MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, October 1, 2018**

***(Unanimously Approved on December 3, 2018)***

Chair Dan Brooks called the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to order at 9:05 a.m. in the Samuel de Champlain Conference Room, Department of Public Safety Building, Augusta. Fire Commission members attending today’s meeting included Stephan Bunker, Deputy Chief Kenneth Desmond (RET), Gerry Gay, James Graves, Steven Greeley, Ron Green, Representative Thomas Longstaff, Representative Catherine Nadeau, Vicki Schmidt, Charles Soltan, Chief Joseph Thomas, Chief Larry Willis (RET) and Susan Pinette (staff). Members excused included, Senator Brownie Carson, Senator Scott Cyrway, Matt Gomes, Chief Joseph Guyotte, Chief Thomas Higgins, Suzanne Krauss, Harty Norris, Sean St. Germaine, Representative Timothy Theriault and Chief Michael Thurlow. The Fire Commission welcomed the following guests to today’s meeting- Chief William Gillespie of the Liberty Fire Department and Elliot Scott, a firefighter/EMS with the Owls Head Fire/Rescue Department.

***A motion by Chief Larry Willis (RET), seconded by Charles Soltan that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission approves the meeting minutes of September 10, 2018.*** The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports and Old Business

The 2019 Joint Spring Conference Committee reported that their keynote speaker is Chief Billy Hayes and a contract has been sent to him. Chief Hayes is currently the Chief of the Onalaska, Wisconsin Fire Department and has vast experience in leadership and development. Chief Hayes served as the Fire Marshal for the University of South Alabama and has served as a VP for Columbia Southern University, the Director of Community Affairs for the District of Columbia Fire and EMS Department, and as the Fire Chief of Riverdale, GA. He is a Past-President of the Metro Atlanta Fire Chiefs Association. The 2019 Joint Spring Conference will be held at the Grand Summit Hotel and Conference Center, Sunday River on March 27, 28 and 29.

The Best Practices Committee recently forwarded a best practices nomination to Fire Commission members. Chief Robert Lefebvre and the Gorham Fire Department were nominated for their work with the Gorham Town Council in implementing an ordinance that all new residential units, including one and two family homes, be equipped with fire sprinklers. The ordinance passed on October 5, 2018. Fire Commission members also discussed recognizing the Gorham Town Council for their initiative in passing this ordinance and inviting them to the 2019 Joint Spring Conference.

***A motion by Gerry Gay, seconded by Chief Larry Willis (RET), that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission accepts the nomination of Fire Chief Robert Lefebvre and the Gorham Fire Department.*** The motion passed unanimously.

The Municipal Volunteer Needs Committee’s original charge was discussed by Fire Commission members. Members discussed some overlap among committees however there were still several important questions remaining including gap insurance, worker’s compensation and the definition of course of duty. Members agreed these would be beneficial topics for a panel discussion at the 2019 Joint Spring Conference.

The Education and Training Strategy Committee announced they will meet with financial representatives from Southern Maine Community College to discuss the grant process. The meeting is scheduled for October 22nd at the SMCC campus in Brunswick.

The Recruitment and Retention Committee is scheduled to meet immediately following today’s Fire Commission meeting. Discussion will include the Volunteer Fire Council’s grant program for “shovel ready” projects.

Chair Brooks appointed the following members to the new SFMO/MFSI Funding Committee. The Committee will start their work following the November elections. Members included:

Chief Joseph Thomas-Chair

Jim Graves

Charlie Soltan

Gerry Gay

Ron Green

Representative Catherine Nadeau

Chief William Gillespie

Chief Dan Brooks

The Length of Service Award Program Board (LOSAP) reported that the RFP (request for proposals) process is proceeding on schedule. The Board continues to meet monthly.

Fire Commission members discussed the shortage of fire dispatchers in Maine, the reason for these shortages, and what it means to the fire service. Several issues mentioned included staffing problems related to mandatory overtime and long commutes, effects of fire dispatch protocols, oversight and quality review of these fire protocols, and the ability to “opt out” of the fire protocols. Members learned that the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) will report to the Legislature’s Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee in January 2019 and recommendations are expected regarding the dispatch/call centers.

New Business and News From Members

October is Fire Prevention Month and Fire Prevention Week includes many events starting Saturday, October 6th at the Firefighter Memorial in Augusta. This is the 21st anniversary of honoring firefighters and is scheduled to begin at 9:00am.

The Maine State Federation of Firefighters announced that the New England Volunteer Fire and EMS Coalition will host their conference on April 4-6, 2019 at the Maine Fire Service Institute in Brunswick. This program focuses on the needs and issues of rural fire chiefs.

Maine Municipal Association will hold their annual Fall Conference at the Augusta Civic Center on October 3rd and October 4th.

With no further business to come before the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, Chair Brooks adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Pinette

Staff

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

Monday, November 5th MEETING Public Safety 9:00am

Monday, December 3rd MEETING Public Safety 9:00am

Monday, January 7, 2019 MEETING State House 9:00am

Monday, March 4, 2019 MEETING State House 9:00am

***Dates of Interest:***

*Tuesday, November 6, 2018 ELECTION DAY*

*Monday, November 12, 2018 HOLIDAY- VETERANS DAY (observed)*

*Thursday, November 21, 2018 HOLIDAY- THANKSGIVING DAY*

*Sunday, December 2, 2018 HOLIDAY- HANUKKAH (begins at sundown)*

*Tuesday, December 25, 2018 HOLIDAY- CHRISTMAS*

*Tuesday, January 1, 2019 HOLIDAY- NEW YEARS DAY*

*Thursday, February 7, 2019 Fire Service Day at the State House (Hall of Flags), 8:00am*

*Wednesday, Thursday, Friday* *2019 Joint Spring Conference, Sunday River*

*March 27-29, 2019*

*Wednesday, March 27, 2019* *Joint Meeting, Sunday River (time TBA)*