

**MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
ANNUAL MEETING
May 10, 2010
*(Approved as Amended on June 7, 2010)***

Chair Jeffrey Cammack called the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to order at 1:00 pm in Florian Hall, Department of Public Safety Building, 45 Commerce Drive, Augusta. Members present included John Arsenault, Chief Dan Brooks, Stephen Bunker, Representative Dean Cray, Chief John Dean, Chief Darrel Fournier, Gerry Gay, Ron Green, William Guindon, Representative Michel Lajoie, Geoffrey Maker, Robert McAleer, Alex McPhedran, Senator Richard Nass, Vicki Schmidt, Charles Soltan and Susan Pinette (staff). Members excused included Jay Bradshaw, Alan Hammond, Harty Norris, Senator Joseph Perry and Representative Benjamin Pratt. Walter Morris of Maine Fire Training and Education and William Vickerson, Counsel for the Maine State Federation of Fire Fighters, attended as guests of the Fire Commission.

A motion by Darrel Fournier, seconded by John Arsenault, to accept the March 1, 2010 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

The Fire Commission welcomed Bill Guindon as its newest member. Bill was recently appointed Administrator at Maine Fire Training and Education and replaces Walter Morris as MFT&E's representative on the Fire Commission. The Fire Commission thanks Walter for his service on the Fire Commission.

Committee Reports

According to Fire Commission bylaws 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.*" The Elections Committee members- Chair Gerry Gay, Charlie Soltan and Alex McPhedran- unanimously recommended the following slate of nominees to the Fire Commission.

Chief Jeffrey Cammack- Chair
Representative Michel Lajoie- Vice Chair
Alex McPhedran- Secretary
Chief John Dean- Treasurer

A motion by John Arsenault, seconded by Darrel Fournier, that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission accepts the Elections Committee's slate of officers and nominate Chief Jeffrey Cammack for Chair, Representative Michel Lajoie for Vice Chair, Alex McPhedran for Secretary, and Chief John Dean for Treasurer for one year terms. The motion passed unanimously.

The Spring 2010 Conference Committee earlier distributed the composites of the attendee and exhibitor evaluations from the 2010 Blaine House Conference for Emergency First Responders held at Point Lookout in Northport on March 26th and 27th. Members discussed the results of the composites that were primarily positive. Attendees cited the facility, cabins and Friday's presentations as the highlights. Vendors and attendees stressed that strong speakers were the key to a successful conference. Generally, the Point Lookout location was well received however attendees preferred a weekday conference. Fire Commission members discussed the past practice of moving the conference location around the state and to consider a later conference date as means to attract more attendees. The Committee reported that contract negotiations with Point Lookout resulted in securing costs for 2011 and 2012, at the 2010 rate.

A motion by Alex McPhedran, seconded by Gerry Gay, that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission enter into a contract with Point Lookout Resort and Conference Center and secure the following dates for the 2011 and 2012 Blaine House Conference for Emergency First Responders- April 14, 2011 and April 15, 2011 (Thursday/Friday) and April 12, 2012 and April 13, 2012 (Thursday/Friday). The motion passed unanimously

Fire Commission members discussed the decision to pay for member's conference fees and lodging at this year's Spring Conference. Members are sensitive to the costs and hope to encourage other organizations to meet around the same time. Members are also not compensated for their participation on the Fire Commission and their work on the Spring Conference.

A motion by Gerry Gay, seconded by John Arsenault, that members of the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission will have their conference fees and one night's lodging for the 2011 and 2012 Blaine House Conference for Emergency First Responders paid. The motion passed unanimously.

Members also reviewed the Fire Commission's current financial status and noted several vendor accounts remain unpaid.

The Training Facilities Committee did not meet last month.

The Best Practices Committee reports that two new nominations for Best Practices Awards will be forwarded to Fire Commission members for their consideration.

