

WV STATE FIRE COMMISSION MEETING

TC Energy Building
1700 MacCorkle Ave SE
Charleston WV 25304

The official business meeting was called to order at 9:00am by Chairman Grant Gunnoe.

ROLL CALL: by Kathryn L Burns

Commissioners Present

Steven Byers, Dave Camp, Carl Eastham, Doug Estep, Edward George, Grant Gunnoe, Phil Hart, Tom Keefer, Brian Jones, Doug Mongold, Jim Oldaker, Ted Shriver and Virgil White.

It is noted that Counsel Brandolyn Felton-Earnest is in attendance as well.

Commissioners Absent

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Commissioner White made a motion to accept and approve the minutes of the December 6th, 2024 and January 6th, 2025 Special Fire Commission Meetings, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

RECOGNITION

T. W. Hindman (Deputy Chief, Dunbar Fire Department) – Commissioners, Counsel and Staff recognized the heroic efforts by Deputy Chief Hindman of the Dunbar Fire Department, at a structure fire on November 4th, 2024. He was able to extract a fellow firefighter and without his response on that day, there could have been a very different outcome. He was presented with a Certificate, Challenge Coins and given a standing ovation.

SFMO & DIVISIONAL REPORT:

Deputy Mark Stewart gave the Inspections and Plan Review Reports.

Marshal Tyree gave the Services, Investigations Report, and his Operations report to the Commission containing staffing, legislative updates, and fire department funding loss updates. He spoke of 150CSR7 regarding the Public Service Commission Hydrant Regulations, briefed the Commission on NERIS, the replacement for NFIRS, updated those in attendance on the OSHA Emergency Response Standard proposal and noted executive orders from Governor Morrisey's office.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

The Grant Committee, OHSa Emergency Response Standards and Legislative Committee did not meet.

Fire Department Services Committee Meeting Report Meeting Minutes February 6th, 2025

Call to Order

Commissioner Byers, called to order the regular meeting of the Fire Department Services Committee at 10:00AM on February 6th, 2025 at the TC Energy Building, 1700 MacCorkle Ave SE, Charleston WV 25304.

Roll Call

The following commissioners were present:

Steven Byers
Jim Oldaker
Phil Hart
Brian Jones
Dave Camp
Doug Mongold
Grant Gunnoe

The following commissioners were absent:

None

Unfinished Business

1. Consideration of FDID# for Fayette County Fire Prevention & Training Bureau.

Tabled at October meeting per Fayette County Fire Prevention & Training Bureau's request. To be carried over to the February 2025 meeting.

ASFM Scott notified the Committee that Fayette County Fire Prevention & Training Bureau is rescinding their request at this time and will resubmit at a date tbd.

Commissioner Jones made a motion to recommend to the Full Commission to remove the item from the table, seconded by Commissioner Hart. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner Gunnoe made a motion to recommend to the Full Commission to remove the item from the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Jones. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

New Business

1. Consideration of Temporary Fire Officer Certifications.

- a) Charlie Cain (Buffalo)
- b) David Angus (Wilderness)

Commission Hart made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission to approve the applications as listed, seconded by Commissioner Jones. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

2. Consideration of Fire Chief Applications

Assistant State Fire Marshal Bradley Scott presented the following applications for approval.

- a) Willam Eads (Loundale)
- b) John Crammer (Terra Alta)
- c) Gary Greshour (Morgantown)
- d) Justin Boggs (Adrian)
- e) Jerrad Neihaus (Mozart)
- f) Donnie Goodwin (Star City)
- g) Justin Michael (Berkeley Springs)
- h) David Spain (Bakerton)
- i) Bernard Hook (Great Cacapon)
- j) Stuart Davis (Capon Bridge)
- k) Gary Sipple (Matewan)
- l) Eric Falk (Oakland District)
- m) Timothy Potts (Baker Heights)
- n) Matthew Grimley (South Berkeley)
- o) Patrick Blosser (Masontown)
- p) John Thompson (City of Beckley)
- q) Cody Smoot (Teays Valley)
- r) Justin Teel (Pinch)

Commission Hart made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission to approve the applications as listed, seconded by Commissioner Camp. With all the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

3. Report on Fire Department Receiving 180 Days to Achieve Compliance.

ASFM Scott briefed the Committee on the Departments receiving 180 days.

