MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, November 5, 2018**

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

Chair Dan Brooks called the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to order at 9:02 a.m. in the Fallen Heroes Conference Room, Department of Public Safety Building, Augusta. Fire Commission members attending today’s meeting included Stephan Bunker, Senator Scott Cyrway, Deputy Chief Kenneth Desmond (RET), Matt Gomes, James Graves, Steven Greeley, Ron Green, Chief Joseph Guyotte, Chief Thomas Higgins, Representative Thomas Longstaff, Representative Catherine Nadeau, Harty Norris, Vicki Schmidt, Charles Soltan, Sean St. Germaine, Representative Timothy Theriault, Chief Joseph Thomas, Chief Michael Thurlow, and Susan Pinette (staff). Members excused included Senator Brownie Carson, Gerry Gay, Suzanne Krauss and Chief Larry Willis (RET). The Fire Commission welcomed the following four guests to today’s meeting: three former Fire Commission members including Jeffrey Cammack, Executive Director of the Maine Fire Chiefs’ Association; Michel LaJoie, former Lewiston representative and Lewiston Fire Chief (RET); and Alex McPhedran of the Readfield Fire Department; and Chief William Gillespie of the Liberty Fire Department.

Committee Reports and Old Business

 The 2019 Joint Spring Conference Committee reminded members that the dates for the conference were March 27, 28 and 29 (Wednesday through Friday) at the Grand Summit Hotel and Conference Center, Sunday River in Newry. The Committee continues to work on the conference program and securing the speakers.

 The Best Practices Committee forwarded a new nomination to Fire Commission members via email for their consideration. Goodwins Mills Fire and Rescue Department provide fire protection service to the towns of Dayton and Lyman. Recognizing the importance of the safety of their citizens and firefighters and reduced property loss, Chief Roger Hooper and the Goodwins Mills Fire and Rescue Department worked with the Dayton and Lyman town administrators to educate them on the benefits of residential sprinklers. This hard work convinced Dayton and Lyman to require residential sprinklers in all new homes within subdivisions. The Fire Commission noted that Goodwins Mills not only worked to get one town to require residential sprinklers, but two distinct towns.

 ***A motion by Stephan Bunker, seconded by Chief Michael Thurlow, that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission accepts the nomination of Fire Chief Roger Hooper and the Goodwins Mills Fire and Rescue Department for a Best Practices recognition and consideration for the annual Best Practices Award. Chief Hooper and his department’s hard work resulted in the towns of Dayton and Lyman requiring residential sprinklers in all new constructed homes within subdivisions.*** The motion passed unanimously.

 The Municipal Needs Committee will meet immediately following the Fire Commission’s meeting. Members noted that in the new Legislative session there were several legislative initiatives of interest to the Fire Commission.

 The Education and Training Strategy Committee briefed the Fire Commission on their meeting with financial representatives of Southern Maine Community College on October 22nd. Discussion included questions regarding bonding and was very informative. The Committee reminded members that the deadline for comments on their proposed draft was November 16th. These comments will be forwarded to members with additional discussion at the December meeting.

 The SFMO/MFSI Funding Committee was established at the October meeting and will hold their first meeting following the elections in November.

 The Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) Board reported that the request for proposals (RFP) has been submitted and is in the question phase. The LOSAP Board has been working on this process for four months and expects to finalize the RFP and chose a firm in December, and then plans to seek funding in January 2019. The LOSAP Board reported they have a vacancy and are seeking a new member. Fire Commission members acknowledged and congratulated the LOSAP Board on their hard work.

 The Treasurer reported that all outstanding bills have been paid. Fire Commission members discussed setting up a sub-account within the Fire Commission’s checking account for the LOSAP Board. This sub-account would be a “pass through” for the LOSAP Board, but Fire Commission members also wanted some accountability and periodic review of the use of this account.

 ***A motion by Charles Soltan, seconded by Harty Norris, that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission agrees to accept and place in a sub-account of the Fire Commission’s checking account, presently administered by the Maine Fire Chiefs’ Association, monies for the Length of Service Award Program Board’s (LOSAP) sole purpose. The motion further states that Fire Commission will require the LOSAP Board to give a periodic report on the use of this account to the Fire Commission or the Treasurer of the Fire Commission.*** The motion passed unanimously.

New Business and News From Members

 The Fire Service Day at the State House is scheduled for Thursday, February 7th in the Hall of Flags starting at 8:30am. The Legislative Breakfast is scheduled for Thursday, February 14th at the Senator Inn and Spa on Western Avenue, Augusta. Due to two Fire Commission events at the State House in February, the regular monthly meeting will take place immediately following the conclusion of the Hall of Flags events on February 7th. Time and place will be determined at a later date.

 The Bureau of Labor Standards will host the Fire Commission’s December monthly meeting on December 3rd in the Safety Works Training Room in the Public Safety Building. The Fire Commission wishes to acknowledge and thank Joe Thomas for his assistance in securing meeting rooms this past year.

 The Fire Commission also wishes to acknowledge and thank the five Legislative members who have served on the Fire Commission during the 128th Maine Legislative session. Legislative members’ terms on the Fire Commission “coincide with their respective legislative terms of office.” Senator Scott Cyrway and Senator Brownie Carson represented the Maine Senate, and Representative Thomas Longstaff, Representative Catherine Nadeau and Representative Timothy Theriault represented the Maine House of Representatives. The Fire Commission is very grateful for their service to the Fire Commission and the State of Maine.

With no further business to come before the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, Chair Brooks adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Pinette

Staff

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

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

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

Thursday, February 7, 2019 MEETING State House TBD

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

**NO MEETING IN APRIL**

Monday, May 6, 2019 ANNUAL MEETING State House 9:00am

Monday, June 3, 2019 MEETING State House 9:00am

***Dates of Interest:***

*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*

*Thursday, February 14, 2019 Legislative Breakfast at the Senator Inn*

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

*March 27-29, 2019*

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