

MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION

AGENDA

Monday, December 2, 2024

9:00AM - 12:00PM

Champlain Conference Room
Maine Department of Public Safety
45 Commerce Drive, Augusta, ME

Present: Dan Brooks (Chair), Jim Graves (MFSI), Shawn Esler (FMO), Steve Greeley (BLS), Ron Green (2nd Vice Chair), Robby Gross (MFS), Joe Guyotte, Ken Desmond, Vicki Schmidt, Darrell White, Larry Willis (MSFFF), Wil O'Neal (EMS) Guests: Glen Garland (FMO), Bil St. Michel, Shannon Els (scribe)

Approval of Minutes for November 2024

Motion: Gerry Gay; Second: Ken Desmond – approved

I. Committee Reports

A. Best Practices Committee - no updates

B. Professional Development Conference - packet to be published in December.

Some topics include cancer screenings and behavioral health.

Request: Seeking speaker on municipal financing and purchasing.

C. Education and Training Strategy Committee

Rules Document for Training Facility Grant Program

Motion: Gerry Gay, Second: Vicki Schmidt – pending approval by Soltan

Save-the-Date: (2) Info Sessions on January 15, 2025 (info sheet on MFPSC website)

D. Recruitment and Retention Committee - EMCC video has led to recruitment/enrollment

E. Wildland Fire Committee

To protect personal information through the fire planning reports produced by the MFS, a bill is being proposed to the legislature that will protect personal information shared. However, this will not affect fire response and there will be an exemption for state agencies. Chief Gross will share once the bill is public/shared.

F. Staffing Committee (Fire Marshal Update)

1) Staffing – FF study (BRIC survey with UMaine) has added fire chiefs for perspective

2) AFFF inventory proposal to collect accurate amount of AFFF foam data in fire depts before presenting a take back program. Note: liability can still be traced to department

3) Moving from MEFIRS to NERIS: national update starting with pilot Maine towns however, FMO has not been told who they are yet.

4) Emergency response, mental health resources and cancer screenings (\$2 million) for public safety – available to state agencies, not to replace department funds but to add on.

G. Cancer Reduction Grant – accepting applications (info on MFPSC website)

H. Emerging Energy Hazards Committee – multiple online resources available and planning winter session on solar panels with Maine-based training (Specialty Response) collaboration.

I. Treasurer Report - no updates

J. Other

Action: Dan to confirm legislature members and contact information

Note: Naming of fire training facilities does not need to be approved by commission, however commission can send a letter of support, if requested.

II. Old Business

- A. LOSAP Board Report - no updates
- B. EMS Report – staff updates to be announced in mid-January
 - 1) New clinical BA paramedicine program at University of Maine
 - 2) LD 1859 Process of Self Determination ICSD - public comment period open, changes in rules will need to be sent back out for public comment (waiting for remaining funds to be released)
 - 3) Reformatting regional councils and to bring in funding for regional trainings
 - 4) Canine protocols (*request from member that this may need to be clarified for departments*)
- C. OSHA/BLS Updates
 - 1) OSHA testimonies wrapped up, unknown outcome and timeframe with administration
 - 2) Waiting for appointment for Bureau Director, currently vacant
 - 3) Ongoing conversation re: difference of definitions for ‘volunteer’ (see below for Title 30A)
 - a. *7. Minimum wage for firefighters. Members of municipal firefighting departments, other than volunteer or call-departments, who are paid salaries or regular wages are deemed to be employees within the meaning of this section and are covered by this subchapter. Firefighters' wages may be paid by the municipality based upon the average number of hours worked during any one work cycle, which may not exceed 12 weeks in duration. However, 1 1/2 times the hourly rate may not be paid for all work done over 48 hours under this subsection; [RR 2023, c. 2, Pt. E, §23 (COR).] Title 26*
- D. Other
 - A. Action Requested: LD 1879 to sunset this year. “An Act To Support Law Enforcement Officers, Corrections Officers, E-9-1-1 Dispatchers, Firefighters and Emergency Medical Services Persons Diagnosed with Post-traumatic stress disorder” Representative SYLVESTER of Portland.

III. New Business and News from Members

- A. Determine January Meeting Date/Location
 - a. 0800 Start on January 6 – Invite Legislatures (Champlain Room)
 - b. 0800 Start on February 3 (Champlain Room)
 - c. 0800 Start on March 3 (Champlain Room)
 - d. 0800 Start on April 7 (Champlain Room)
 - e. 0800 Start on May 5 (Champlain Room)
- B. Other

Motion to Adjourn: Joe Guyotte Second: Ken Desmond -- all approved

§3151. Definitions

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

1. Municipal fire department. "Municipal fire department" means an organized firefighting unit established under municipal charter, ordinance or bylaw to prevent and extinguish fires and, if authorized by charter, ordinance or bylaw, to provide emergency services. [PL 1999, c. 570, §1 (AMD).]

1-A. Provide emergency services. "Provide emergency services" means to respond to and manage other public safety emergencies, including, but not limited to, medical emergencies, hazardous materials incidents or natural or man-made disasters.

[PL 1999, c. 570, §2 (NEW).]

2. Municipal firefighter. "Municipal firefighter" means an active member, whether full-time, part-time or on call, of a municipal fire department, who aids in the extinguishment of fires or an individual who receives compensation from the municipality for aiding in the extinguishment of fires. "Municipal firefighter" includes a volunteer municipal firefighter.

[PL 2023, c. 478, §1 (AMD).]

3. Volunteer fire association. "Volunteer fire association" means an organized firefighting unit incorporated under Title 13, chapter 81, or Title 13-B, and which is officially recognized by the municipality.

A. Any volunteer fire association incorporated under either Title 13, chapter 81, or Title 13-B, on or after January 1, 1978, shall be considered incorporated for the purposes of this section. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

B. The appropriation of money by a municipality toward the support of an organized firefighting unit incorporated under Title 13, chapter 81, or Title 13-B, is prima facie evidence of official recognition. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).] [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

4. Volunteer firefighter. "Volunteer firefighter" means an active member of a volunteer fire association who receives no compensation from the municipality other than injury and death benefits. [PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2 (NEW); PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. C, §106 (NEW); PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD); PL 1989, c. 104, Pt. C, §§8, 10 (AMD).]

5. Volunteer municipal firefighter. "Volunteer municipal firefighter" means a part-time or on-call municipal firefighter who receives up to 20% of the compensation of a full-time municipal firefighter and who may receive injury and death benefits. [PL 2023, c. 478, §2 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1987, c. 737, §§A2,C106 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 6 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 9, §2 (AMD). PL 1989, c. 104, §§C8,10 (AMD). PL 1999, c. 570, §§1,2 (AMD). PL 2023, c. 478, §§1, 2 (AMD).

Topic: MFPSC

Time: Dec 2, 2024 09:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every month on the First Mon, until Dec 2, 2024, 1 occurrence(s)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85929467758?pwd=a8HaBlDhnmsacoomsjbbBswME1fyj7.>

1

Meeting ID: 859 2946 7758

Passcode: 118014