**MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, November 2, 2020**

***(Unanimously Approved on Monday, December 7, 2020)***

Chief Dan Brooks called the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to order at 10:00 a.m. at the Yarmouth Fire Department’s Training Facility in Yarmouth. Fire Commission members present for today’s meeting included Deputy Chief (RET) Kenneth Desmond, Matt Gomes, James Graves, Mike LaPlante (for Steve Greeley), Harty Norris, Vicki Schmidt, Chief Michael Thurlow and Susan Pinette (staff). Members unable to attend the meeting were Stephan Bunker, Senator Brownie Carson, Senator Scott Cyrway, Gerry Gay, Ron Green, Chief Joseph Guyotte, Chief Thomas Higgins, Sam Hurley, Representative Catherine Nadeau, Peter Rogers, Charles Soltan, Representative Timothy Theriault, Chief Joseph Thomas, Representative Charlotte Warren and Chief Larry Willis (RET). Guests joining the Fire Commission meeting were Chief Michael Robitaille of the Yarmouth Fire Department, Chief Roger Hooper, York County Fire Administrator, and Chief William Gillespie of the Liberty Fire Department.

The Maine Fire Protection Services Commission extends their sincere gratitude to Chief Michael Robitaille and the entire Yarmouth Fire Department for hosting today’s meeting and tour of their new training facility. The Yarmouth training facility is the second live regional fire training facility to be built by Fire Commission grants. The Fire Commission toured the Farmington Fire Department’s new training facility in August.

Committee Reports and Old Business

The Best Practices Committee has no new nominations this month but continues to encourage Fire Commission members to submit worthy candidates.

The Education and Training Strategy Committee and the Recruitment and Retention Committee had no new updates to report to the Fire Commission.

The Wildland Fire Committee led a discussion regarding the goals of the committee. Fire Commission members discussed the issues facing rural fire departments in Maine as they encounter more responsibilities and limited resources. Members stated that there were many areas of concern including large rural projects, closing of rural fire departments and more reliance on the Maine Forest Service. The Wildland Committee agreed to focus on the larger issues, identify the strengths and weaknesses and report these concerns to fire chiefs and state and local leaders.

The Per Diem Committee will change its name to the Staffing Committee to better reflect the goals of the Fire Commission. The Staffing Committee plans to draft a survey for Maine fire chiefs to determine their staffing needs and challenges. The Committee will meet via ZOOM on November 12th.

The Treasurer reported current funds in the Fire Commission’s budget are $1,484.70.

The LOSAP Board will meet via ZOOM on November 16th.

New Business and News from Members

Fire Commission members discussed their meeting schedule and agreed to continue meeting via ZOOM until further notice. Committee meetings will also be via ZOOM.

Prior to the tour of the Yarmouth Training Facility, Chief Michael Robitaille of the Yarmouth Fire Department welcomed the Fire Commission members to his community. Chief Robitaille described Yarmouth’s experience with the grant process through construction of their training facility. Members later walked through the facility.

With no further business to come before the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, Chief Dan Brooks adjourned the meeting at 11:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan

Susan M. Pinette

Staff

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

Monday, December 7th MEETING ZOOM 9:00am

Friday, December 25th HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!

Monday, January 4th MEETING ZOOM 9:00am

Monday, February 1st MEETING ZOOM 9:00am

Monday, March 1st MEETING ZOOM 9:00am

Monday, April 5th ANNUAL MEETING TBD TBD

***Be safe, be well.***