MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION

**MEETING MINUTES**

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**Monday, May 14, 2018**

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

Chair Dan Brooks called the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to order at 9:04 a.m. in the Fallen Heroes Conference Room, Department of Public Safety Building, Augusta. Fire Commission members attending today’s meeting included Stephen Bunker, Gerry Gay, James Graves, Ron Green, Chief Joseph Guyotte, Mike LaPlante (designee for Steven Greeley), Representative Thomas Longstaff, Representative Catherine Nadeau, Harty Norris, Vicki Schmidt, Charles Soltan, Shaun St. Germaine, Chief Joseph Thomas, Chief Michael Thurlow, Chief Larry Willis (RET) and Susan Pinette (staff). Members excused included Senator Brownie Carson, Senator Scott Cyrway, Kenneth Desmond, Matt Gomes, Chief Thomas Higgins, Suzanne Krauss and Representative Timothy Theriault. The Fire Commission welcomed Chief William Gillespie of the Liberty Fire Department as a guest of today’s meeting.

Committee Reports

The Elections Committee proposed the following slate of nominees for the five Fire Commission officer positions. The nominees are as follows-

**Chief Dan Brooks- Chair**

**Gerry Gay- First Vice Chair**

**Ron Green- Second Vice Chair**

**Chief Michael Thurlow- Treasurer**

**Vicki Schmidt- Secretary**

***A motion by Chief Joseph Thomas, seconded by Chief Larry Willis (RET) that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission accepts the proposed slate of nominees for officers of the Fire Commission.*** The motion passed unanimously.

Fire Commission bylaws state that “The elective term of any officer shall be for the duration of twelve (12) calendar months, or the next annual meeting, whichever is sooner” (Article III, Section 1). Congratulations to our new Fire Commission officers!

Committee Reports and Old Business

The Joint 2019 Spring Conference Committee reported that the 2018 conference was very successful. Over one hundred people attended the conference and initial feedback was very positive. The number of vendors increased from 2017 with some vendors turned away because of lack of space. The Committee also reported that final wrap up of the 2018 Spring Joint Conference will occur soon, and goals and objectives for the 2019 Spring Joint Conference will begin. The Committee is confident that they will be returning to Sunday River in 2019.

The Best Practices Committee reports they have been discussing ways to increase awareness and nominations for Best Practices Awards. The goal is to have at least one nominee per month to present to the Fire Commission for consideration. All nominees will be recognized as a Best Practices nominee and be considered for the final Best Practices award, with the final award presentation at the Spring Joint Conference. Some suggestions were that Best Practices nomination forms and guidelines be available in the Maine Chiefs’ Resource Guide and in MMA’s monthly publication *The Townsman*.

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”.* LD 1845 had a public hearing and work session before the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee on March 5th. On March 28th the bill was reported out of committee with a unanimous OTP-A. Legislative rules dictated that LD 1845 would go to the Special Appropriations table because it had a fiscal note. The Appropriations Committee will review all the bills that are on the Special Table and determine which bills they will recommend for funding to the full Legislature. This normally occurs in the final days of the Legislative session. Discussion also included timing for the discussions by the Appropriations Committee and the possibility of a Special Session and what that means for LD 1845. ETS Committee members encouraged Fire Commission members to call their local Legislators to support LD 1845.

The LOSAP(Length of Service Award Program) Board distributed their April meeting minutes to Fire Commission members and updated members of their progress in establishing the LOSAP program. Funding is an issue and they are working on various ideas. LOSAP Board members are gathering information to determine how much funding is needed to start the program so that the funding needs are based on actual data. The initial stage of this process will be to explain the program and its potential benefits to emergency responders. Board members will attend meetings and distribute flyers.

New Business and News From Members

Fire Commission members held a discussion related to the funding for the State Fire Marshal’s Office and the Maine Fire Service Institute. Funding for the SFMO and the MFSI is based on revenue from the Fire Tax which is collected by the Maine Revenue Service. Fire Commission members questioned whether MRS could conduct audits to determine if companies were paying the correct amounts since revenue seemed lower than expected. Fire Commission members also discussed alternative methods of funding for the SFMO and MFSI and agreed to discuss this issue further.

Fire Commission members discussed the Fire Commission’s future work load and agreed that the Fire Commission would meet in June at the State House during the Special Session. Fire Commission members also agreed to cancel the July meeting only and to meet in August at the Department of Public Safety.

***A motion by Chief Joseph Guyotte, seconded by Gerry Gay, that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission cancels their July meeting***. The motion passed unanimously.

Fire Commission members received an update on the Community Risk Reduction group’s efforts. Many requests for presentations to town councils and planning boards have been received in the last year. More information can be found on the State Fire Marshal’s website.

With no further business to come before the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, Chair Brooks adjourned the meeting at 10:21 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Pinette

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

Tuesday, June 19th MEETING State House TBA

Monday, July 9th CANCELLED

Monday, August 6th MEETING Public Safety 9:00am

Monday, September 10th MEETING Public Safety 9:00am

Monday, October 1st MEETING Public Safety 9:00am

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

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

***Dates of Interest:***

*Monday, September 3, 2018 HOLIDAY-LABOR DAY*

*Tuesday, November 6, 2018 ELECTION DAY*