

# **KENTUCKY FIRE COMMISSION**

## **Virtual Fire Commission Meeting**

### **Minutes**

**February 26, 2021**

**Paris, Kentucky**

#### **Present:**

Dr. Fadi  
Joe Choate  
Mike Haney  
Josh Keats  
Tamela Kerr  
Ricky King  
Scott Lawson  
Lonnie Madden  
Michael Mosbey  
Andrew Scott  
Dwane Smeathers  
Lloyd Stone  
Mike Sutt

#### **Absent:**

Dustin Isaacs

#### **Ex Officio Member Present:**

Wendell Followell

#### **Board Advisors Present:**

Joe Baer  
John Beatsch  
Jason Colson

Scott Lawson called the meeting to order at 2:16 pm (EST). Dwane Smeathers motion to approve the minutes from December 10, 2020 in Paris Kentucky. Ricky King seconded. Motion approved.

#### **Comments from the Chair**

Bruce Roberts said that Howdy Kurtsinger is retiring on March 31, 2021. Bruce said they put a proclamation together for Howdy. Bruce read the proclamation to the Commission Board. Howdy said he stayed as long as he did because he loves the fire service. He said he thinks it is time for him to retire. He will be here later to answer questions for the legislative report. Everyone thanked Howdy for his service.

### **Training Facility Committee**

Ricky King said the Training Facility committee met at 1:30 pm (EST) today. The Training Facility grants that have already been awarded will be extended to June 2021. We will look at the grants then and see if we need to do another extension. Ricky said we discussed the new Training Facility Grant applications that will be going out April 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Eligibility Committee**

Dwane Smeathers said the Eligibility Committee met today. Dwane motion to approve the thermal imaging cameras for 104 fire departments. Andrew Scott seconded. Motion approved.

Dwane Smeathers said there are several fire departments who are non-compliant on their Financial Disclosure paperwork. Dwane motion to take away all benefits from these departments except for Worker's Compensation coverage until they become compliant. This includes state aid, training from SFRT, thermal imaging cameras, training facility grants, etc... Lonnie Madden seconded. Motion approved.

Dwane Smeathers said there are close to 150 fire departments who have not sent in their State Aid paperwork. Dwane said we asked Bruce to get a list of these departments together and send to the Commission. We will have the Area Coordinators reach out to these departments concerning their State Aid.

Dwane Smeathers said there has been an embezzlement complaint against the former fire chief of Upper Cloverfork Fire Department. Dwane said the Fire Department has reorganized and changed their name to the Cloverfork Fire Department. They have no funds to operate with. Dwane Smeathers motion to

approve Cloverfork Fire Department's state aid for 2020. Ricky King seconded. Motion approved.

Michael Kurtsinger said that Scott Lawson needs to appoint an election committee. Scott Lawson appointed Howdy Kurtsinger, Mary Adams and Mike Sutt to the election committee. John Wood said the election needs to be moved under old business.

### **State Fire Rescue Training**

Marc Rudder said that SFRT has trained 357 fire departments or about 46% of the departments as of January 31, 2021. Marc said we are offering classes in person and virtually. Marc said their accredited certification testing is underway right now. They are working on scheduling practical skills sessions. Marc said the skills sessions is limited, so please register early.

Jeremy Rodgers said the NFPA 1041 standard has changed. They are working on updating the accredited certification and the KAR. Jeremy said that he, Marc Rudder, Bruce Roberts, Brian Steel and Eric Bach started going through the KAR looking at the high points that needed to be adjusted or updated. Jeremy discussed the accepted methodology courses. Jeremy said they have a couple of other courses that they are looking at. They are looking at a course on the EMS side. Jeremy said an education degree can be accepted if the degree is from higher education. Jeremy said currently the regulation says that a firefighter must be certified for two years for Fire Instructor I. They have changed this to being certified for one year. Jeremy said with the Fire Instructor II they kept that a firefighter must be a certified level I instructor for two years. Jeremy discussed the live fire instructor requirements. Marc Rudder said they do have a sunset clause on the live fire instructor in charge. Jeremy said if you have any questions please call me or Marc Rudder.

### **Fire Marshal's Office**

Mike Haney said that the Fire Marshal's Office has been busy working on their KAR's. They are working on adopting a life safety code and their fire prevention code. Mike said they finished their fourth virtual class for the inspector I. Mike said they are working on developing their inspector II class. They are working on remote testing for underground storage tank installers and removers.

## **Kentucky Office of Homeland Security**

Josh Keats said they will be receiving a lot of applications for grants related to terrorism. Josh said if you see anything suspicious please let them know.