- a) Lenore VFD
- b) Poca VFD
- c) Buffalo VFD
- d) Spruce River VFD

No action taken.

4. Consideration of Fire Department Recertification

Assistant State Fire Marshal Bradley Scott presented the following departments for Recertification.

- a) Friendship VFC
- b) Shepherdstown VFD
- c) Silver Hill VFD
- d) Lizemore VFD
- e) Jacksonburg VFD

Commissioner Oldaker made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission the recertification of the listed departments, seconded by Commissioner Hart. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

5. Consideration of Fire Department with Perfect Evaluations Recertification.

ASFM Bradley Scott presented the following Departments with Perfect Evaluations for Recertification.

- a) Malden VFD
- b) Rand VFD
- c) Silverton VFD
- d) Hurricane VFD
- e) Winfield VFD
- f) Wharton Barrett
- g) Eleanor VFD

Commissioner Hart made a motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission the recertification of the listed departments, noting their perfect evaluations, seconded by Commissioner Oldaker. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Adjournment

Having no additional business, Commissioner Oldaker moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:08am without objection. Meeting adjourned.

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to accept the report as written, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

Disciplinary Committee Meeting Report
Meeting Minutes
February 6th, 2025

Call to Order

Commissioner Eastham called to order the regular meeting of the Disciplinary Committee at 12:16pm on February 6th, 2025 at the TC Energy Building – 1700 MacCorkle Ave SE, Charleston WV 25304.

Roll Call

The following commissioners were present:

Carl Eastham
Ted Shriver
Doug Mongold
Steven Byers
Edward George
Grant Gunnoe

The following commissioners were absent:

None

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Commissioner Gunnoe made a motion to go into executive session at 12:17pm, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and nays having taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to leave executive session at 1:20pm, seconded by Commissioner Byers. With the ayes and nays having taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Note to those in attendance that no action was taken during the executive session.

- 1) **Consideration of FDC2024-023**
- 2) **Consideration of FDC2024-024**
- 3) **Consideration of FDC2024-025**
- 4) **Consideration of FDC2024-026**
- 5) **Consideration of FDC2024-029**
- 6) **Consideration of FDC2024-030**
- 7) **Consideration of FDC2024-031**
- 8) **Consideration of FDC2024-032**
- 9) **Consideration of FDC2024-033**
- 10) **Consideration of FDC2024-034**

Commissioner Gunnoe made a Committee motion to accept the State Fire Marshal's recommendation of no additional action *by the Fire Commission* on FDC2024 # 023,025,026,029,030, 031,032,033 and 034, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.
(amended – see amendment)

Commissioner Gunnoe made a Committee motion to recommend to the Full Fire Commission for review at the April meeting, to find probable cause on FDC2024-24 seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Adjournment

Having no additional business, Commissioner George moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:22pm, without objection. Meeting adjourned.

Amendment - Commissioner White made a motion to amend the Disciplinary minutes as follows:

Commissioner Gunnoe made a Committee motion to accept the State Fire Marshal's recommendation of no additional action *by the Fire Commission* on FDC2024 # 023,025,026,029,030, 031,032,033 and 034, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

seconded by Commissioner Mongold. On a voice vote, the motion passed.

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to accept the report as written, seconded by Commissioner George. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

Legislative Codes Committee Meeting Report
Meeting Minutes
February 6th, 2025

Call to Order

Commissioner Shriver called to order the regular meeting of the Legislative and Codes Committee meeting at 11:16am on February 6th, 2025 at the TC Energy Building, 1700 MacCorkle Ave SE, Charleston WV 25304.

Roll Call

The following commissioners were present:

Ted Shriver
Jim Oldaker
Brian Jones
Tom Keefer
Edward George
Doug Mongold
Grant Gunnoe

The following commissioners were absent:

None

Unfinished Business

None

New business

1) Clarification of Commercial Inspection Sticker Requirements for Fire Apparatus (HB5317)

Deputy Chief Bailey addressed the Committee and noted some discussions on social media in regards to Vehicle Inspection Stickers for Fire Apparatus requiring a true DOT Inspection which is far more costly. To provide some clarification, he reached out to the State Police and the quick answer was no, a true DOT Inspection was not needed but they would need to get a 1-year Commercial Vehicle Inspection that was the same as a traditional vehicle inspection and the same \$13.00 cost as always has been.

