

**COMMISSION ON FIRE PROTECTION, PERSONNEL,
STANDARDS AND EDUCATION**

Fire Commission Minutes

February 24, 2017

Owensboro, Kentucky

Present:

Joe Baer
Rick Bobo (Proxy for Mike Dossett)
Rick Daugherty
Greg Dearing
Pam Dickens
David Goldsmith
Mike Haney
Scott Lawson
William Lilly
Greg Lowe
Rich Meyer
James Nickell
Dr. Paul Schreffler (Proxy for Dr. Tracy)
Kevin Tyler

Absent:

Theresa Rochetti- Cantrell
Dr. Melahn

Greg Dearing called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm (CT). Ronnie Day said to let the record show that Rick Bobo is attending for Mike Dossett and he does not have voting powers. A moment of silence was held in remembrance of Dr. Melahn's mother.

Joe Baer motion to approve the minutes from December 8, 2016 in Danville, Kentucky. William Lilly seconded. Motion approved.

Rich Meyer motion to amend the agenda and move to the old business with the Ledbetter appeal. Kevin Tyler motion to approve. Pam Dickens seconded. Motion approved. Chief Stringer handed out packets to the Commission

members. Chief Stringer discussed the letter he received from the Fire Commission. Chief Stringer said he was wrongly accused. He knows his timesheets were in question. He said he did not do anything intentionally wrong. Greg Dearing asked does any Commissioner have any questions for Chief Stringer. Kevin Tyler asked are you classified as hourly or salary. Chief Stringer said he is classified as salary. Bruce Roberts said the issue is not his training hours. He had enough training hours. The letter we originally sent out was the wrong letter stating the training hours instead of the hours worked. The issue that we are addressing is hours worked for the year. The law requires that a firefighter work 2080 hours per year to receive incentive pay. Bruce Roberts said Chief Stringer documented that he was working when he was not actually there. Joe Baer said so the Fire Commission has never accused him of falsifying training records. Is that the case? Bruce Roberts said the letter that was originally sent out, was sent out mistakenly saying he did not have his training hours. Bruce said he had his training hours. Chief Stringer said this was published in the minutes and the news media used it to say he falsified training records. Rick Daugherty said looking at your timesheets now, you are saying you work 24 hours a day. Does that mean you were available to make calls for that 24-hour period? Rick Daugherty said from an administrative side as the chief of the department, don't you spend an eight-hour workday at the firehouse working on the administrative side of things outside of your run calls and things like that. That would document your 40 hours a week to get you to your 2080 hours for the year. Chief Stringer said he is at the department all the time. Rich Meyer motion to uphold the findings of the eligibility committee. Greg Lowe seconded. Motion approved. David Goldsmith and Jim Nickell were opposed. Jim Nickell asked can we table this for another month. Can we get some more information? Rich Meyer withdrew his motion. Jim Nickell motion to table this for two months until the full board gets more information concerning this issue. Mike Haney seconded. Rick Daugherty asked were we not provided the information for the request of the money. We determined it has nothing to do with his training hours. Jeremy Rodgers provided enough information to show he did not have the 2080 hours. Jim Nickell said he wants more information on his work hours. Is it salary or hourly? Rick Daugherty said we need to look at Jeremy's audit. If we did something, wrong or misstated in the minutes that needs to be retracted. A statement will need to be done to say we misspoke. Rich Meyer said it has to do with timesheets. The timesheets showed he was working a week when in fact there was other documentation saying he was on a cruise during that week he was working. Rick Daugherty said we need to clear this issue up for him. That is the right thing to do. Motion approved to table this until April. Rich Meyer was opposed. Ronnie Day said that Bruce Roberts and Jeremy Rodgers will be in contact with Chief Stringer.

Greg Dearing thanked Green River for hosting this meeting today.

Loan Committee

Jim Nickell said the loan committee met this morning to consider four loan requests. Masonville Fire Department is requesting \$37,500.00 for a 2017 Ford F-250 truck. Hawesville Fire Department is requesting \$75,000.00 for a 2017 Class A pumper. Kyrock Volunteer Fire Department is requesting \$75,000.00 for a 2017 mini-pumper Ford 550. Kenton County Fire District is requesting \$13,924.50 to upgrade their brush truck and refurbish a 1996 Ford F-250. Rich Meyer motion to approve these loan requests. Scott Lawson seconded. Motion approved.

