

## Fire Commission VIRTUAL Meeting

August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021

The meeting via TELECONFERENCE, with approximately 48 virtual participants, was gaveled to order by Chairman Breen at 7:30 pm. A sign-up sheet was not available.

Chaplain Hetz (Harry) – opened the meeting with a brief invocation prayer and the pledge. The Chief Chaplain's report will be provided separately.

### Office of the Fire Chief – DFC McClelland (Jim)

1. Chief Green is looking to schedule a virtual meeting in the coming weeks with some volunteer members to have a constructive dialogue about current and future issues and challenges. It will not be a gripe session. No will following as it become available.
2. Physicals -
  - a. The Fire Commission and VSC continue to address issues related to the physical examinations at Concentra as they are reported. "No shows" continue to be a problem. Last week there were 5 "no shows". We not only lost these 5 slots, which will cause us to use up another 5 slots rescheduling these "no shows". We ask each corporation to help reduce physical examination "no-shows" by monitoring applicant appointments and remind them of upcoming appointments. We are looking to get access to scheduling software for the Fire Commission office, so they can schedule the appointments and share the calendar with the station leadership.
  - b. We have also removed the TB testing from the applicant physical examination because it is not part of the NFPA 1582 physical requirements. Previously, this was done during the in-person VRS classes. We did not want to hold up the approval of a physical exam waiting for someone to take the TB test. Concentra will now conduct TB testing on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday each month at the Fire Services Building Training Room from 1600 hours to 2000 hours. The PPD will be read on the following Wednesday at the same location and timeframe. The TB test is still required and the new member will not have completed VRS without it.
3. The Proposal Analysis Group (PAG) for the Volunteer Insurance Coverage continues to make progress. VSC has sent out station and vehicle information to each Volunteer Corporation to confirm the information. This information is due back to VSC no later than Monday, August 16. Please do not procrastinate, please get this information in as requested. It is critical for completing the Request for Proposal. Thank you to those stations that responded right away.
4. Volunteer personnel who are logging into a County computer for the first time, it is imperative that you change your password before logging into your email. Instructions were provided on how to do this in the initial email titled Volunteer County Email and Target Solutions login Instructions. Not following direction is causing members to not be able to get into Target Solutions. Those having difficulty getting into their emails can reach out to the Help Desk at 301-883-5322.
5. The Department has concluded the current interview process for the Volunteer Recruiter position without making a selection. Hiring a Volunteer Recruiter continues to be a priority for the Department. We are initiating another search process right away. The Department is committed to hiring the best recruiter we can find. After reviewing the position description and the proposed salary, we found that the salary range was not in line with similar positions in our region. We have secured additional funding to be able to increase the salary, enabling us to attract the best candidates. I will keep you up to date as this progresses.

6. We are approaching the planned re-opening of County facilities, scheduled for August 30, in hopes of returning to normalcy. Currently there is a 65% uptick in COVID-19 cases in the County, mostly from the delta variant. Crews are reminded when on calls they must continue to follow all protocols and wear face masks. The Department encourages anyone who has not yet been vaccinated to do so. The Department continues to monitor these trends and will await further guidance from the County Executive's office. Anyone who was vaccinated through the County who needs to get a vaccination card for their records can do so by sending an email to [COVID19\\_VaxCard@co.pg.md.us](mailto:COVID19_VaxCard@co.pg.md.us) . Include your full name, contact information and the dates and location of your shots.
7. The schedule for completion of the Shady Glenn - Fire Station 802 has slipped due to delays in material shipments. It is now projected to be completed in January 2022.
8. There is a reported shortage of resin material used in the manufacture of many products, including fire helmets. Currently we are short on helmets. Logistics is looking for alternative sources. We will keep you up to date.
9. The Department has received the new firefighting gloves. They will be phased in over time, as new gloves are needed.
10. Listed below are progress updates to General Orders:
  - General Orders that have completed the review process:
    - GO # 01-28 Fire Commission – This general order replaces the Fire Commission MOU that expired on May 7, 2021. The Fire Chief has a couple of productive meetings with Commissioner Breen and President Whipple to review comments and concerns. Final edits have been made to the General Order and it has been issued.
  - General Orders that are being forwarded to the Stakeholders Group for their review and comment:
    - GO # 11-17 Conflict Resolution Policy – This is a new policy, replacing the existing Peer Mediation Policy. The General Order Work Group had no comments. It is now assigned to the Stakeholders for review, with comments due no later than August 6, 2021.
  - General Orders that are being concurrently reviewed by the General Order Work Group and the Stakeholders, due to the nature of the changes.
    - GO # 0-27 Procedure for Replacements / Additions / Changes to the Fire/EMS Department Fleet – Attachment B Engine Apparatus Specifications Checklist. All of these changes will improve firefighter safety. There will be similar changes to other attachments in the near future. Revisions include the addition of the following:
      - Seatbelt sensors and seat pressure sensors shall be wired so that should a sensor become un-plugged or a wire chafed, it will sound an alarm when the parking brake is disengaged.
      - Front collision airbags and side roll protection airbags in the cab area.
      - A HAAS collision avoidance system shall be installed.
11. Vehicle Applications: Co. 11 – Replacement Chassis for A811C (M# 30211). The vehicle will be fueled, maintained and insured by the Volunteer Corporation. This application has been approved by Chief Green.

