**MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, July 1, 2019**

***(Unanimously Approved on Monday, September 9, 2019)***

Chief Dan Brooks called the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to order at 9:03 a.m. in Room 438 of the State House, Augusta. Fire Commission members attending today’s meeting included Stephan Bunker, Gerry Gay, Matt Gomes, Steven Greeley, Ron Green, Chief Joseph Guyotte, Representative Catherine Nadeau (and grandson, Remi), James Roy (for James Graves),Vicki Schmidt, Charles Soltan, Representative Timothy Theriault, Chief Joseph Thomas, Chief Michael Thurlow and Susan Pinette (staff). Members unable to attend today’s meeting included Jay Bradshaw, Senator Brownie Carson, Senator Scott Cyrway, Deputy Chief Kenneth Desmond (RET), Chief Thomas Higgins, Suzanne Krauss, Harty Norris, Representative Charlotte Warren and Chief Larry Willis (RET). Guests of the Fire Commission included Senator Erin Herbig of Waldo and son, Charles; representatives from Auburn, Yarmouth, Fairfield and Farmington (individually listed below); Chief William Gillespie of the Liberty Fire Department; Chief Charles Gordon of the Freeport Fire Department; and Ursa Beckford, Maine Senate Majority staff.

***A motion by Chief Joseph Guyotte, seconded by Chief Michael Thurlow, that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission accepts the meeting minutes of June 3, 2019.*** The motion passed unanimously.

In 2018, the Maine Legislature passed L.D. 1845, sponsored by Representative Erin Herbig of Belfast, creating a fund to “support the construction, and repair or replacement of regional live fire service training facilities (LFTF) in the State Of Maine”. The Fire Commission issued guidelines establishing criteria in early 2019 that would ensure a fair and competitive process. The grant review committee completed their review in May and recommended to the full Fire Commission that the top four scoring projects be awarded the initial grants. The Fire Commission unanimously agreed and proudly announces that the four 2019 grant recipients are Auburn, Yarmouth, Farmington and Fairfield. The Fire Commission also wishes to recognize the four communities of Bangor, Ellsworth, Milo and Wiscasset who also submitted grant proposals.

The Fire Commission invited now Senator Erin Herbig to formally recognize and read letters of congratulations to the four communities at today’s ceremony. Auburn was represented by Deputy Fire Chief Robert Chase and Captain Scott Pray of the Auburn Fire Department, and Sarah Hulbert, Fire and EMS Support Specialist. Representing Yarmouth was Fire Chief Michael Robitaille of the Yarmouth Fire and Rescue Department, and Chief Duane Bickford of the Fairfield/Benton Fire and Rescue Department attended as Fairfield’s representative. Eight municipal members from Farmington represented their community and included Chief Terry Bell, Deputy Chief Timothy A. Hardy, Deputy Chief S. Clyde Ross, Captain Timothy D. Hardy of the Farmington Fire/Rescue Department; Chief Jack Beck and Sergeant Edward Hastings of the Farmington Police Department; Town Manager Richard Davis; and Melissa Williams, Director of the Foster Career and Technical Education Center.

Committee Reports and Old Business

The Spring 2020 Spring Joint Conference Committee plans to meet later this summer to start finalizing details. The conference location will again be at the Grand Summit Hotel and Conference Center at Sunday River scheduled for Wednesday, March 27th through Friday, March 27th.

The Best Practices Committee reported no new nominees for Best Practices recognition. Fire Commission members are encouraged to forward any worthy nominees to Committee members.

The Education and Training Strategy Committee updated Fire Commission members on the process of distributing funds to the four grant recipients. Monies need to be transferred from the State to SMCC, who will actually be managing and distributing the funds. Fire Commission members discussed the importance of keeping legislators informed of the progress of the new facilities with periodic updates and site visits.

The Recruitment and Retention Committee informed members that Connecticut volunteer firefighters recently won an award for their 60 second recruitment video. It can be viewed at: <https://www.fireapparatusmagazine.com/articles/company-news/2019/06/connecticut-volunteer-firefighter-recruitment-ad-wins-regional-emmy.html>

The State Fire Marshal’s Office (SFMO) and Maine Fire Service Institute (MFSI) Funding Committee will meet on Monday, August 5th at the State House at 9:00am to begin discussion of lack of resources and possible solutions.

The Treasurer’s Report included an invoice for staff services between January and June 2019.

***A motion by Chief Michael Thurlow, seconded by Ron Green, that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission authorize the Treasurer to issue a check for staff services.*** The motion passed unanimously.

The LOSAP Board reported that it may be necessary to issue another RFP because the Board did not have the funds to hire the third party administrator. Board members also informed Fire Commission members that they planned to increase their outreach to rural departments in an effort to educate Fire Chiefs and firefighters of the benefits of LOSAPs.

New Business and News From Members

The Fire Commission reviewed their August schedule and decided to schedule a SFMO/MFSI Funding Committee meeting and cancel the regular monthly meeting.

***A motion by Chief Michael Thurlow, seconded by Chief Joseph Thomas, that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission cancels the Monday, August 5th monthly meeting.*** The motion passed unanimously.

Fire Commission members were informed, that due to time constraints, the Fire Commission’s secretary was resigning, although would continue as a member of the Fire Commission. Fire Commission members interested in serving as Secretary of the Fire Commission should contact any Elections Committee member or Chair of the Fire Commission.

With no further business to come before the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, Chair Brooks adjourned the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Pinette

Staff

Maine Fire Protection Services Commission

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

Monday September 9, 2019 MEETING DPS 9:00am

Monday, October 7, 2019 MEETING DPS 9:00am

Monday, November 4, 2019 MEETING DPS 9:00am

Monday, December 2, 2019 MEETING DPS 9:00am

Monday, January TBA MEETING State House 9:00am