

**MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 4, 2010  
*(Approved as Amended on February 2, 2010)***

Chair Jeffrey Cammack called the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to order at 1:03 pm in Room 438 of the Maine State House. Members present included John Arsenault, Stephan Bunker, Representative Dean Cray, Chief John Dean, Chief Darrel Fournier, Representative Michel Lajoie, Geoffrey Maker, Robert McAleer, Alex McPhedran, Walter Morris, Senator Richard Nass, Harty Norris, Vicki Schmidt, Charles Soltan and Susan Pinette (staff). Members excused included Jay Bradshaw, Chief Dan Brooks, Gerry Gay, Ron Green, Alan Hammond, Senator Joseph Perry, Representative Benjamin Pratt and David Wacker.

***A motion by Alex McPhedran, seconded by Harty Norris, to accept the December 7, 2009 meeting minutes.*** The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

The Spring 2010 Conference Committee announced the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Blaine House Conference for Emergency Responders is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> at Point Lookout Resort and Conference Center in Northport. Committee members also suggested that dates be set for the Spring 2011 Conference to secure speakers and meeting location. Members agreed that the 2011 Spring Conference would be scheduled for Friday and Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. The Committee also announced Friday's keynote speaker is Battalion Chief John Salka of the New York Fire Department and Saturday's keynote speaker is Howard Cross from Vermont. Maine Municipal Association is assisting with the conference registration for both attendees and vendors. MMA is also completing the "Save the Date" conference brochure that will be forwarded to Fire Commission members to distribute to their respective organizations. Members discussed the Thursday (March 25<sup>th</sup>) evening roundtable discussion and the regular Fire Commission meeting in April and the possibility of combining the two meetings. Fire Commission bylaws state in Article III, Section 1:

*"The Fire Commission shall select new officers annually. Elections 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"*

and in Article IV, Section 1:

*“There shall be at least four (4) meetings of the full Fire Commission annually. The Fire Commission’s regularly scheduled meeting in April shall be the Fire Commission’s Annual Meeting. If no regularly scheduled meeting is held in April, the Fire Commission’s next regularly scheduled meeting shall be its Annual Meeting.”*

Members discussed the upcoming election of officers at the Annual Meeting and whether to meet in April so soon after the March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

***A motion by Steve Bunker, seconded by John Arsenault, to waive the following two Maine Fire Protection Services Commission bylaws: Article III “Officers and Committees” Section 1 “Officers” and Article IV “Meetings”, Section 1 “Regular Meetings” and move the 2010 Annual Meeting, scheduled for April 5, 2010, to Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at Point Lookout Resort and Conference Center in Northport.*** The motion passed unanimously.

The Training Facilities Committee distributed a letter from Southern Maine Community College President James Ortiz detailing SMCC’s future plans for Maine Fire Training and Education. The Training Facilities Committee suggested that the Fire Commission temporarily suspend plans to move forward with legislation for a central training facility and support the efforts of SMCC. The Fire Commission agreed to work with SMCC to strengthen the MFT&E program. Members received additional information on Maine Maritime Academy’s plans to provide shipboard fire training and queried about the possibilities of partnering with MMA.

The Best Practices Committee reports no new nominations for Best Practices Awards this month but continue to encourage Fire Commission members and others to forward worthy candidates to the Committee. Details regarding the nomination process and nomination forms are available on the Fire Commission’s website.

The Recruitment and Retention Committee has been working hard on their campaign to encourage the passage of H.R. 1792, federal legislation regarding Length of Service Award Programs (LOSAPs). The Fire Commission will send letters to Congresswoman Pingree and Congressman Michaud urging their support of H.R. 1792, as well as letters to Senator Snowe and Senator Collins requesting their sponsorship of Senate legislation similar to H.R. 1792.

### Old Business

The Fire Commission, along with the Maine Fire Chiefs' Association, the Professional Fire Fighters of Maine and the Maine State Federation of Fire Fighters, will host the Legislative Breakfast on Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Senator Inn and Spa from 7:00am to 9:30am. Invitations and a reminder postcard will be distributed to Legislators prior to the breakfast. Fire Commission members were encouraged to contact their individual legislators with a personal invitation. Legislative Breakfast agenda topics will include discussion of the key legislative priorities-training facilities, recruitment and retention, and funding for the State Fire Marshal's Office and Maine Fire Training and Education. The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Blaine House Conference for Emergency Responders will also be highlighted.

### New Business

The Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee scheduled a public hearing on L.D. 1497 *"An Act To Amend the Law Pertaining to Smoke Detectors and Carbon Monoxide Detectors"* on Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup> in Room 436 of the State House. This bill makes clarifications to L.D. 550 *"An Act To Protect Maine Residents from Home Fires and Carbon Monoxide"* that was supported by the Fire Commission, passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor in 2009.

Fire Commission members continued voicing support of a proposal to ask the Legislature to reinstate a line item in the State's budget for the Fire Commission. Members were told that several Appropriations Committee members are interested and may propose an amendment to the Supplemental Budget this session.

Members agreed that the Fire Commission would add a budget report to the agenda starting with the February meeting.

### News From Members

Maine Emergency Management Agency will participate in a federal exercise with the Coast Guard in Portland on March 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

E 9-1-1 recently conducted a successful basic training course for public dispatchers. These courses are meant to offer structure to operators and dispatchers. A second training course is scheduled for the Waterville/Winslow area beginning in February.

The Fire Commission is interested in attending the Legislature's Rural Caucus to discuss the Fire Commission's legislative priorities and other issues of interest to the Legislators. Legislative members of the Fire Commission will approach the Chairs of the Rural Caucus and request a meeting and also offer the Fire Commission's assistance and expertise.

The Maine State Federation of Fire Fighters recently explored funding sources for the LOSAP and training facilities campaigns. MSFFF researched several options including specialty license plates. The license plates, which would raise the needed seed money, would say “Support Your Local Emergency Services” and be available in 2011. Members will follow up on this option as well as others.

With no further business to come before the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, Chair Cammack adjourned the meeting at 2:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Pinette  
Staff

Meeting Schedule and Dates of Interest

<u>Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup></u>	Legislative Breakfast	Senator Inn	7-9:30am
<u>Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup></u>	MEETING	State House	10:30am
<u>Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup></u>	MEETING	State House	1:00pm
<u>Thursday, March 25<sup>th</sup> **</u>	Roundtable Meeting	Point Lookout	TBA
<u>Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup> **</u>	Spring 2010 Conference	Point Lookout	All Day
<u>Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup> **</u>	Spring 2010 Conference	Point Lookout	All Day
<u>Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup></u>	MEETING	TBA	1:00pm
<u>Monday, June 7<sup>th</sup></u>	MEETING	TBA	1:00pm

*\*\* Please note the change in dates*

*To Be Scheduled:  
Tour of the New Hampshire Fire Academy*