Commissioner Breen/Chairman (Bobby) –

- Requested approval to approve replacing chassis for ambulance A811C at Branchville (11) – The vehicle will be fueled, maintained and insured by the Volunteer Corporation. This application has been approved by Chief Green. - **Motioned and Approved**
- **Proposed 2021 COVID LOSAP Policy Update** – Chairman Breen requested the following policy adjustments as suggested by Bryan Lau. - **Motioned and Approved**

*Eligibility: Members of Volunteer Fire Companies who qualified for LOSAP purposes in the immediately preceding 2 fiscal years.*

*Point Allocation: 3 points per month allocated between Collateral Duty or Meetings as deemed appropriate by the Company.*

*For reporting purposes:*

*Under Collateral Duty Report Activity COVID and the total points.*

*Under Meetings Report Total Meetings. The Company should create supporting documentation for Meetings with a notation COVID Service Credit for the type of meeting.*

Commissioner/ Vice Chair Kuenzli (Randy) -

- Requested FF1 equivalency approval for the following four individuals all from Kentlands (33): Nolan Peek, Tyler Davis, Emmett Mead, and Dennis Foskey - **Motioned and Approved.**

Commissioner/ Secretary Wilson (Rick)

- Requested that the July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021 minutes be approved. - **Motioned and Approved.**
- Requested an expenditure approval of \$2585.93 for Hyattsville (1) to pay for repairs and maintenance for ambulance 801B. - **Motioned and Approved**
- Requested an expenditure approval of \$13,264 for West Lanham Hills (28) to purchase replacement appliances, including gas stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave oven and the associated cabinets, countertops, sink and faucet, that are all part of their kitchen refurbishment project. - **Motioned and Approved**

Commissioner King (Buddy)

- Requested approval of an amended 2018 LOSAP annual report for Hyattsville (1). – **Motioned and Approved.**
- Requested approval for LOSAP award for Gary Morton, Kentlands (33) effective 11/1/16, 26 Years – **Motioned and Approved.**
- Requested research approval for the following two individuals: Leslie Garrett (27) for 20 years credit and Michael Humphreys (37) for 18 Years credit – **Motioned and Approved.**

Commissioner/ Battalion Chief Chandler (Michelle) - Excused

Commissioner Bolden (Jonathan) – NSTR

Commissioner Surles (Vanessa) – Still working on county email issues. Use [vsurles@gmail.com](mailto:vsurles@gmail.com) in the interim.

Commissioner Smalls (Fred) – changing email, new address will be sent tomorrow. Commissioner Smalls has accepted the role of budget analyst for the Fire Commission.

Commissioner Holbert (Antwan) – NSTR

PGCVFRA President Whipple (Vic) – NSTR

PGCVFRA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Jordan (Jeramie) – NSTR

PGCVFRA 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Lutz (Lee) – NSTR

Q&A –

- FY21 Tool and uniform funds are available.
- Adjusted LOSAP policy will be sent out to presidents.
- Former Fire Commissioner Pete Mellits once again questions the general order and the bylaws.

Chaplain Hetz (Harry) - provided a benediction and Chairman Breen requested a motion to adjourn @ 8:20 pm.

Minutes were recorded and typed by Commissioner/Secretary Wilson.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wilson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.