Commissioners had questions about the availability of Inspection locations and the mechanics requirements. Commissioner Camp asked if there was any way we could provide a link to information on the locations. Deputy Chief Bailey will reach out to the State Police to see if that would be possible.

Commissioner Byers noted some locations that he has dealt with that could handle this type of Inspection.

Deputy Chief Bailey stated that the big take away is there in nothing more than what has been done in the past. He will make sure a statewide email is sent out today noting the requirements and the types of vehicles affected.

No action taken.

Commissioner Shriver introduced speaker Scott Jolliff, President of the WV Code Official's Association.

Mr. Jollif came before the Committee in order to start the conversation about getting the Building Code updated. He noted that being 3 cycles behind is negatively affecting ISO ratings and grant funding approvals. In addition, there is a concern over the sunset provision that is approaching in 2027 with the current adoption.

Mr. Jollif handed out an informational page on §87-4-5 (Fire Protection of Floors in Residential Building) sections 5.1 & 5.2 and pointed out that it references a 2015 code not adopted in the current State Building Code. It also refers to IRC R313 and he believes the intention was to reference IRC 302.13 and it would be a quick fix to apply that reference.

Marshal Tyree noted that the Commission can make a recommendation to adopt a new Building Code but it a Legislative process.

A discussion was held on the length of the Stake Holder process to adopt new codes and what would be required.

Mr. Jolliff stated that the Home Builders Association was on board with adopting a new code.

Chairman Gunnoe explained that the Commission is more than willing to get involved but recommended that Mr. Jolliff reach out to the Legislative body to help get the ball started.

Commissioner Shriver reminded all in attendance that the code is the minimum standard, but it can be exceeded.

Adjournment

Having no additional business, Commissioner George moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:45am, seconded by Commissioner Camp. Without objection, the meeting adjourned.

Commissioner Mongold made a motion to accept the report as written, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

As a follow up to the vehicle inspection clarification Commissioner Keefer spoke with the person at the State Police who oversees the program and passed his conversation along to the Commission. The State will now have 3 different vehicle inspection programs. General purpose (passenger), DOT, and the new State Commercial program that will be applicable to the fire apparatus in question. The new Commercial sticker location will need to get a new license to do the Commercial inspection. Their hope is that all general purpose (passenger) inspections will do the new commercial. The inspection that will be done is the same inspection the general-purpose vehicles currently get. They recommend the departments reach out to their normal providers and ask them to get on the provider list.

Training Committee Meeting Report
Meeting Minutes
February 6th, 2025

Call to Order

Commissioner White called to order the regular meeting of the Training Committee at 10:09am on February 6th, 2025 at the TC Energy Building, 1700 MacCorkle Ave SE, Charleston WV 25304.

Roll Call

The following commissioners were present:

Virgil White
Jim Oldaker
Doug Estep
Tom Keefer
Dave Camp
Doug Mongold
Grant Gunnoe

The following commissioners were absent:

None

Unfinished Business

1. Review of list of WV Fire Service Approved Courses.

A list provided by PST will be reviewed by Chairperson White for tomorrow's full Fire Commission meeting.

Commissioner Oldaker made a motion to recommend to the full Fire Commission the removal of the courses noted on PST's list, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

New Business

1. Public Service Training Report and 2024 Pass Fail Rates.

Jamie Weller presented a very explanatory publication to the Committee with the 2024 pass-fail, attrition and comparison rates and provided a narrative to the Committee and answered questions on the information provided. PST recommends continuing with their same program without any changes.

2. Consideration of Approval of PST Course Updates

- a. Wilderness Rescue and Awareness, Operations and Technician.

Commissioner Oldaker made a motion to recommend to the full Fire Commission to approve the updates, seconded by Commissioner Estep. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion carries.

- b. Water Rescue.

Commissioner Oldaker made a motion to recommend to the full Fire Commission to approve the updates, seconded by Commissioner Estep. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion carries.

- c. Support Personnel (for discussion only).

Mr. Weller brought this before the Committee not for approval but just to initiate discussions on this new program put out by Jones and Bartlett. It would be about a 36-hour class that would meet a need. It does not have any firefighting in it but there is a standard attached to the support personnel segment in Chapter 5 of NFPA 1010. He has provided a hard copy of the material for their review.

