

**KENTUCKY FIRE COMMISSION**

Virtual Fire Commission Meeting

Minutes

August 12, 2020

Lexington, Kentucky

**Present:**

Joe Choate  
Mike Haney  
Dustin Isaacs  
Josh Keats  
Ricky King  
Scott Lawson  
Lonnie Madden  
Michael Mosbey  
Andrew Scott  
Dwane Smeathers

**Absent:**

Dr. Fadi Akhrass  
Tamela Kerr  
Lloyd Stone

**Board Advisors Present:**

Joe Baer  
John Beatsch

**Ex Officio Member:**

**Present:**

Wendell Followell

Scott Lawson called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Andrew Scott motion to approve the minutes from June 11, 2020. Dustin Isaacs seconded. Motion approved. Scott Lawson thanked everyone for being online today. He is sorry that we cannot be together.

## **Eligibility Committee**

Scott Lawson said he is going to remove himself from voting on the Eligibility Committee because his volunteer fire department is on the agenda. Lonnie Madden will move forward as the Chairman for this committee. Duane Smeathers said the Eligibility Committee met on July 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss several different topics. The first topic was concerning Lebanon Fire Department. There were complaints from Joe Strong that was emailed to the Fire Commission concerning Lebanon Fire Department. One was for their financial status with State Aid. The second complaint was concerning duplicate records in the Fire Training System. The third complaint was the falsification of training records. Dwane Smeathers said we asked Lebanon Fire Department to come in and present their information. Joe Strong presented information on his complaints with Lebanon Fire Department. He said he looked at his own training records and had extra hours. Trey Abell presented his information to the Eligibility Committee. He said if his name was on the roster, he stands by what they had done. Scott Lawson presented his information to the committee. Gary Wilkerson presented his information to the committee. He said he had seen where his initials had been put down for classes that he had not taken. Chief Coyle was present. He said he is only using the KFS-1A form for training. Dwane Smeathers said we did have a discussion and there was a list of trainings that showed some type of discrepancy. We would like to remove those hours from the Fire Training System. Duane said these hours are for 2017, 2018 and 2019. These hours should not affect their state aid or incentive pay. Ricky King motion to remove these hours. Dustin Isaacs seconded. Motion approved. Scott Lawson abstained from voting.

Dwane Smeathers said Paducah Fire Department had members take a Driver Operator Aerial Apparatus certification exam which was conducted at NRPC. They had six individuals there that had attended a pumper class. Their IFSAC paperwork had not been completed at first. Some of the firefighters who was taking this exam said they did not take the class that goes along with this exam. Paducah's Training Officer Ronnie Rathman had sent a letter to Marc Henderson stating that these firefighters had taken the class. Jeremy Rodgers said these firefighters were competent in the skills and passed the test. Dwane Smeathers said Chief Kyle was the meeting virtually and was apologetic concerning this. Dwane said he would like to see a motion made that after these students complete the class and pass the written exam, that they be awarded this IFSAC certification. Lonnie Madden turned the meeting back over to Scott Lawson. Dustin Isaacs motion to approve. Ricky King seconded. Motion approved. Dwane said Chief Kyle is going to handle

this situation with an internal disciplinary action. Dwane said Marc Rudder is working on updating the information on IFSAC on the website.

Dwane Smeathers said that Beaver Dam Fire Department is requesting incentive pay for their new paid fire chief. Mike Haney motion to approve. Lonnie Madden seconded. Motion approved.

Dwane Smeathers said that Bruce Roberts would like to move the training date from December 31<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> for volunteer fire departments and to change KAR 739 2.050. Lonnie Madden motion to approve. Dustin Isaacs seconded. Motion approved. Dwane said that Bruce Roberts has asked that the training for the volunteer departments be extended for six months due to Covid 19. Ricky King motion to approve. Dustin Isaacs seconded. Mike Haney asked will this go against a KRS or KAR? Dwane Smeathers said this will coincide with the changing of the KAR. Bruce said even if we cannot change the KAR yet, he would request an extension on training because of Covid 19. Motion approved.

Bruce Roberts told Chief Mosbey that they are looking at doing something to help the career firefighters also. Bruce said he needs to get with the Eligibility Committee to figure out what we are going to do before the next Commission Meeting.

