MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, March 5, 2018**

***(Unanimously Approved on September 10, 2018)***

Chair Dan Brooks called the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to order at 9:01 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, Chief Joseph Guyotte, Chief Thomas Higgins, Representative Thomas Longstaff, Representative Catherine Nadeau, 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, Ron Green, Suzanne Krauss, Harty Norris, and Shaun St. Germaine. The Fire Commission welcomed the following guests to today’s meeting: three past Fire Commission members- former Representative Michel Lajoie of Lewiston; Chief Jeffrey Cammack (RET), Executive Director of the Maine Fire Chiefs’ Association; and Alex McPhedran of the Readfield Fire Department; and Chief William Gillespie of the Liberty Fire Department.

***A motion by Chief Michael Thurlow, seconded by Chief Larry Willis, that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission accepts the January 8, 2018 meeting minutes.*** The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

The 2018 Spring Joint Conference Committee updated Fire Commission members regarding final preparations for the 2018 Joint Conference. The 2018 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 Conference Committee reported that all vendor spaces have been reserved and pre-registration numbers have passed 100. The Joint Meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 28th starting at 4:00pm to 5:00pm.

The Best Practices Committee reported that the Annual Best Practices Award will be presented to the Bangor Fire Department at the 2018 Joint Spring Conference. In an effort to increase awareness of the Fire Commission’s Best Practice award and to encourage nominations throughout the year, hand-outs will be distributed at the Joint Conference.

The Education and Training Strategy Committee updated Fire Commission members on the current status of 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. The Education Committee has scheduled a public hearing on Wednesday, March 7th and a work session on Thursday, March 8th. Committee members have organized speakers and attendees representing Maine’s fire service from all sixteen Maine counties. These speakers include members of the Maine Fire Chiefs’ Association (MFCA), the Maine State Federation of Fire Fighters (MSFFF), the Professional Fire Fighters of Maine (PFFM) and the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission. Also expected to speak at the public hearing in favor of LD1845, are representatives from the Maine Legislature- present and former members- and the Maine Community College System.

Elections Committee members have been tasked with surveying Fire Commission members for interest in serving as Fire Commission officers for the next year. According to the Fire Commission’s bylaws, the election of officers *“shall be held at the regularly scheduled meeting in April, which shall be deemed the Fire Commission’s Annual Meeting, or if no regularly scheduled meeting is held in April, then the election shall be held at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Fire Commission”.* (Article III, Section 1)

Old Business

Fire Commission members discussed the annual Legislative Breakfast which occurred on Thursday, February 1st at the Senator Inn. The Legislative Breakfast, jointly hosted by the Fire Commission, Maine Fire Chiefs’ Association (MFCA), Maine State Federation of Fire Fighters (MSFFF), Professional Fire Fighters on Maine (PFFM), and the Maine Building Officials and Inspectors Association (MBOIA) is an opportunity for members of the fire service to meet and talk with legislators regarding issues important to Maine’s fire service. Fire Commission members agreed to continue hosting the Legislative Breakfast on an annual basis.

Fire Commission members received an update from the LOSAP Board. Chief William Gillespie, Chair of the LOSAP (Length of Service Award Program) Board, informed members that Steve Bunker was recently named to the LOSAP Board, representing Maine Municipal Association (MMA). The LOSAP Board has been actively seeking a company to handle the program’s financial matters. LOSAP Board members are also making presentations at various Fire Chiefs’ meetings to explain the LOSAP program and its benefits.

New Business and News From Members

 Fire Commission members discussed fire service related bills that have been proposed in the Second Regular Session of the 128th Maine Legislature. The three bills were LD 1671 An *Act To Authorize the Public Utilities Commission To Determine the Amount of the E-9-1-1 Surcharge*, LD 1735 An *Act To Authorize Regional Medical Control Committees To Have Access to Maine Emergency Medical Services Data for Purposes of Quality Improvement*, and 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.* LD 1845, which was discussed earlier in the meeting, is sponsored by Representative Erin Herbig of Belfast and scheduled for a public hearing on Wednesday, March 7th, before the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee. Fire Commission members are encouraged to attend and speak at the public hearing.

 The Fire Commission is pleased to announce Suzanne Krause is the new Director of the Maine Emergency Management Agency, and as Director of MEMA, will be a member of the Fire Commission. Welcome Suzanne!

 Fire Commission members discussed potential fire service related legislation, both state and federal, that may come before the Fire Commission for their support.

***A motion by Gerry Gay, seconded by Chief Larry Willis (RET), that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission will only support legislation in the 128th Maine Legislative session that meets the current national fire safety standards*.** The motion passed unanimously.

Members agreed to cancel the April Fire Commission meeting, and to reschedule the Annual Meeting to Monday, May 7th.

With no further business to come before the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, Chair Brooks adjourned the meeting at 10:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Pinette

Staff

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

Wednesday-Friday

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

 JOINT MEETING TBA

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:***

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