Eligibility Committee

Greg Lowe said the eligibility committee met on February 16th to consider several issues. The first issue was a Lexington firefighter did not get his required 100 hours for 2016. The committee made a motion to request his incentive pay be returned. That motion was approved by the committee. Warsaw and Gallatin County requested their state aid for 2015. They did not maintain their rosters properly and remove inactive firefighters from the rosters, so they did not meet the requirement of having 50% on their rosters. The committee's recommendation is that both of those departments' requests be denied. The next issue was Campbellsville Fire Department conducting a live burn without prior approval. Greg Lowe said it is the committee's recommendation that state aid not be held for no longer than five years. The departments will need to spend it or return it.

Greg Lowe said the committee took a considerable amount of time to discuss a letter from the Kenton County Fire Chief's Association on a number of issues regarding live fire training. The first issue was the requirement for 2000 gallons of water to be maintained at the training site. The committee recommends that this requirement not be lessened. The next request was that instructors be given latitude to allow PPE to be used that is over the 10-year age limit. Their justification was that this was not a NFPA 1403 requirement. It is however an NFPA 1851 requirement. The committee recommends that any PPE that is over 10 years old not be allowed to be used in a live fire burn. The next issue was picture taking. The committee's recommendation is that if it is State Fire Rescue Training, then state policies must be adhered to which does not allow picture taking. If it is internal department training, then the department rules take precedence. In both cases, no civilian photographers are to be allowed. No reporters, etc... In the

letter, they commented on BLS. There was no particular issue there. They agreed a BLS kit and AED be accessible on site. In the letter they sent, the requirement for 95 gallons, they felt was not enough and that it should be raised to 150 gallons per minute. It is the committee's recommendation that not be changed from the 95 GPM, however if a department wants to increase the GPM they can. They cannot go less than 95 GPM. There was a comment in the letter concerning selective enforcement of violations. The committee urges anybody to report violations of the 1403 guidelines. We will take this under advisement and investigate and take appropriate action afterwards. Bruce Roberts said on the state aid, that is a recommendation. The KAR has not been done yet. Our attorney is working on it. Greg Lowe motion to request incentive pay back from Lexington Fire Department for the firefighter who did not get his 100 hours training in for 2016. Rich Meyer seconded. Motion approved. Greg Lowe motion to deny the state aid request for 2015 for Warsaw and Gallatin County Fire Departments because they failed to maintain their rosters and the accountability of their personnel. Scott Lawson seconded. Motion approved. Bruce Roberts said the issue with Campbellsville is still under investigation.

David Goldsmith said he is not happy with the letter from Kenton County being mentioned during the eligibility meeting because it was brought to the education committee at the workshop in January. David said he wasn't aware that this was going to be discussed at the eligibility committee meeting. Rick Daugherty asked how did this get moved from the education committee to the eligibility committee. Rich Meyer motion to revert the Kenton County letter back to the Education Committee. Greg Dearing said we are going to give this back to the Education Committee and it has to be ready in April. David Goldsmith seconded. Motion approved. Michael Kurtsinger handed out information on the KAR they are working on for state aid.

Training Facility Committee

Bill Lilly said the training facility committee met this morning to discuss two issues. Garrard County Fire Department received \$3,000.00 for a multipurpose building. There has been no activity on the building and they have not spent this money. Versailles Fire Department was awarded \$121,000.00. They have not spent this money. The committee recommends requesting money back from both of these fire departments. Rick Daugherty motion to request the training facility grant money back from both of these departments. Rich Meyer seconded. Motion approved. Bill Lilly said the training facility grant applications for 2017 have been sent out. They are due back in the office by June 30, 2017.

Education Committee

David Goldsmith said the education committee met this morning. We had a presentation by Mr. Ron Boyd on a lesson plan he wants us to approve. It was a plan that the committee felt didn't need to be on the state's approved curriculum. We do not oppose him reaching out to departments to teach this class, but the committee decided this is not a lesson plan we want to put on our approved curriculum list.

Finance Committee

Joe Baer said the finance committee met on January 26, 2017 in Lexington, Kentucky. A motion was made to increase the cost for IFSAC testing from \$15.00 to \$25.00 per test. Joe Baer motion to increase the IFSAC testing cost to \$25.00 starting on July 1, 2017. Jim Nickell seconded. Motion approved.

Joe Baer said the finance committee approved funding up to \$100,000.00 for the World Combat Challenge. Joe Baer motion to approve. Bill Lilly seconded. Motion approved.