3. Consideration of NFPA 1010.

Mr. Weller stated that 1010 is out and it incorporates 1001, 1002, 1003, 1004 and 1005 into one standard. It does redefine some requirements, one of which is a prerequisite for FF1 and FF2 stating the candidate shall meet NFPA standards for physical prior to obtaining any certification. Upon a discussion with John Cunningham, the chair of the 1010 Committee, it was determined this is a misprint but will take some time to change but should not be a hinderance.

A discussion was held on the need to update at this time and the pros and cons in doing so were raised. It was determined that should it be necessitated a special meeting could be held.

Commissioner Keefer made a motion to recommend to the full Fire Commission that the item be deferred to the April meeting, seconded by Commissioner Estep. With the Ayes and Nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

4. WVU-FSE Report and 2024 Pass Fail Rates

Mark Lambert will provide WVU-FSE pass fail rates at tomorrow's Commission Meeting but does not expect to see many differences. He reminded the members of Junior Camp in June and noted they have already received 40 applications. He will be attending the Congressional Fire Service Meeting in DC, as well as attending Proboard Camp, he attended one meeting with National Recruitment and Retention and that the Learning Management System is slowly rolling out.

Adjournment

Having no additional business, Commissioner Keefer moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:14am, seconded by Commissioner Estep. Without objection the meeting adjourned.

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to accept the report as written, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

Recruitment and Retention Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 6th, 2025

Call to Order

Commissioner Oldaker called to order the regular meeting of the Recruitment and Retention Committee at 12:02pm on February 6th, 2025 at the TC Energy Building, 1700 MacCorkle Ave SE, Charleston WV 25304.

Roll Call

The following commissioners were present:

Jim Oldaker
Doug Estep
Steven Byers
Phil Hart
Doug Mongold
Grant Gunnoe

The following commissioners were absent:

None

Unfinished Business

2. Report on Committee Recommendations.

- a) Clean-up of the language in the Tax Credit bill and remove the 30% requirement.
- b) Development of a LOSAP program similar to Maryland's.
- c) Work with WV DOE to expand firefighting training programs at the Career and Technical Centers along with additional funding for equipment and Personal Protective Equipment used in those programs.

There were not any updates on the previous recommendations but both PST and WVU spoke on the retention issue.

Mr. Weller with Public Service Training discussed the lack of interest in a Recruitment and Retention program to be held in March and April. They highly recommend the program "ARE YOU READY FOR YOUR NEXT RECRUIT" and the Fire Marshal's Office will work with them to get the word out and set up some promotional meetings.

Mr. Lambert with WVU Fire Services Extension stated that he has found you have to get the department

motivated and recommended everyone read “The Anxious Generation” which explains the mindset of the younger generation. WVU is offering an elective class this fall for FF1 and Proboards for two semesters. If you pass it you would have FF1 for 48 States. They are also submitting a proposal to the Legislative body a two-year study on Recruitment and Retention and Fire Fighter Fatalities in WV.

New Business

None

Adjournment

Having no additional business, Commissioner Hart made a motion to adjourn at 12:14pm, seconded by Commissioner Estep. Without objection. Meeting adjourned.

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to accept the report as written, seconded by Commissioner White. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote the motion passed.

FULL COMMISSION MEETING

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

See FDS Report.

1) Consideration of FDID# for Fayette County Fire Prevention & Training Bureau.

Per the request of the Fayette County Fire Prevention & Training Bureau, the item was tabled at the October meeting.

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to remove the item from the table, seconded by Commissioner White. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

John McGinnis of the Fayette County Fire Prevention and Training Bureau informed the Fire Commission that the Fayette County Commission had voted to allow the Fire Prevention and Training Bureau to start a Fire Department. They are very excited by the news and once they get further along in the process, they will re-approach the Fire Commission with their request.

No Action Taken

2) Review of WV "Fire Commission" Fire Service Approved Courses List. *(title amended see final motion)*.

Commissioner White made a motion to approve the updated WV Fire Commission Fire Service Course List, seconded by Commissioner Eastham. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Consideration of Temporary Fire Officer Certification.