Dwane Smeathers said that in the new Acadis (KyFIRES) program, there is no place for instructor numbers. Jeremy Rodgers is requesting that we do away with the instructor numbers and go by name only. Mike Haney motion to approve. Ricky King seconded. Jeremy said we will still credential the instructors. Motion approved.

Bruce Roberts said he has contacted the widow of a forestry firefighter who passed away and it was a Line of Duty Death. Bruce said he is waiting for all the medical records and paperwork to be sent back to him. After he receives the paperwork, he will let the Commission know and we will go from there.

### **State Fire Rescue Training**

Marc Rudder said FY 2020 concluded on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Through classroom and virtual training SFRT has reached 703 fire departments for a total of 90.13%. This number is up from previous years where we were at the mid 80% range. Marc said this year due to possible budgets cuts; we will not be offering the additional 10 hours of training. Marc Rudder said in April 2020, we started teaching classes virtually.

Marc said in the months of April, May, and June, SFRT taught 788 classes virtually. Based upon the success of the virtual training, we would like to continue to offer virtual classes in the future. Marc said we have taken delivery of the Max Firebox Phase 2. This is a fire behavior and fire dynamics prop. Marc said we are working on an update for NFPA 1041 for Fire Instructor I and II with an anticipated change over on October 1<sup>st</sup>. This means if a candidate has passed the written or skills test, but not both, they will have until October 1<sup>st</sup> to complete their testing or they will have to take a new class. Marc said our Office has the receive the initial accreditation for NFPA 1031 Fire Inspector I.

Scott Lawson asked are we going to continue the virtual training through SFRT. Marc said there was a letter sent to all the Commission members concerning this. Marc read the letter in the meeting which states:

**As a result of the current Covid 19 pandemic, many changes from normal have occurred. When face to face firefighter training ceased in March 2020, we began to determine what options were available to ensure the fire service was able to continue receiving valuable training.**

**After discussion, evaluation of the options, and a few trial classes, Executive Director Larry Potter issued a procedure for the Kentucky Fire Service. This procedure allowed for training to continue without requiring face to face meetings. Virtual Instructor Led Training (VILT) was allowed in the Commonwealth of Kentucky for entry into the training records system beginning on April 10, 2020 and is still in effect as long as the State of Emergency issued by Governor Andy Beshear continues.**

**The following guidelines are required for VILT to be accepted by the Kentucky Fire Commission:**

- **All classes/trainings shall be instructor led.**
- **All classes/trainings shall have a proctor/monitor, not required but preferred to be an instructor especially in large classes, to ensure student participation.**
- **All classes/trainings shall be by virtual platform which allows for an individual video viewing of each attendee.**
- **All classes/trainings shall have a roster completed.**

- **The proctor/monitor shall be responsible to complete a check of the roster to attendees at a minimum during the mid-point and at the conclusion of the class to ensure continued participation throughout the class.**
- **All curriculum requirements shall be adhered to.**
- **It is recommended that visual aides be utilized during the virtual training sessions including but not limited to PowerPoint, pictures, videos, and other documents approved and provided by curriculum and product manufactures.**
- **The classes shall be considered classroom learning, not online, when the VILT platform is utilized. This will allow the VILT classes to be entered for initial certification.**

**As this has proven to be a successful way of providing instruction to the fire service, when in person sessions are not available, it is recommended that the Kentucky Fire Commission approve Virtual Instructor Led Training (VILT) as an acceptable way of classroom delivery.**

Ricky King motion to approve to approve the Virtual Instructor Led Training (VILT). Dwane Smeathers seconded. Motion approved.

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

Mike Haney discussed the storm shelters for fire departments. Mike said this is for new constructed fire departments, not anything that is already existing. The purpose is to protect the first responders and the equipment. Lonnie said the problem is there are times that no one is at the department. If there is a storm shelter, then the public will try to get in when there may not be anyone there. Mike Haney said it not defined as a community shelter. Dustin Isaacs said this is another hurdle for a department to go through. Scott told Mike Haney that he has our support.