## **Kentucky Firefighter's Association**

John Beatsch said they will have their Spring E-Board meeting tomorrow in Owensboro. It will be a virtual meeting. John said at this meeting we are going to discuss this year's State Fire School and try to decide if it is feasible for the KFA to support that. John said his expectation is that we will have the KFA convention this year in August at Southgate.

## **Kentucky Association of Fire Chief's**

Jason Colson thanked the Kentucky Fire Commission for funding the grants to help support the fire service. Jason thanked Howdy for his dedication to the Commission. Jason said they have their Board meeting scheduled for March 17<sup>th</sup>. It is the intent of the KAFC to hold their conference on August 23<sup>rd</sup> through the 25<sup>th</sup> in Bowling Green.

## **Kentucky Professional Firefighter's Association**

Joe Baer said they are spending the majority of their time in Frankfort right now. There are a number of bills that is starting to move. Joe said they are working on the final preparations of their 2021 convention as well. The convention will be held May 17<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup> in Frankfort. Joe Baer congratulated Howdy Kurtsinger on his retirement.

## **KBEMS**

None.

## **Old Business**

Scott Lawson said he is going to turn the meeting over to Michael (Howdy) Kurtsinger and the election committee. Howdy said since we have one person running for Chairman and one person running for Secretary, we can take a motion from the Commission on each position and vote. Dwane Smeathers motion to elect

Ricky King as Chairman of the Fire Commission Board. Andrew Scott seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Lloyd Stone motion to elect Lonnie Madden as the Secretary of the Fire Commission Board. Ricky King seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Howdy Kurtsinger said that Andrew Scott and Scott Lawson are both running for the Vice-Chairman position. We will have to do a roll call of each Commission member and who they voted for.

### **Commission Member Voting**

### **Voted For**

Dr. Fadi	Andrew Scott
Joe Choate	Scott Lawson
Mike Haney	Andrew Scott
Josh Keats	Andrew Scott
Tamela Kerr	Scott Lawson
Ricky King	Andrew Scott
Scott Lawson	Scott Lawson
Lonnie Madden	Andrew Scott
Michael Mosbey	Andrew Scott
Andrew Scott	Andrew Scott
Dwane Smeathers	Andrew Scott
Lloyd Stone	Andrew Scott
Michael Sutt	Andrew Scott

Howdy Kurtsinger said that Andrew Scott has been elected as the Vice-Chairman of the Fire Commission Board.

### **New Business**

### **Legislative Report**

Howdy Kurtsinger said we have never seen a session like this due to COVID 19. Howdy said trying to get in and out of the capital to meet Legislators is near impossible. The only way to get in is to make an appointment. If you are not on Twitter, Facebook and by email, then it very hard to meet with the Legislators. Howdy said there has been over 1077 bills introduced so far. Howdy discussed

House Bills 44 and 475. Michael Mosbey asked has House Bill 368 moved at all. Howdy said it has not moved.

Ricky King said the 2021 meeting dates are as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
Feb 26, 2021	1:00 pm (CST)	Owensboro, KY
April 22, 2021	1:00 pm (EST)	Paris, KY
June 17, 2021	1:00 pm (EST)	Paris, KY
August 7, 2021	2:00 pm (EST)	Southgate
October 14, 2021	1:00 pm (CST)	NRPC
December 16, 2021	1:00 pm (CST)	Hart County, KY

John Wood said just a reminder that if you have to miss a regular meeting, please get permission from the Chairman to be absent. There is a whole process in the By-Laws that states that if a member misses three regular meetings, they could be taken off of the Board. Andrew Scott motion to approve these dates. Dwane Smeathers seconded. Motion approved.

### **Capital Projects**

Larry Potter said that he, Marc Rudder and Marc Henderson have been meeting continuously on NRPC. Larry said maybe we will start construction on NRPC in July and be finished within a year or so.

Larry Potter said we have been asked by KCTCS to do a six-year capital project. All this week we have been across the state talking to the Area Coordinators and trying to get input on projects. Larry said we need to keep our facilities and apparatuses up. Larry said we have done everything that we need to do with our building here in Paris. We put in new lighting and heaters in the bay area. Larry said we have had CPAT here and it went well.

Ricky King thanked Scott Lawson for everything that he has done for the Commission when he was the Chairman.

### **Correspondence**

Green River Firefighter's Association President Lee Williams thanked the Fire Commission for their support. President Williams said that classes started this

morning. He congratulated Howdy Kurtsinger on his retirement and continued support of the fire service.

**Announcements from the Audience**

None.

Dwane Smeathers motion to adjourn. Andrew Scott seconded. Meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm (EST).