

MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION

MINUTES

Monday, November 3, 2025, at 9:00am

Champlain Conference Room, Maine Department of Public Safety, Augusta, ME

Present

1. Chief Dan Brooks, Chair
2. Gerry Gay, 1st VP, PFFM
3. Ronnie Green, 2nd VP, PFFM
4. Vicki Schmidt, MSFFF
5. Steve Greeley, BLS
6. Senator Scott Cyrway
7. Ken Desmond, MSFFF
8. Jim Graves, MFSI
9. Chief Robby Gross, MFS
10. Larry Willis, MSFFF
11. Rep. Mike Lajoie
12. Steve Mallory, MEMA
13. Joe Guyotte, MSFFF
14. Catherine Nadeau, Public Adv

Absent

- Rep. Steve Bunker
- Chief Shawn Esler, FMO
- Chief Darrell White, MFCA
- Chief David Groder, MFCA
- Wil O'Neal, EMS
- Charlie Soltan, Insurance
- Senator Chip Curry
- Rep. Dean Cray
- *Vacant, Governor's Office*

Guests

- Bill St. Michel
- Bill Dingee

Secretary

- Shannon Els

Approval of Minutes: October 2025

Motion: [Gerry Gay](#); **Second:** [Ken Desmond](#) -- Passed Unanimously

I. Committee Reports

A. Best Practices Committee

B. Professional Development Conference

C. Education and Training Strategy Committee

- Bangor site work is complete. Payment is due for another quarter.
- Auburn is delayed but plans to be completed in 2026.
- Special process for this cycle -- clarified that the municipality pays the vendor, then gets reimbursed by SMCC-MFSI which is managing the funds.
- Received inquiry from Ellsworth Fire Chief requesting repairs to the roof as part of the grant. 2 roof estimates received by June 24, 2025. Note: There is currently no agreement with MFSI for use of the live fire training building. [Motion \(Vicki Schmidt\) to establish an agreement with MFSI for use of the training facility, provide three estimates for the roof repair, and encourage a funding source plan for roof repair grant application to be approved \(for the lesser amount of the roof estimate\). Second \(Joe Guyotte\) – passed unanimously](#)
- Question regarding municipalities charging the use of facilities. There is no current cap on the facilities – recommendation to cap. The commission does not have authority to administer this.
- CTE model is being explored by MFSI to understand its effectiveness – recent meeting as suggested a pretest model to all coordinators in CTE and recommend that instructors/coordinators. More to be reported on this.

D. Recruitment and Retention Committee

- Junior firefighter muster in Scarborough
- New England Association of Fire Chiefs (SAFER Grant) awarded \$3 million to be spread across the following recruitment training and marketing, physicals (NFPA 1582), PPE, professional development, train-the-trainer, membership dues, and will become members of the NVFC (on-call, volunteer) departments

- ADEPT organization is managing the grant – will have a booth at the annual conference in March in Newry. They have a preparatory explanation (4-hours) offered to be held on Wednesday of the conference. The federal grant focuses on Fire Fighter I & II certification. It's a good fit for the state of Maine's needs, and it will be up to the departments to individually file this grant.

E. Wildland Fire Committee

- Transitioned to winter training now, including spearhead training for Risk Assessment and Home Fire Prevention Education across the State.
- Will be putting out RFP to move forward with grant programs that they have – vendors in-state/out-state to apply. Trying to ensure quality Community Wildfire Protection Plan Training.

F. Staffing Committee – *no report; BRIC Survey has 70% response from Maine departments*

G. Cancer Reduction Grant – *no report*

H. Emerging Energy Hazards Committee – *no report*

I. Treasurer Report – *no changes at \$4336.77*

II. Legislative Report

- LD 679 – no updates, preparing for the session to begin.
- LD 1005 (Local Review of Sprinkler Systems) The report is complete, going back to the legislative committee/working group for review at the end of the month. The resolve incorporates several other pieces of additional local review projects.
- LD 1375 – seven items for public safety to help with construction/housing development. There is one more Zoom meeting; the report is expected to be completed by the end of the month.

III. Old Business

A. LOSAP Board Report

- 675 people signed up, local money/enough funds to cover the program costs for the duration of the current contract by being able to carry over the funds/non-lapsing. No funds to add to it, however.

B. EMS Report – *no report*

C. OSHA/BLS Updates

- OSHA is still reviewing comments.

D. Other

- Government shutdown affects ICS courses. There are some in-house trainers and can be conducted within the state if possible.
- News media covered sprinkler trailers and wildfire risk at the MMA Conference in October.
- Fire Training Facility name dedication is not in Commission's fiscal responsibility but will support.
- Congress held a hearing for price gouging on fire apparatus – *commission is following this to understand how municipalities or SAFER grants could recoup the money. Also starting to see increase in demand for refurbished apparatus because of cost and delay of new delivery.*

IV. New Business and News from Members

A. By-Laws Review – Final Approval

[Recommended to bring to Next Meeting for the full Vote.](#)

[Motion to Adjourn, Ken Desmond, Second: Senator Cyrway – passed unanimously at 10:24am](#)