MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, January 8, 2018**

***(Unanimously Approved on Monday, March 5, 2018)***

Chair Dan Brooks called the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to order at 9:08 a.m. in Room 438, State House, Augusta. Fire Commission members attending today’s meeting included Stephen Bunker, Senator Scott Cyrway, Kenneth Desmond, Gerry Gay, Matt Gomes, James Graves, Steven Greeley, Ron Green, Chief Joseph Guyotte, Representative Thomas Longstaff, Representative Catherine Nadeau, Harty Norris, Vicki Schmidt, Charles Soltan, Representative Timothy Theriault, Chief Joseph Thomas, Chief Michael Thurlow, Chief Larry Willis (RET) and Susan Pinette (staff). Members excused included Senator Brownie Carson, Chief Thomas Higgins, Peter Rogers and Shaun St. Germaine. The Fire Commission welcomed the following guests to today’s meeting: two past Fire Commission members- former Representative Michel Lajoie of Lewiston and Chief Jeffrey Cammack (RET), currently Executive Director of the Maine Fire Chiefs’ Association; Chief William Gillespie of the Liberty Fire Department; and John Martel, President of the Professional Fire Fighters of Maine.

The Maine Fire Protection Services Commission is pleased to welcome Kenneth Desmond as a new member of the Fire Commission*.* Ken represents the Maine State Federation ofFire Fighters on the Fire Commission and currently serves as President of MSFFF. Welcome back Ken!

***A motion by Stephan Bunker, seconded by Chief Joseph Guyotte, that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission accepts the December 4, 2017 meeting minutes.*** The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

The 2018 Spring Joint Conference Committee reported good progress on plans for the 2018 conference. Conference flyers have been sent to fire service organizations and the Committee encourages attendees to send in their registration forms early. The 2018 Spring Joint Conference is scheduled for March 28th through March 30th at the Sunday River Grand Summit Resort Hotel and Conference Center in Newry. The Joint Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 28th at a time to be determined.

The Best Practices Committee reviewed the process of awarding the Annual Best Practice Award. Nominations are submitted to the Committee throughout the year. The Best Practices Committee reviews the nominations as they are received and determines whether the best practices criteria have been met by the current nominee. The Committee presents the nomination to the Fire Commission for their consideration. Once the Fire Commission accepts the Best Practices nomination, the nominee receives a letter of congratulations and is a candidate for the Fire Commission’s Annual Best Practices Award. Recipients of the Annual Best Practice Award are recognized at the Spring Joint Conference.

***A motion by Stephan Bunker, seconded by Chief Joseph Guyotte, that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission award their Annual Best Practices Award to the Bangor Fire Department for their Red X Program developed to identify hazardous abandoned properties and alert first responders of unknown dangerous conditions.*** The motion passed unanimously.

The Education and Training Strategy Committee distributed copies of the engineer’s recent study on Maine live fire training sites in Maine. The engineering study was conducted to determine the safety of these sites. ETS Committee members updated Fire Commission members on their work regarding the report and maps that will be part of the package to distribute to the Legislature and the fire service. Fire Commission members also discussed posting the final report on the Fire Commission’s website.

***A motion by Chief Larry Willis (RET), seconded by Chief Michael Thurlow, that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission authorizes the Education and Training Strategy Committee to move forward with their final report, including maps, and that this report will become the Fire Commission’s official package to be distributed to Legislators, the fire service and posted on the Fire Commission’s website.*** The motion passed unanimously.

The ETS Committee also updated members regarding the progress of the Fire Commission’s bill. Bill language has been drafted and is almost complete. An LD number will be assigned and the bill will be printed and referenced to a committee. This process is expected to happen in late February.

Old Business

Fire Commission members discussed funding issues for the State Fire Marshal’s Office and the Maine Fire Service Institute. In December, Fire Commission members heard from Department of Public Safety Commissioner Morris that the SFMO would face a funding shortage as early as February. He cited overtime as one of the largest drains on the SFMO’s budget and was seeking help from the Fire Commission to address this problem. Resources from the FIPT are down and that also affects the resources of the MFSI. Fire Commission members questioned why revenues were declining and suggested that the Maine Revenue Service be contacted.

The Length of Service Award Program Board updated the Fire Commission on their work. One member recently resigned so they need to replace that member. They are still working on qualifications and will update the Fire Commission on their progress.

The Legislative Breakfast is scheduled for Thursday, February 1st at the Senator Inn and is hosted by the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, the Maine Fire Chiefs’ Association, the Maine State Federation of Fire Fighters, the Professional Fire Fighters of Maine and the Maine Building Officials and Inspectors Association. Postcards will be distributed to Legislators and their staff on January 23rd. The ETS Committee plans to distribute materials and display maps at the Legislative Breakfast.

New Business and News From Members

Fire Commission members discussed several new bills of interest that the Maine Legislature will be dealing with in the Second Session.

* LD 1389 An Act To Disburse Funds to the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission (CJPS)
* LD 1671 An Act To Authorize the Public Utilities Commission To Determine the Amount of the E-9-1-1 Surcharge (CJPS)
* LD 1735 An Act To Authorize Regional Medical Control Committees To Have Access to Maine Emergency Medical Services Data for Purposes of Quality Improvement (EUT)

Fire Commission members discussed online burn permits and the possibility that Maine’s Forest Service is considering dropping the current $7.00 fee. Money collected from these fees goes to the General Fund. Fire Commission members also discussed private systems that offer burn permits.

The Governor recently nominated a new Director of the Maine Emergency Management Agency- Suzanne Krauss of Brunswick- to replace interim Director, Peter Rogers. The confirmation hearing before the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee is scheduled for January 18th.

With no further business to come before the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, Chair Brooks adjourned the meeting at 11:00am.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Pinette

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**MEETING SCHEDULE**

Monday, March 5th MEETING State House 9:00am

Wednesday-Friday

March 28th-March 30th JOINT CONFERENCE AT SUNDAY RIVER

JOINT MEETING TBA

Monday, April 2nd ANNUAL MEETING TBA 9:00am

Monday, May 7th MEETING TBA 9:00am

Monday, June 4th MEETING Public Safety 9:00am

Monday, July 9th MEETING Public Safety TBA

Monday, August 6th MEETING Public Safety TBA

***Dates of Interest:***

*REGARDING LD 1845 An Act To Provide Incentives To Attract Trained Firefighters to Maine and To Retain Trained Firefighters by Expanding the Provision of Live Fire Service Training sponsored by Representative Erin Herbig of Belfast and co-sponsored by President Thibodeau*

*-Public Hearing on Wednesday, March 7th before the Education Committee at 9:00am, Room 202, Cross Office Building*

*-Work Session on Thursday, March 8th at 1:00pm is also in Room 202, Cross Office Building. Other work sessions will be scheduled as needed.*

*Wednesday, April 18th- Maine Legislature Statutory Adjournment Date*