

**MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

March 1, 2010

(Approved on May 10, 2010)

Vice Chair Richard Nass 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, Mark Belserene (for Robert McAleer), Chief Dan Brooks, Stephen Bunker, Chief John Dean, Gerry Gay, Steven Greeley (for David Wacker), Ron Green, Representative Michel Lajoie, Geoffrey Maker, Alex McPhedran, Walter Morris, Harty Norris, Charles Soltan and Susan Pinette (staff). Members excused included Jay Bradshaw, Chief Jeffrey Cammack, Representative Dean Cray, Chief Darrel Fournier, Alan Hammond, Senator Joseph Perry, Representative Benjamin Pratt and Vicki Schmidt. William Vickerson, Counsel for the Maine State Federation of Fire Fighters, attended as a guest of the Fire Commission.

A motion by Alex McPhedran, seconded by Gerry Gay, to accept the February 2, 2010 meeting minutes as amended. (The amended minutes will replace “smoke” with “carbon monoxide” on page 4, News from Members. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

The Spring Conference Committee reported that final plans for the 7th Annual Blaine House Conference at Point Lookout Resort and Conference Center in Northport on March 26th and 27th are almost complete. The brochures have been printed and mailed and several registrations have been returned. The Fire Commission roundtable discussion is scheduled to follow Friday afternoon’s program on “Domestic Terrorism and the Role of the First Responder”. Topics suggested for the roundtable discussion included LOSAPs and the status of H.R. 1792, training facilities, PSAPs and a legislative update on issues affecting Maine’s fire service.

The Training Facilities Committee reported that Maine Maritime Academy has expressed interest in having the Fire Commission support their training facilities program and the proposed funding grant. Fire Commission members discussed sending a letter of support but first suggested a meeting with a MMA representative. Members suggested extending an invitation for the May meeting.

The Best Practices Committee distributed nomination papers for three candidates. The nominees include:

- **University of Maine Campus Marshal program**, nominated by the Orono Fire Department. Student volunteers who assist with fire prevention, fire inspection and fire education related duties on the campus.
- **Northern Oxford Mutual Aid Association (NOMA)**, nominated by Ken Dixon, Andover Fire Department. Developed a warning sticker/label to place on electrical entrance meters to warn of alternate power sources, i.e. generators.
- **Coastal Mutual Aid Chiefs Association**, nominated by Darrell Fournier, Freeport Fire Department. Implementation of a mutual aid agreement for incident command, response by chief officers to assist scenes.

A motion by John Dean, seconded by Charlie Soltan, that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission accept the Best Practices Committee's three Best Practices nominations, and award Best Practices Awards to the three recipients at the 7th Annual Blaine House Conference on March 26th and 27th. The motion passed unanimously.

The Recruitment and Retention Committee reported that the proposed House bill-H.R. 1792- regarding LOSAPs remains in the Labor Committee on Ways and Means. The Committee also reports that Senator Susan Collins has agreed to cosponsor similar legislation in the Senate.

Old Business

The Fire Commission reviewed the current status of several bills of interest to the fire service including LD 1497 *"An Act To Amend the Law Pertaining to Smoke Detectors and Carbon Monoxide Detectors"*, LD 1558 *"An Act Regarding Accidental Death Benefits for Beneficiaries of Deceased Firefighters"* and LD 1700 *"An Act Concerning Statewide Communications Interoperability"*. Fire Commission members had a lengthy discussion regarding PSAPS, the Kimball and OPEGA studies and reports. Members also discussed the Fire Commission's request to the Appropriations Committee and the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission be restored to a line item in the General Budget. Members agreed that an appropriation would not be requested at this time.

News from Members

Fire Commission members discussed the problem of “nuisance alarms”, a situation that occurs with more frequency. Norris, Inc, Northern New England’s leading system integrator providing systems and service, has offered their services to Maine Municipal Association and the Maine Fire Chiefs’ Association, in an attempt to reduce this problem.

MFT&E continues to evaluate candidates for the Administrator position.

With no further business to come before the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, Vice Chair Nass adjourned the meeting at 2:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Pinette

Meeting Schedule and Dates of Interest

<u>Monday, May 3rd</u>	**ANNUAL MEETING	DPS	1:00pm
<u>Monday, June 7th</u>	MEETING	DPS	1:00pm
<u>Monday, July 12th</u>	MEETING	DPS	1:00pm
<u>Monday, August 2nd</u>	MEETING	DPS	1:00pm
<u>Monday, September 13th</u>	MEETING	DPS	1:00pm
<u>Monday, October 4th</u>	MEETING	DPS	1:00pm
<u>Monday, November 1st</u>	MEETING	DPS	1:00pm
<u>Monday, December 6th</u>	MEETING	DPS	1:00pm

**** ANNUAL MEETING- Election of Fire Commission Officers**

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