

MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

June 7, 2010

(Approved on July 12, 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, Jay Bradshaw, Stephen Bunker, Representative Dean Cray, Chief Darrel Fournier, Gerry Gay, Ron Green, William Guindon, Alan Hammond, Representative Michel Lajoie, Michael LaPlante (for David Wacker), Geoffrey Maker, Robert McAleer, Alex McPhedran, Senator Richard Nass, Harty Norris, Vicki Schmidt, Charles Soltan, Joseph Thomas (for Chief John Dean), and Susan Pinette (staff). Members excused included Chief Dan Brooks, Senator Joseph Perry and Representative Benjamin Pratt. Guests attending the meeting included Representative Kenneth Fletcher, ranking House member of the Utilities and Energy Committee; William Vickerson, Counsel for the Maine State Federation of Fire Fighters; Lt. Mark Hathaway and Sgt. John Roach of the Bangor Police Department; Maria Jacques, Director of the Maine Emergency Services Bureau; and Clifford Wells, Director of the Maine Consolidated Communications Bureau.

A motion by Charlie Soltan, seconded by Ron Green, to accept the minutes of the March 25, 2010 roundtable discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion by Alex McPhedran, seconded by Ron Green, to accept the May 10, 2010 meeting minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously. The amended May minutes will reflect the following two changes: on page two, the dates in the second motion have been changed to April 14, 2011 add April 15, 2011 (Thursday/Friday) and April 12, 2012 and April 13, 2012 (Thursday/Friday) and the third motion will add the words ...one night's lodging.

Committee Reports

The Spring 2011 Conference Committee contracted with Point Lookout Resort and Conference Center in Northport for the 2011 and 2012 Blaine House Conferences for Emergency Responders. The dates for 2011 are Thursday and Friday, April 14th and 15th. The 2012 conference will be held on Thursday and Friday, April 12th and 13th.

The Best Practices Committee presented two nominations for Best Practice Awards. Durham Fire and Rescue and Lisbon Fire Department were nominated for their "Biggest Loser" challenge held between May and November 2009. Both departments lost a total of 419 pounds and have continued to promote healthy

lifestyles. The challenge was held in the memory of two former members- James Fournier of the Lisbon FD and retired Chief Donald Brown of Durham Fire and Rescue. The second Best Practice Award nomination was the Hermon Fire Department for their “Firefighter Challenge” which tests the physical ability of their interior firefighters. The Hermon Fire Department built their own course for the challenge and times firefighting skills, wearing full gear and SCBA. The course simulates an actual interior fire rescue. The “Firefighter Challenge” is the initial and annual requirement of being a firefighter in Hermon. Besides promoting healthy lifestyles and competition, Hermon firefighters who score in the top half of the “Firefighter Challenge” receive an additional pay step.

A motion by Darrel Fournier, seconded by John Arsenault, that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission award 2010 Best Practices Awards to Durham Fire and Rescue and Lisbon Fire Department for holding their “Biggest Loser” contest and promoting healthy lifestyles for their members. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion by Darrel Fournier, seconded by John Arsenault, that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission award a 2010 Best Practices Award to Hermon Fire Department for their establishing their “Firefighter Challenge” which tests the physical ability of their interior firefighters and promotes healthy lifestyles for their members. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

The Fire Commission will host a discussion regarding residential sprinklers at the July meeting. Rick McCarthy from the State Fire Marshal’s Office will attend the meeting and update Fire Commission members on the decision by the Maine Technical Code Board to remove the residential sprinkler requirement from the State Building Code. Fire Commission members discussed promoting the benefits of residential sprinklers by sponsoring demonstrations (smoke trailers) at various conferences, including the Maine Municipal Association conference in October.

Fire Commission members decided to cancel the August meeting. The September meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 13th.

A motion by Darrel Fournier, seconded by Ron Green, that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission cancel their August 2nd meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Fire Commission members recently received an email from Southern Maine Community College regarding the Maine Fire Training Strategic Planning Group. The first meeting is scheduled for the end of June. The group's goals are to develop the first working document of the strategic plan for distribution in September 2010. Members also learned the MFT&E plans to consolidate their two campuses into the Brunswick campus by the end of December 2010.

With no further business to come before the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission, Chair Cammack adjourned the meeting at 1:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Pinette

MEETING SCHEDULE AND DATES OF INTEREST

<u>Monday, July 12th</u>	MEETING	DPS	1:00pm
<u>Monday, July 12th</u>	DISCUSSION**	DPS	1:30pm+
<u>Monday, August 2nd</u>	CANCELLED		
Monday, September 6 th	LABOR DAY		
<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 Residential Sprinklers

+ Time Approximate, Follows the Regular Business Meeting

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

MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION
Discussion of PSAPS/Dispatch Centers
Monday, June 7, 2010

Invited Guests

Representative Kenneth Fletcher- Winslow

Maine House of Representatives
Utilities and Energy Committee (Ranking Minority Member)
Joint Select Committee on Maine's Energy Future (Ranking Minority Member)

The Utilities and Energy Committee has jurisdiction over the following:
Energy policy, including energy resources and efficiency; electric industry, including supply, transportation and distribution; natural gas industry; telecommunications industry, including mobile, telephone, Internet and cable television services; E-9-1-1; water and sewer utilities, including district charters; Public Utilities Commission; Office of the Public Advocate; and Energy Resources Council.

Maria Jacques

Director- Emergency Services Communication Bureau
Public Utilities Commission

The Bureau within the Public Utilities Commission authorized to develop, establish and manage the statewide Enhanced 9-1-1 system in Maine, pursuant to 25 M.R.S.A. §2926.

Clifford Wells

Director- Consolidated Communication Bureau
Maine Department of Public Safety

The Consolidated Communications Bureau was created in 2004 for the purpose of providing consolidated emergency communications to state, county and local public safety agencies. The Bureau operates four Regional Communications Centers (RCC) in Augusta, Gray, Orono and Houlton that provide both Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) and emergency dispatch services for police, fire and emergency medical services. The RCCs provide dispatching services for State Police, Maine Warden Service, Maine Drug Enforcement Agency, State Fire Marshals Office, Maine Turnpike Authority, and the Departments of Marine Resources and Environmental Protection. In addition, each of the four Regional Communications Centers provide dispatch services for dozens of fire, rescue, police, and ambulance services across Maine. (from the website)

MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION
Discussion of PSAPS/Dispatch Centers
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Summary of the Comments from the Meeting

Maria Jacques-

- Distributed letter (May 18, 2010) regarding the process to develop 15-17 PSAP plan
- Outlined PUC procedure to submit suggestions, comments- Notice of Inquiry (June –July)
- PUC will issue a proposed PSAP consolidation plan in August. Comments will be accepted.
- Final plan to the legislature November 2010
- “straw man”- throw out suggestions and get comments
- Discussion of whether comments coming from individuals or groups would have more clout

Representative Fletcher-

- Summarized the present situation, distributed an outline “PSAPs Future- What Has Been Learned?”
- Communications are changing- wireless exceeds landlines
- Manner of accessing the emergency services should determine how you contribute
- Design a new system, rather than change the present
- Stressed that how the system works is more important than the final number of PSAPs
- Funding issues- property taxes do not fit, one source funding (telecommunications)

Other comments-

- Use statewide mutual aid as a model
- Suggestion that the Fire Commission host a stakeholder meeting- facilitator, costs, date, location