The Recruitment and Retention Committee updated the Fire Commission on the current status on H.R. 1792. The proposed bill remains in committee, however U.S. Representative Chellie Pingree recently signed on as co-sponsor and U.S. Representative Michael Michaud indicated he supports the bill and is seriously considering co-sponsorship. U.S. Senator Susan Collins has agreed to sponsor the Senate bill that is a companion to H.R. 1792.

Old Business

In April 2010, the Maine Legislature restored the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to a line item in the Maine Budget with an appropriation of \$500.00.

Fire Commission members received updates on the two studies involving Maine PSAPs and dispatch centers. The Legislature's Office of Program Evaluation and Governmental Accountability (OPEGA) reviewed the issues of dispatch centers/PSAPs in Kennebec County, specifically training and dropped calls. Kimball Associates was tasked by the Utilities and Energy Committee (UTE) to review the PSAP system in Maine and make recommendations regarding consolidation and the optimum number. Many issues were raised including dropped calls, blind transfers, adopting protocols, quality of call-taking, incentives for local communities to consolidate, funding of local dispatch centers and PSAPS, E911 surcharge as a funding source, distribution of Homeland Security monies and locating dispatch centers and PSAPS in the same facility. OPEGA and Kimball have submitted their reports and recommendations to the UTE Committee and the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). The Kimball report directed the PUC to develop a plan to reduce the current number of PSAPs (26) to 15 or 17. Fire Commission members agreed to host an informational forum following a short business meeting in June and to invite representatives of the UTE Committee, PUC and Public Safety.

New Business

Fire Commission members discussed the June 8th election and Referendum Question 4- *"Do you favor a \$23,750,000 bond issue to provide capital investment to stimulate economic development and job creation by making investments under the Communities for Maine's Future Program and in historic properties; providing funding for research and development*

investments awarded through a competitive process; providing funds for disbursements to qualifying small businesses; and providing grants for food processing for fishing, agricultural, dairy and lumbering businesses within the State and redevelopment projects at the Brunswick Naval Air Station that will make the State eligible for over \$39,000,000 in federal and other matching funds?" Fire Commission members received a flyer and letter from Southern Maine Community College (SMCC) President James Ortiz encouraging support for Question 4.

A motion by Darrel Fournier, seconded by John Arsenault, that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission support passage of Question 4 on the June 8th referendum ballot. The motion passed unanimously.

News from Members

Fire Commission members received information on the EMS Dispatch Annual Conference and several related courses. The fire instructor dispatch course is scheduled to be taught in August.

MFT&E announced that demand for the Emergency Vehicle Operator Course (EVOC) has increased and will be submitting a grant proposal for a new EVOC trailer. MFT&E also has plans for a virtual academy and is currently updating their website.

Fire Commission members were encouraged to think about sending representatives to Washington D.C to meet with members of the federal delegation. Several members visit as members of the Fire Caucus but suggested that separate visits may be beneficial.

Fire Commission members were informed that the Maine State Federation of Fire Fighters hired an independent fundraising company. Members discussed the issues surrounding phone solicitation and how to handle questions raised by members of the public.

Fire Commission members discussed the recent decision by the Technical Code Board (10-1) to remove the requirement of residential sprinklers from the State Building Code. Members agreed that education was the key to understanding the importance of residential sprinklers. Members also agreed to invite a representative from the State Fire Marshal's Office to the July meeting to discuss this issue.

Fire Commission members were encouraged to sign up to be FEMA Grants peer reviewers in Maryland on June 21st through June 25th.

With no further business to come before the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, Chair Cammack adjourned the meeting at 3:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Pinette

Meeting Schedule and Dates of Interest

<u>Monday, June 7th</u>	MEETING	DPS	1:00pm
<u>Monday, June 7th</u>	DISCUSSION*	DPS	1:30pm+
<u>Monday, July 12th</u>	MEETING	DPS	1:00pm
<u>Monday, July 12th</u>	DISCUSSION**	DPS	1:30pm+
<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

* Discussion on PSAPS/Dispatch Centers

** Discussion on Residential Sprinklers

+ Time Approximate, Follows the Regular Business Meeting

To Be Scheduled:

Tour of the New Hampshire Fire Academy