

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

Fire Commission Minutes

April 13, 2017

Louisville, Kentucky

Present:

Joe Baer
Rick Bobo (Proxy for Mike Dossett)
Theresa Rochetti- Cantrell
Greg Dearing
Pam Dickens
David Goldsmith
Mike Haney
Scott Lawson
William Lilly
Dr. Melahn
Rich Meyer
James Nickell
Kevin Tyler

Absent:

Dr. Tracy
Rick Daugherty

Greg Dearing called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Kevin Tyler motion to approve the minutes from February 24, 2017 in Owensboro, Kentucky. Pam Dickens seconded. Motion approved. Greg Dearing thanked David Goldsmith, Jim Sebastian and all of the board members from the Regional Fire Training Academy for hosting this meeting. Greg said he would like to report that we have agreed in terms to lease this facility to bring SFRT Area 6 here.

Greg Dearing said Christian Lewis and Donna Shelton from Worker's Compensation are here to talk about the Junior Firefighter Program and Worker's Compensation. Greg said the junior firefighter program is the best recruitment and retention program the Fire Commission has. Ronnie Day said when we suspended the junior firefighter program; the decision to suspend this program was made in

the office. Worker's Comp didn't have anything to do with that. Christian Lewis said they are going through an audit and was asked what the junior firefighter program was. Their legal services took a look at it and said having junior firefighters in this program is technically in violation of statute. We had to put the brakes on this and figure out what was going on. Christian said in the blue folders that was passed out to the commission members, there is some overall information on worker's compensation for the Fire Commission and volunteer firefighters and how it compares to the rest of state government. Christian Lewis said fiscal year 2016 dropped significantly. Don't take that as necessarily a better year. It takes these worker's comp claims a while to age. As the claim gets older, those expenses go up. When we come back in a couple of years, 2016 will have a much higher number than what is showing now. Christian said they are going to come back at a later date and give a more in depth presentation regarding your workers comp. Christian Lewis said the Fire Commission has had 30 total junior firefighter worker's comp claims since 2007. There currently is four claims open. In calculating the premium by looking at the current biennium, it will be \$8,560.04. That being said this year, we had one very serious claim that could cause the premium to easily increase to between \$77,000.00 and \$182,000.00 next year. That is based upon that one catastrophic injury. We are an at cost program. There is no profit margin on our behalf. Premiums rise and fall based upon what you have had in the past biennium. Christian said in talking to the auditors and legal services, the way we think to keep the junior volunteer firefighters covered is for the Commission to set them apart as a separate program, authorize the expenditure for their workers compensation insurance and then for Ronnie Day to fill out the application to include them in the program as a separate group apart from the volunteer firefighters. Since they were calculated into the billing for this biennium, it won't change the billing to the Fire Commission at all. In the next biennium, they will be billed as a separate group from the volunteer firefighters and their workers comp. David Goldsmith motion to approve making the junior firefighter program as a stand-alone program and to fund the premiums as it is today. Jim Nickell seconded. Motion approved.

Greg Dearing said in your folders is a list of the new committees and the new chairman. I want everyone to take a look at who's chairing what committee and which people are on your committee. Greg said he wants to know when a committee meeting has been scheduled. When a chairman comes to a Commission meeting, he wants them to be prepared with whatever the outcome of their committee is. Greg Dearing said he is not going to take anything and bring before the commission that hasn't been heard in committee. Greg Dearing said he has set

up a task force for NRPC. We have fifteen to twenty people on the task force. Greg said this task force is going to start meeting on May 11th at NRPC.

Loan Committee

Jim Nickell said the loan committee met this morning to look at five new applications. Bush Fire Department is requesting \$75,000.00 for a 2016 Ahrens-Fox Apparatus. Jim Nickell motion to approve. Rich Meyer seconded. Motion approved.

Gulnare Fire Department is requesting \$12,179.00 to replace a tank and DOT emergency lights. Dr. Melahn motion to approve. David Goldsmith seconded. Motion approved.

Lincoln Volunteer Fire Department is requesting \$75,000.00 for a 2017 Kenworth T-370 3000 Gallon pumper/ tanker. Jim Nickell motion to approve. Pam Dickens seconded. Motion approved.

Melbourne Fire Department is requesting \$75,000.00 for a 2017 E-One Typhoon Custom Chassis/ Rescue Pumper with accessories. Jim Nickell motion to approve. Pam Dickens seconded. Motion approved.

Ruddles Mill Fire Department is requesting \$9,750.00 for removing old insulation and replacing with 2” closed foam. Jim Nickell motion to approve. Bill Lilly seconded. Motion approved.

Blaine Fire Department was previously approved for a loan. They are requesting a six-month extension to their application and to add \$10,000.00 because of the increase and the amount it is going to cost to add to their building. Jim Nickell motion to approve. Rich Meyer seconded. Motion approved.

