MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, December 3, 2018**

***(Unanimously Approved as Amended on January 7, 2019)***

Chair Dan Brooks called the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to order at 9:06 a.m. in the Safety Works Training Room, Maine Department of Labor, Augusta. Fire Commission members attending today’s meeting included Stephan Bunker, Senator Scott Cyrway, Gerry Gay, Steven Greeley, Ron Green, Chief Joseph Guyotte, Chief Thomas Higgins, Representative Catherine Nadeau, Harty Norris, James Roy (for James Graves), Vicki Schmidt, Charles Soltan, Sean St. Germaine, Representative Timothy Theriault, Chief Joseph Thomas, Chief Michael Thurlow, Chief Larry Willis (RET) and Susan Pinette (staff). Members excused included Senator Brownie Carson, Deputy Chief Kenneth Desmond (RET), Matt Gomes and Suzanne Krauss. The Fire Commission welcomed former Fire Commission member Representative Michel LaJoie of Lewiston and John Martel, President of the Professional Fire Fighters of Maine, as guests of today’s meeting.

***A motion by Chief Michael Thurlow, seconded by Charles Soltan that the Maine Fire Commission accept the meeting minutes of October 1, 2018.*** The motion passed unanimously.

***A motion by Chief Michael Thurlow, seconded by Charles Soltan that the Maine Fire Commission accept the meeting minutes of November 5, 2018***. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports and Old Business

The 2019 Joint Spring Conference Committee reported the vendor and attendee packets are being reviewed and final approval is expected in January. The Committee reminded Fire Commission members that the 2019 Joint Spring conference is scheduled for March 27, 28 and 29 (Wednesday through Friday) at the Grand Summit Hotel and Conference Center, Sunday River in Newry.

The Best Practices Committee submitted a new nomination to Fire Commission members for their consideration. The Lincoln County Fire Chiefs’ Association was nominated for their creation of a Firefighter Strike Team program. This strike team comprised of firefighters from Lincoln County would respond to major events and provide additional support to responding local fire departments. The Fire Commission praised Lincoln County Fire Chiefs’ efforts in creating this program.

***A motion by Stephan Bunker, seconded by Chief Joseph Guyotte, to accept the nomination of the Lincoln County Fire Chiefs’ Association for the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission’s Best Practices recognition and consideration for the annual Best Practices Award.*** The motion passed unanimously.

The Municipal Volunteer Needs Committee identified potential issues for consideration in the 129th Legislative session. Tax incentives for volunteer firefighters and health care benefits were discussed by Fire Commission members.

The Education and Training Strategy Committee submitted their final draft Live Fire Training Facility Grant Guidance including the application form for approval by the Fire Commission. The ETS Committee reported that by the deadline of November 16th, they had received three additional questions and comments. Following approval from the Fire Commission the Live Fire Training Facility Grant Guidance will be forwarded to the Office of the Maine Attorney General for review.

***A motion by Gerry Gay, seconded by Chief Joseph Thomas, that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission approves the final Live Fire Training Facility Grant Guidance (dated 11/26/2018) from the Education and Training Strategy Committee and authorizes the Committee to forward the Live Fire Training Facility Grant Guidance to the Office of the Maine Attorney General for their review.*** The motion passed unanimously.

The Recruitment and Retention Committee reported that they are scheduled to meet immediately following today’s Fire Commission meeting. The agenda includes discussing the top strategies for recruitment and retention in 2019.

The SFMO/MFSI Funding Committee will schedule their first meeting in January.

The Treasurer reported a single expenditure for November and that was a check to reserve the Hall of Flags for the Maine Fire Service Day at the State House on Thursday, February 7th.

The LOSAP Board reported that one bid was received during the RFP process. The bid was from an experienced company and will be seriously considered by the Board.

Fire Commission members were reminded of two events in February 2019. On Thursday, February 7th, the Fire Commission will host the Maine Fire Service Day at the State House starting at 8:00 am. Displays and tables will feature the organizations represented by the Fire Commission and will be an opportunity for members to meet the new and returning Legislators. On Thursday, February 14th, the Fire Commission will cohost the Legislative Breakfast held at the Senator Inn in Augusta. The breakfast is scheduled to begin at 7:00 am.

Fire Commission members have been discussing the concerns raised regarding the lack of public safety dispatchers and the implications for the fire service and the safety of Maine’s citizens. In November, a group comprised of representatives of the Fire Commission, SMCC, emergency communications (SOM) and local fire departments met to discuss these concerns. Fire Commission members received a three page summary of the meeting detailing the communication issues discussed, contributing factors for the shortages and suggestions to address the shortage problem. Fire Commission members will review the summary and discuss at the January meeting.

New Business and News From Members

Due to Legislative term limits, the Fire Commission will have a vacancy for one of the House of Representative seats. Members discussed potential candidates with fire service experience or interest. Members also expressed their gratitude to the Legislators who served and supported the Fire Commission.

Maine Emergency Medical Services (MEMS) informed the Fire Commission of a couple issues that may come before the Legislature this session. The EMS issues were blood draws used for evidence at the accident scene and “run sheets” vs “quick sheets” left at the hospital.

With no further business to come before the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, Chair Brooks adjourned the meeting at 10:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Pinette

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

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:***

*Wednesday, January 2, 2019 Legislative Session 4:00 pm*

*Wednesday, January 2, 2019 Inauguration of Janet T. Mills as Governor of Maine*

*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)*