### **Homeland Security**

Josh Keats said like everyone else they are adjusting to being remote due to Covid 19. Josh said they are dealing with more right now due to the protests and civil unrest activities. They are assisting with the Department of Public Health with the Covid testing, etc....

### **Kentucky Firefighters Association**

John Beatsch said the KFA did hold a meeting a couple of weeks ago at the Fire Commission Office. At this meeting, the KFA recommended that the Firefighter Memorial in Frankfort be cancelled this year. We will honor the LODD's at next year's memorial.

### **Kentucky Association of Fire Chiefs**

None.

### **Kentucky Professional Firefighters Association**

Joe Baer said we are trying to assist our members and their departments. Joe said he appreciates everything that everyone is doing and to stay safe.

### **KBEMS**

Mike Poynter said their emergency regulations are still in place. Mike said they had over 1600 first responders to come back online to help with the pandemic. Mike said they are looking at a potential move and options for themselves or possibly keeping the same office location but cutting it in half and using half of the building.

### **Old Business**

Bruce Roberts said that Larry Potter received an email from Dr. Fadi concerning the LODD of Johnny Jacobs. He was with Georgetown Fire Department and was 44 years old when he passed away from lung disease. Bruce said Mr. Jacobs was a lifelong non-smoker. He had completed 5 years or more as a firefighter of a department. Dr. Fadi said in the email that he believes Johnny Jacobs is entitled to full LODD benefits. Lonnie Madden motion to approve. Dustin Isaacs seconded. Motion approved.

Bruce Roberts said the public hearing for 739 KAR 2:150 (Alan Chip Terry) will be on September 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am at the Fire Commission Office in Lexington. The public hearing for 739 KAR 2:040 will be held in Frankfort on October 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm.

## **New Business**

Larry Potter thanked everyone for being with us today. He said we are excited about our move to Paris. Larry said we have a lot of leased buildings across the state that we cannot do anything with. One of the big issues that we have ran into is that our props and trailers is sitting out in the weather. Larry said he talked to Marc Rudder and we started looking at all our areas across the state. Larry said we have come up with Phase II of the consolidation plan. Recommendation #1 is to combine SFRT Area 9 in Rowan County with SFRT Area 10 in Boyd County. With the retirement of Duane Suttles, Mark Hammond will be the Area Coordinator for both areas. This would save approximately \$168,500.00 annually. Larry Potter said recommendation #2 is to combine SFRT Area 1 in McCracken County and SFRT Area 2 in Caldwell County. Charles Lott would be assigned to fill the area coordinator position left open by the passing of Mark Boaz. The savings for SFRT Areas 1 and 2 would be approximately \$121,200.00 annually. Dwane Smeathers motion to approve the phase II recommendations. Dustin Isaacs seconded. Larry Potter said his number one goal is to take care of the fire service. Motion approved.

Bruce Roberts said the KFA recommended canceling the firefighter memorial this year and having it in 2021. Bruce said he talked to Joe Baer and Larry Potter and we agreed to cancel it this year. Bruce said he thinks the families deserve every bit of respect that we can give to them. Scott Lawson said the National Firefighter Memorial has been cancelled too.

Larry Potter said a lot of people has came to him and requested to have our logo changed. They do not feel that it meets our mission statement. Larry said that they discussed this with KCTCS, but after Covid hit, this was postponed for a little while. Larry said they went back to KCTCS concerning the logo. We are working on making our logo fire service oriented.

## **Correspondence**

John Beatsch said we should accept the medical director's report even if he is not present at the meeting. Larry Potter said he did send an email earlier with a signed letter accepting the last LODD. John Beatsch said he thinks this should be good enough. Larry Potter said we will look at this.

Scott Lawson said the By-Laws taskforce and the PTSD taskforce need to be approved by the Fire Commission Board. Lonnie Madden motion to approve the

PTSD taskforce. Ricky King seconded. Motion approved. Dwane Smeathers motion to approve the By-Laws taskforce. Dustin Isaacs seconded. Motion approved. Scott Lawson said we are looking creating a volunteer taskforce at our next Commission meeting.

**Announcements from the Audience**

None.

Lonnie Madden motion to adjourn. Ricky King seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:55 pm.