See FDS Report

- a) Charlie Cain (Buffalo)
- b) David Angus (Wilderness)

Mongold and Eastham

2) Consideration of Fire Chief Applications.

See FDS Report.

- a) Willam Eads (Loundale)
- b) John Crammer (Terra Alta)
- a) Gary Greshour (Morgantown)
- b) Justin Boggs (Adrian)
- c) Jerrad Neihaus (Mozart)
- d) Donnie Goodwin (Star City)
- e) Justin Michael (Berkeley Springs)
- f) David Spain (Bakerton)
- g) Bernard Hook (Great Cacapon)
- h) Stuart Davis (Capon Bridge)
- i) Gary Sipple (Matewan)
- j) Eric Falk (Oakland District)

- k) Timothy Potts (Baker Heights)
- l) Matthew Grimley (South Berkeley)
- m) Patrick Blosser (Masontown)
- n) John Thompson City of Beckley
- o) Cody Smoot (Teays Valley)
- p) Justin Teel (Pinch)

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to approve applications as listed, seconded by Commissioner Byers. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

3) Report on Fire Departments Receiving 180 Days to Achieve Compliance.

See FDS Report.

- a) Lenore VFD
- b) Poca VFD
- c) Buffalo VFD
- d) Spruce River VFD

No Action Taken

4) Consideration of Recertification of Fire Departments.

See FDS Report.

- a) Friendship VFC
- b) Shepherdstown VFD
- c) Silver Hill VFD
- d) Lizemore VFD
- e) Jacksonburg VFD

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to recertify the listed departments, seconded by Commissioner White. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

5) Consideration of Perfect Evaluation Recertification of Fire Departments.

See FDS Report.

- a) Malden VFD
- b) Rand VFD
- c) Silverton VFD
- d) Hurricane VFD
- e) Winfield VFD
- f) Wharton Barrett
- g) Eleanor VFD

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to recertify the departments noting their perfect evaluations, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

Note: Malden and Rands Evaluation were completed by Deputy Mark Stewart so there would not be any conflict of interest

6) Consideration of Approval of PST Course Updates.

See Training Report.

- a. Wilderness Rescue and Awareness, Operations and Technician.
- b. Water Rescue.
- c. Support Personnel (for discussion only).

Commissioner Oldaker made a motion to recommend to the full Fire Commission the approval of item A “Wilderness Rescue and Awareness, Operations and Technician”, seconded by Commissioner Jones. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion carried.

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to recommend to the full Fire Commission the approval of item B “Water Rescue”, seconded by Commissioner Jones. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

7) Consideration of NFPA 1010.

See Training Report.

Commissioner Eastham made a motion to recommend to the full Fire Commission to carry over to the April meeting, seconded by Commissioner Mongold. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion carried.

8) Report on NERIS by Marshal Tyree

Completed in Marshal Tyree’s Operations Report, no additional reporting.

After a concern raised by Chairman Gunnoe:

Commissioner Mongold for clarification purposes, made a motion to change item number 2 In old business to read “Review of WV “Fire Commission” Fire Service Approved Courses, seconded by Commissioner Estep. With the ayes and nays having been taken on a voice vote, the motion passed.

SPEAKERS:

Commissioner Mongold addressed members of the Commission, Staff and those in attendance regarding concerns of questions raised by the WV Tax Department about on-line raffles being held by VFDs. The restrictions being imposed would not allow VFDs to sell on-line out of State ticket sales. This could be catastrophic for VFDs as it would reduce their potential sales significantly. His own department fundraiser sells 8000 of the 10,000 tickets purchased online. Without these online fundraisers departments would not be able to operate. They are trying to be self-sufficient and not rely on the County and State for all funding. Perhaps a meeting could be arranged at the Federal level with Senator Capito or Senator Justice to ask for help.

Mark Lambert spoke on the matter as well and he was informed that this resulted due to the online gaming industry.

Commissioner Mongold felt it all started with Senate Bill 751 that was introduced and passed last year.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Potential meeting locations for June 2025 meeting.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING(S):

Committee Meetings - 10:00am Thursday, April 3rd, 2025 and Commission Meeting 9:00am Friday, April 4th, 2025 at Pipestem Resort.

ADJOURN:

Commissioner White made a motion to adjourn at 10:30am without objection. Meeting adjourned.
