (Helmer) was recognized and stated that he had no report but that Station 38 would be feeding the masses at the Association meeting.

LAPGCVFRA President Hetz (Lois) advised that the next meeting for the Ladies would be held on Thursday, August 6, 2015 at 8:00 pm at the Greenbelt VFD, Station 35.

Glendale VFD President Lutz (Lee) raised a question about the repairs on the ambulance owned by Glendale and Chairman Tucker stated that he would look into the situation and advise. Lee then stated that for the 2nd month, his LOSAP award check was not correct. Commissioner King advised Lee to provide him with some information and he would try to straighten the problem out with Pensions and Benefits.

Silver Hill VFD Chief Thompson (Milton) raised a question about change of address notification as he has yet to get his LOSAP check. Buddy advised that he would check into it.

Morningside VFD Past Chief Hendricks (Les) talked to the membership about the 911 Stair-Climb and advised that the monies raised goes to all members that die in the line of duty. Les stated that the Volunteer participation is usually slim and that the Volunteers need to step-up and begin participating. Mike Alferi and Assistant Chief Doubleday also spoke on the issue and Chief Doubleday stated that you can donate and not participate in the event. This is an event to help raise funds for the National Fallen Firefighters organization which serves all of us.

Volunteer Recruiter Smith (Brittany) announced that the Fit Testing for the month of September will be held on Saturday, September 12, 2015 due to the Labor Day holiday. Brittany reminded everyone of the 508 audit paperwork deadline of August 28, 2015.

Chaplain Hetz (Harry) reminded everyone that the Prayer Breakfast would be held on Saturday, August 8, 2015 then held benediction and a motion was made to adjourn – **Motioned and Approved**

Minutes recorded and typed by Bobby Breen, Commissioner and Secretary

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