Health and Wellness Committee

Rick Daugherty said the health and wellness committee met this morning. The committee discussed the extractors and which areas they have been installed. Areas 5 and 9 are still being worked on. Area 7 does not have an extractor in place yet. We are going to look at a temporary site in Area 7 until the building is completed.

The health and wellness committee discussed the World Combat Challenge. It will be held in Louisville at the Marriott East from October 23 through the 28th. Bruce Roberts and a couple of people met with Dr. Davis to go over everything. They met with Jeffersontown's chief and they are on board. The contract was talked about and some points were discussed. The contract is currently being drawn up. Rick said we need to get a committee set up to start working on the different particulars for the World Combat Challenge.

Rick Daugherty said it appears that we have been taking back a significant amount of exercise equipment because fire departments are not using it. The finance committee recommended setting aside \$50,000.00 for purchasing equipment on an as needed basis.

Legislative Committee

Michael Kurtsinger said House Bill 60 and Senate Bill 31 which is the language that locks in incentive pay and state aid increases passed both chambers with unanimous votes. Michael Kurtsinger said either the senate leadership or the house leadership has to make the final decision and then it will go to the governor to be signed. Michael Kurtsinger said there has been 793 bills dropped in so far this year. Michael Kurtsinger talked about SB 60, HB 31, HB 15, SB 104, HB 80, HB 96, HB 188 and HB 90. Michael Kurtsinger said there are several people in Frankfort who are lobbying with him. He said he couldn't get it done by himself. Everyone needs to help and get in contact with their legislators.

Fire Marshal's Office

None.

Emergency Management

Rick Bobo passed out a handout to the Commission to update them on things that Emergency Management has been working on. Rick said FEMA is working with Emergency Management on the new Madrid seismic zone area. Rick said everyone is looking forward to the Eclipse on August 21st in Western Kentucky. Every hotel is booked. Ronnie Day said they had a conference call on this yesterday. Japan is sending 100 scientists and the United Kingdom is sending 25 scientists.

Kentucky Firefighter's Association

None.

Kentucky Association of Fire Chiefs

None.

Kentucky Professional Firefighters Association

Joe Baer said their KPFA convention will be held in Owensboro on May 15th through the 17th.

KBEMS

Mike Poynter said we feel like we are in a good position with SB 98. KBEMS had over 1,000,000 EMS calls 2016. Mike said they hired a data coordinator in December of last year. She is working on reports for them.

Old Business

Michael Kurtsinger said we have an election committee according to our by-laws that will count these ballots. Michael Kurtsinger, Ronnie Day, Therese Cheney, Pam Dickens and Jim Nickell is on the election committee. Ronnie Day said he received letters from Scott Lawson and Joe Baer for Vice Chairman. Ronnie Day received letters from Greg Lowe and Greg Dearing for the Chairman position. Ronnie Day said the secretary position was unopposed. We will cast one vote for secretary, which will be for Rich Meyer. After the break, Ronnie Day said all of the votes had been tallied up. Rich Meyer is the secretary treasurer. Joe Baer is the vice-chairman. Greg Dearing is the chairman of the Fire Commission Board.

New Business

Michael Kurtsinger said the National Fire Caucus will be in Washington D.C. on April 5th through the 7th. Ronnie Day said we need to look at changing the date of the Fire Commission meeting in April. It was scheduled for the same date as the Fire Caucus. Joe Baer motion to change the Commission meeting date to April 13, 2017 in Mercer County. Pam Dickens seconded. Motion approved.

Tiger Robinson passed out information on the mileage that our instructors are traveling each month per Area. Tiger said we have three new forcible entry props. They have been delivered. We have purchased 15 new thermal imaging cameras. Three pump simulators are on order. We have bids out right now for the flashover simulator. Tiger said the smoke maze trailer is being bidded out. The class A pumper for training is out to bid. We are working right now with a couple of vendors for the trailer wraps. Tiger said we are looking for building space for Areas 6 and 13.

Ronnie Day said the KFA Conference will be held in Ashland this year. If you are planning on going, please contact Therese Cheney immediately. Chris Crawford said last year we received \$131,000.00 from the training facility grants. Chris

passed out pictures of their training tower. Chris thanked the Fire Commission for the grant money.

Greg Lowe said Fire Truck Exhibit has become a priority. We hope to have it finished by late summer at the latest.

Joe Baer said they have been receiving a lot of phone calls and emails regarding SB 226 concerning pension. We have done some research on this. Joe said if you have any questions on this; please get with us after the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 2:29 pm (CT).