

MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION

MINUTES

Thursday, February 13, 2024

10:00AM – 11:00AM

Via Zoom Due to Weather

In Attendance: Chief Dan Brooks (Chair), Jim Graves (MFSI), Lt. Gerry Gay (1st Vice Chair, PFFM), Larry Willis, Ronnie Green (2nd Vice Chair, PFFM), George Harris (MFS), Steven Mallory (MEMA), Vicki Schmidt (MSFFF), Deputy Chief Retired Ken Desmond (MSFFF), Chief Darrell White (MFCA), Charlie Soltan (Insurance Industry) Scribe: Shannon Els

Approval of Minutes: January 2025 (Motion: Gerry Gay; Second: Larry Willis) **APPROVED**

I. Committee Reports

- A. Best Practices Committee - Accepted 1, Approved 1 (only one received)
- B. Professional Development Conference - March 26 – 28 in Newry, Joint Meeting on 26th
- C. Education and Training Strategy Committee
 - MFSI/SMCC presented testimony at Appropriations Committee reviewing line items of the Budget at the State House on February 4th. A report for 10-year data was requested by Rep. Fredette from MFSI. This report will be submitted shortly. Chair, MFSPC shared confidence that the funding will most likely not be cut; they are simply reviewing the budget (after conversations with representatives). **Confirm the Line Item (Z356) The MFSI \$ is on page 135 (Part A of the budget) and is \$200k each year (same as always).** [Home | Bureau of Budget and go to General Fund Recommended Biennial Budget 2026-2027.](#)
 - Training Facilities Grant: March 14 is Deadline for Application. MFSI shared details about the MOU and availability of funding. Steps moving forward with this from support from MFPSC Chair between State and MCCC.
- D. Recruitment and Retention Committee
 - EMCC received more traction with recruitment and strong support there.
 - Question regarding whether KVCC might be interested in training support.
- E. Wildland Fire Committee – George Harris, MFS – no updates, same as last month
 - Moving forward with fire training and warden meetings (first on 2/12)
 - Schedule posted for wildland fire training across state – running through June.
- F. Staffing Committee – No report
- G. Cancer Reduction Grant – 15 applications, deadline was 1/31
 - Questions raised regarding DEP and wastewater solutions and how this might limit the number of gear extractor applications. Water going into Septic needs to be extracted while City is fine. Plus, the challenge of covering greater installation costs so grant may not cover enough for departments. Funds to be spent by June 2025.
- H. Emerging Energy Hazards Committee – No report
- I. Treasurer Report – No changes

II. Legislative Report – February Break (2/17-2/24) then returning to process; money is being rationed in the state, plus federal funding uncertainty. **Reports are emailed weekly by Soltan.**

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III. Old Business

- A. LOSAP Board Report – No movement
- B. EMS Report – No report
- C. OSHA/BLS Updates – No report

IV. New Business and News from Members

- A. Poor turnout for passing LD PTSD Bill (carried over two days) 25-26 firefighters on first day, no law enforcement, no fire chiefs. Emergency preamble on the bill, need 2/3 on preamble then on its way to the floor.
- B. HP 101 – silent electronic notification into classrooms (Sinclair – Bath, Brennan – Portland)
 - MEMA is responsible for public alerting; part of legislation LD 1 for \$800K. Alerts & Warnings Position will be funded for two years (Marketing/Outreach) Explanation: Public alerting system is part of a system – hits everyone from the outside (Give MEMA a call to send public alert: Evacuate, Shelter, Civil Emergency) Counties must follow a specific plan provided by **MEMA will provide list of who can do public alerting**. However, schools cannot do public alerting, only subscriber (MMA is watching HP 101)
- C. Towing Insurance – **new mandate needs clarification** for departments as it potentially could remove benefit if law enforcement does not call for tow truck

Next: **8AM Monday, March 3 at Public Safety – Champlain Conference Room**
Legislative Breakfast will most likely not be rescheduled. Looking at 2026 dates.

Motion to Adjourn: DW; Second: GG
Adjourned 11:03Am