Eligibility Committee

Greg Dearing said he was asked why the education and eligibility committee has been separated into two committees. We were instructed by IFSAC to separate education side of training and the discipline side of training.

Rich Meyer said the eligibility committee met this morning and was presented an investigative report from Jeremy Rodgers concerning Campbellsville Fire Department for violations of lack of submission of the Fire Commission required

paperwork to conduct a live fire training and for allowing a non-firefighting member to participate in the live fire exercise. Rich said there are pictures of the live burn if anyone wants to see them. Rich Meyer motion to suspend the two lead instructors, instructor status for six months and have them retake the 1403 class. Kevin Tyler seconded. David Goldsmith asked is that everybody or one individual. Rich Meyer said it was the two lead instructors who was involved in the live burn. David Goldsmith asked how will we know two to three years later who these instructors are if they are not in the minutes. Fire Commission Legal Counsel Angela Evans said the individuals involved shall be anonymous. If this is technically a discipline, they are entitled to a hearing. Kevin Tyler said we are going to notify them that there will be a hearing. Ronnie asked when this group arrives for a hearing, do we go into executive session with the full Commission or is it an open body meeting. Angela Evans said it should be an open meeting. Rich Meyer withdrew his motion. Kevin Tyler seconded. Motion approved. Ronnie Day said we need to send them a notification of the hearing date. Rich Meyer motion to notify Campbellsville Fire Department that there will be a hearing on the investigation of their live fire burn at our next Fire Commission meeting in June. Kevin Tyler seconded. Motion approved.

Education Committee

David Goldsmith said we received a letter dated December 5, 2016 from the Kenton County Fire Chief's Association. David Goldsmith motion to have Bruce Roberts send them a letter stating that all of these items that they have addressed will remain in place. Pam Dickens seconded. Motion approved.

Training Facility Committee

Bill Lilly said the deadline for Training Facility Grants is April 17th. So far, we have received 18 applications.

Finance Committee

Greg Dearing said the finance committee met on March 28th. Ronnie Day said Area 6 will be moving to the Kentucky Regional Fire Training Academy on May 1st. Marc Rudder said Chris Brummett, Tiger Robinson and himself have worked on a lease for Area 13. The building will be big enough to house CPAT. Marc Rudder said the Area 7 building should be completed in October. Greg Dearing said we are going to meet on April 25th to set our budget for the next biennium at 9:00 a.m.

Health and Wellness

None.

Legislative Committee

Michael (Howdy) Kurtsinger said the legislative session didn't go as well as we expected this year. Howdy said the incentive and state aid bill wasn't passed. At the last minute, an amendment was added so that Fish and Wildlife would be part of this bill. The bill died the last day of the session. Howdy said we have been told there will be a special session on pension and tax reform. Both of those could have drastic impacts on our firefighters. We need to get across that our jobs are dangerous. Joe Baer said there was a worker's comp bill filed early in the session. This bill was killed on the last day of the session.

Fire Marshal's Office

Mike Haney said they have two of their employees who will be retiring soon. Mike thanked Howdy and our lobbyists for everything they have done in Frankfort.

Emergency Management

None.

Kentucky Firefighter's Association

None.

Kentucky Association of Fire Chiefs

None.

Kentucky Professional Firefighters Association

Joe Baer said they are getting ready for their convention on May 15th through the 17th in Owensboro.

KBEMS

None.

Old Business

Bruce Roberts said we need to address the issue with Ledbetter Fire Department. Bruce said there was a motion that was made in Owensboro on October 13, 2016 stating that Mr. Stringer had falsified his training hours. The issue wasn't with his training hours. It was with his hours worked. Rich Meyer motion to withdraw the motion from October 13, 2016 in Owensboro, Kentucky concerning Ledbetter Fire Departments training hours. Kevin Tyler seconded. Motion approved.

Rich Meyer motion to send a letter to the Ledbetter Fire Department requesting two years of incentive and pension pay because Chief Terry Stringer did not meet the 2080 hours per year that is required to receive incentive pay. Bill Lilly seconded. Jim Nickell said he interviewed Terry Stringer. Jim said he interviewed three fire district board members and the county attorney. He found out that Mr. Stringer takes care of two firehouses. He was hired under a contract of \$2,000.00 a month. He was not required to hand in timesheets. The fire district members all agreed he was at the departments on the weekends. The allegations came from the treasurer who filled out his timesheets. Jim Nickell said it is his opinion that the treasurer and another person who ran against the chief for magistrate and lost was using the Fire Commission for their purpose. Greg Dearing said we have a motion and second for not meeting the 2080 required hours per year for incentive pay. Some commission members voted aye. The rest voted no. This motion was defeated.

Correspondence

Ronnie Day said State Fire School is June 7th through the 11th in Lexington, Kentucky. The KFA Conference will be held July 28th through August 2nd in Ashland, Kentucky. The next Fire Commission meeting will be June 15th in Bardstown, Kentucky.

Announcements from the Audience

None.

Meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m.