

Fire Commission VIRTUAL Meeting

September 1st, 2021

The meeting via TELECONFERENCE, with approximately __ 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. The Department has completed collecting information related to buildings and vehicles for the purposes of developing a Request for Proposal for Volunteer Insurance Coverage. The next phase of this process will be to get an M# assigned to those vehicles, boats and trailers without a number, regardless of who maintains them. Instructions will be coming for this task.
2. All supervisors (career and volunteer) must ensure compliance with wearing face mask in all facilities owned or operated by the County whether you are vaccinated or not. The only exceptions are if you are in an enclosed space by yourself or while eating / drinking and social distancing. These requirements are not optional. Our statistics for the number of personnel in quarantine and those who tested positive for COVID-19 continue to rise. As of this morning we have 13 in quarantine and 4 testing positive. Just a few days ago these numbers were at 21 and 14. Please follow all appropriate protocols. The quickest way to go back to some of the previous restrictions is to not follow direction. More information will follow soon related to vaccination roll out and compliance with vaccination or weekly testing requirements. Anyone who received their vaccinations by the County health Department and did not get a vaccination card can do so by sending in a request for the card to COVID19_VaxCard@co.pg.md.us. You will need to provide your full name, date of birth, contact information and when / where you received your vaccinations.
3. A survey was sent out to the respective Chiefs to see how many members have been fully vaccinated and how many intend to be vaccinated by October 3, so we can develop a plan for administering vaccinations and perform COVID testing. Information is needed by close of business on Friday, September 3. Please send this information directly to the Department Operations Center (DOC). That email is PGFDDOC@co.pg.md.us. If you have questions, contact Captain Jim Jiron at 301-807-8389.
4. The Department has been working with the Fire Commission and Fire Investigations to update the General Orders related to the Volunteer Application Process, Volunteer Inter-Departmental Transfers and Volunteer Separation. Some of the changes were drafted almost two (2) years ago but were tabled due to other priorities. The current drafts incorporate current practices and enhances background check requirements for new applicants. The drafts of these General Orders will be forwarded to the General Order Work Group this week to start the review process.
5. Volunteer Corporations are reminded that any volunteer applicant that fails the physical examination may request an appeal in writing to the Fire Commission office. They can attach additional new information to the request for appeal that substantiates the reasons for reconsideration. There is no need to submit the same information that has already been reviewed by Concentra and determined to be insufficient grounds for appeal. These requests contain confidential medical records, therefore, only the Fire Commission Chair should be copied on the request.

6. In February 2021 the Department issued the revised General Order #04-03 Volunteer Recruit Training in an effort to streamline the process and get new volunteer recruits on the apparatus quicker. In addition, we recently removed the TB testing from the application physicals because it was delaying final physical results and was not part of the NFPA 1582 requirements. It is back to being required as part of the VRS process. All of these changes were driven by the desire to get new members through the process and on apparatus quicker. However, new applicants and stations are not doing their part. Completed VRS forms are not being submitted to the Fire Commission once in-station training is completed and members are not getting their TB test performed / read. Chiefs are directed to follow on all required VRS paperwork and submit it to the Fire Commission office and to follow-up on all new members that have not completed the TB test. Going forward new recruits that have completed the online VRS, but have not yet completed the TB test will not be authorized to be issued PPE.
7. The July 2021 Ambulance Billing Collection Reports should be available for distribution in a few days.

Commissioner/Chairman Breen (Bobby)

- Fall station management program audit was conducted this past Saturday. Stations missing audits; 5, 8, 14, 43, 55, 49, & 56/57. Get with your commissioner to schedule a make-up audit.
- Training funds request/travel packets must be submitted minimum of 45 days in advance. Please provide as much information as possible regarding, personnel attending, training organization/provider, purpose of training, training cost, and travel costs.
- Requested Training Funds expenditure of \$5,124.80 for Berwyn Heights (14) to purchase supplies, tools and materials to build rescue training scenarios to support stations 6, 14, and 47
– **Motion Approved**

Commissioner/ Vice Chair Kuenzli (Randy) -

- Requested expenditure approval of \$2,672.04 for Mount Rainier (3) to purchase a commercial ice machine - **Motioned and Approved.**
- Requested FF1 equivalency approval (tentative) for Hugo Bautista Romo (27) - **Motioned and Approved.**
- Requested FF1 equivalency approval for the following two individuals: Tyler Mogel (33), Christopher O'Connor (27) - **Motioned and Approved.**

Commissioner/ Secretary Wilson (Rick)

- Requested that the August 18th, 2021 minutes be approved. - **Motioned and Approved.**
- Requested an expenditure approval of \$8198.20 for West Lanham Hills (28) to buy painting, cabinets, cabinets installation and plumbing services for their kitchen refurbishment project. - **Motioned and Approved**

Commissioner King (Buddy)

- Capitol Heights (5) 2020 LOSAP Amendment, Adding 3 years service credit for Robert E. McClelland, 352 for 1977, 1978 and 1980. – **Motioned and Approved.**
- Requested approval for LOSAP award for the following individuals: Zell, William (11) Age 70 LOSAP Award, 17 Years eff 7/1/21, McClelland, Robert E Jr. (5) LOSAP Award, 25 Years eff 7/1/21, Fletcher, Todd, (31) LOSAP Award, 26 Years eff 8/1/21, Connor, Michael, (31) LOSAP Award, 27 Years eff 11/1/20, and Pierce, Raymond, (36) LOSAP Award 25 Years eff 7/1/21.– **Motioned and Approved.**

Commissioner/ Battalion Chief Chandler (Michelle) - Excused

Commissioner Bolden (Jonathan) – Excused

Commissioner Surlis (Vanessa) – Excused

Commissioner Smalls (Fred) – Expressed condolences to family and friends of Chief William Goddard.

Commissioner Holbert (Antwan) – Excused

PGCVFRA President Whipple (Vic) – Requested status on recruiter. Chairman Breen provided a brief update.

PGCVFRA 1st Vice President Jordan (Jeramie) – NSTR

PGCVFRA 2nd Vice President Lutz (Lee) – Encourages everyone to get vaccinated. Echoed appreciation and condolences for the passing of Chief Goddard.

Q&A –

- Looking for EMT classes or reimbursement to take the training externally. Chairman Breen is working on the problem.
- Question on Training Budget. It's approx. \$17,500 for this year. Chairman Breen is requesting a mid-year increase.

Chaplain Hamilton (Margaret Ann) - provided a benediction and Chairman Breen requested a motion to adjourn @ 8:15 pm.

Minutes were recorded and typed by Commissioner/Secretary Wilson.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ann R', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.