

Fire Commission VIRTUAL Meeting

December 16th, 2020

The meeting via TELECONFERENCE was gaveled to order by Chairman Breen at 7:30 pm. A sign-up sheet was not available.

Chaplain Hamilton (Margaret Ann) - opened the meeting with a brief invocation prayer, the pledge of allegiance and the Chaplain's Report.

Commissioner/ Chairman Breen (Bobby)

- Requested approval for Company 10 (Laurel) to add a support vehicle to the fleet with fuel, maintenance, and insurance to be paid by the corporation. - **Motioned and Approved**
- Requested approval for Company 40 (Brandywine) to modify their current 508 project to use funding for two new support vehicles. . - **Motioned and Approved**
- FYI – Chairs report is that Station 9 and 33 have ladders needing replacement.
- Fire Commission nominations will be accomplished via email this time. Please see email instructions that will be released by the office on 17 Dec 2020. The nominations will be for two volunteer commissioners. The nominations will remain open until January 6th.

Commissioner Vice Chair Kuenzli (Randy) – is on administrative leave.

Commissioner Acting Vice Chair King (Buddy)

- Requested LOSAP approval for 1 additional year of service credit for Ronald Oliver from Morningside (27) for a total of 22 Years effective in 2020 - **Motioned and Approved.**
- Requested expenditure approval for \$2320 for Company 34's (Chillum-Adelphi) 2Q Insurance payment. - **Motioned and Approved**

Commissioner/ Secretary Wilson (Rick)

- Requested expenditure approval for \$3580.25 for Company 12 (College Park) to pay their 2Q insurance premium. - **Motioned and Approved.**

Commissioner Mellits (Pete)

- 12-7-20 Attended the viewing for President Joe Diana of the Silver Hill VFD, Co. 29.
- 12-9-20 Attended the PGCVFRA October meeting, virtually.
- Assisting Companies with SERFs and Speed Letters for specific equipment and tools.
- Requested expenditure approval for Branchville VFD, Co. 11; in the amount of \$6,222.00 for 2nd Quarter Insurance - **Motioned and Approved**
- Requested expenditure approval for Branchville VFD, Co. 11; in the amount of \$4,698.12 for two (2) humat valves - **Motioned and Approved**
- Reminder for all companies to research their needs to utilize/spend their tool and uniform SERF funds. The sooner in the fiscal year, the better.
- When getting quotes from vendors, please request that quotes be valid for 60 to 90 days, 30 days minimum.

Commissioner Captain Chandler (Michelle)

- Notified the commission that Brian Clements (13) was in an accident and is recovering at home.
- Requested expenditure approval for \$2999.99 for Kentlands, Company 33 to replace their vending machine. - **Motioned and Approved**

Commissioner McSwain (Kenny) – Excused

Office of the Fire Chief DFC McClelland (Jim) (Provided via email)

1. Station Management Funds were deposited yesterday. However, many were deposited in the incorrect station accounts. The error has been resolved for future payments. We apologize for any inconvenience.
2. Election season is upon us. Please remember to update your leadership information so we can keep our contact information and email distribution lists up to date.
3. The new volunteer recruiter starts on Monday, December 21. Her name is Aija Sills-Coates.
4. Everyone is reminded that face masks must be worn in the station and social distancing must be practiced. This may require eating meals in shifts or spreading out. Social distancing is not practical inside apparatus cabs, so masks must be worn. We are seeing too many examples where personnel riding around in apparatus or in stations with no masks. As of this morning there are **22** career / volunteer members in quarantine and **9** have tested positive.
5. There have been some questions related to the suspension of fit testing. On November 23, fit tested were suspended for 30 days in an effort to minimize exposure to the career and volunteer fit testers, as well as, the personnel being fit tested. Given the current COVID statistics, I anticipate that the suspension will be extended. During this suspension period we will not remove anyone from operations that becomes non-compliant or had their fit test canceled. However, once the suspension is lifted, we will give them sufficient time to get fit test compliant before any discipline is taken. If there is a member that needs to be fit tested and a SCBA face mask issued that has prior training, that will have a positive impact on staffing, or a member that needs it for attending a required class, they will be reviewed on a case by case basis for scheduling a fit test.
6. The Department is working on plans to do COVID-19 testing using the EMS Duty Officers, as well as, as administering the COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available. A survey will be coming out soon asking members if they intend to be vaccinated when the vaccine is available so we know what quantity to ask the Health Department for. When the survey comes out, please respond quickly.
7. The Department is compiling residence information (Maryland County or State) for career and volunteer personnel. VSC is compiling the data for volunteer operational personnel. We collected some data from the Fire Commission and some from address on EMT-B cards. However, we still had some gaps in information. Captain Chandler and I have been following up with the respective companies to fill in those gaps. There are only few companies left to get information from and almost all have been handled with a phone call. I will be reaching out to those companies again tonight and tomorrow. I must finish by the end of the day tomorrow.
8. Chief Green has approved the Application for Introducing a Vehicle Into the Fleet for a support vehicle for Co. 10. The vehicle will be fueled, maintained and insured by the volunteer corporation. They are requesting Fire Commission review and approval this evening.
9. General Order updates:
 - **General Order # 01-13 Canteen 801 and Rehab Support Unit 800** has been approved and distributed. The Rehab Support Unit 800 will relocate from Station 18 to Station 40. Canteen 801 will relocate from Station 37 to Station 18 by January 1, 2021.
 - **General Order # 04-11 Re-Entry to Emergency Operations Program** – the review process has been completed. Will review comments with the Emergency Services

Command and the Training & Leadership Academy next week, then finalize for signature.

- **General Order # 05-29 Ready Reserve Transport Units** – revisions are currently being reviewed by the General Order Work Group with comments due 12/17/20.
- **General Order # 08-24 Reasonable Accommodations Request** – this general order was previously titled Employees and Volunteers with Service Animals in Fire/EMS Department Work Areas. Revisions are currently being reviewed by the General Order Work Group with comments due 12/18/20.
- **General Order# 08-09 Non-Service Connected Temporary Disability and Light Duty** - revisions are currently being reviewed by the General Order Work Group with comments due 12/21/20.
- **General Order # 08-06 Employee and Volunteer Assistance Programs** - revisions are currently being reviewed by the General Order Work Group with comments due 12/30/20.
- Other General Orders expected to be ready to start the review process within the next week or two include:
 - *General Order # 01-02 Fire Department Organization*
 - *General Order # 04-03 Volunteer Recruit Training.*
 - *General Order # 06-06 Personnel Accountability Procedures*
 - *General Order # 06-11 Acting Volunteer Command Officers*
 - *General Order # 08-16 Reporting On-the-Job Injuries*

PGCVFRA President Whipple (Vic) – Provided season’s greetings

Q&A -

Chaplain provided a brief benediction and Chairman Breen requested a motion to adjourn @ 8:15 pm

Minutes were recorded and typed by Commissioner/Secretary Wilson.

