

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

Minutes

February 24, 2012

Lexington, Kentucky

**Present:**

Eric Bach  
Rick Bobo (Representative for General Heltzel)  
Dr. Box  
Gale Cherry  
Kristin Chilton  
Rick Daugherty  
Greg Dearing  
David Goldsmith  
Walter Lage  
William Lilly  
Greg Lowe  
Butch McKinney  
James Nickell  
Betty Rauch  
Tiger Robinson  
Jennifer Schott  
David Stump  
William Swope

Greg Lowe called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. James Nickell motion to approve the minutes from December 2, 2011 in Alexandria, KY. Greg Dearing seconded. Motion approved.

Greg Lowe thanked President Ricky King and the Green River Firefighter's Association for hosting today's meeting. Ricky King thanked everyone for being here. This is Green River's 25<sup>th</sup> year for hosting this officer's school. David McCrady thanked everyone for their continued support.

**E&E Committee**

Kristin Chilton said the E&E committee met today to discuss several issues. Kristin said they are in the process of updating the white book. Kristin said the by-laws are now finalized. Butch McKinney motion to approve the by-laws. James Nickell seconded.

Motion approved. Kristin Chilton said we are going to put into KAR a definition of what a junior firefighter is.

Kristin Chilton said we have several departments here today who want to explain why their training was not in the system and to request their state aid. Greg Lowe asked the departments to speak for three to five minutes. Assistant Chief Thomas from Tollesboro said they were using the training deficit report for 2011. They also had members they were supposed to take out of the system that was showing up still active on the batch report. Tiger Robinson asked Tollesboro did they get state aid last year and the year before that. Assistant Chief Thomas said yes.

Chief Raymond Martin from Oldtown Fire Department said he received a notification in December of last year saying that their training was not at 50%. Chief Martin said he hopes the Commission will reconsider their decision because Oldtown Fire Department does have a loan through the commission. Chief Martin said he will take responsibility for the training.

Benjamin Guill from Ledbetter Fire Department said this is the first year they have not received state aid money. One of the issues they had was a flood and then there were issues with Burna Fire Department. Mr. Guill asked the Commission to have mercy and see what they can do.

Chief Guy Coombs from Lake Jericho Fire Department. Chief Coombs said their former training officer did not get their training entered for the fire department. They now have a new training officer and their hours for 2011 should be entered now.

Dean Vencill from Cartersville Paintlick Fire Department said two people were supposed to be made inactive who showed up on their batch report. Mr. Vencill said they have a firefighter who has been on their department since 2002. He can't get certified because he is lacking eight hours of survival and rescue training. Mr. Vencill asked for a special amendment made for specialized firefighters. This firefighter has had knee replacement surgery. He can't fight fires, but is a great engineer and pump operator. Dean Vencill said he has fixed the problems with their hours and should be at 50% now. Ronnie Day said they are working on special firefighters as we speak. They are working on special firefighters for every chapter fire department. Ronnie said they brought this up about four years ago and some of the departments wanted to add their ladies auxiliary to the special firefighters. Ronnie said they talked to LRC and they said they would not support it. Ronnie Day said we are waiting on the Attorney General's Office. Once this is passed, the department will need to send a letter to the Commission requesting to add a special firefighter to your department. The commission will take this letter to the personnel committee to determine whether that firefighter is eligible. Dean Vencill said the reports are not coming back correctly in the fire training system. He said he wished they were given a time limit at the end of the year and how much they are deficient at the end of the year.

Jim Trimble from Adairville Fire Department said they had plenty of training for 2011. Their training officer left and came back. He said he would enter their training hours. Jim Trimble said he didn't know they weren't entered until he got the letter from the Fire Commission.

Dr. Box asked Chief Martin what is an appropriate sanction for you because of your training not being entered. Chief Martin said he didn't know. It was his responsibility for the training to be entered. He said he has had trouble with the fire training system.

Benjamin Guill said the chief of Burna Fire Department is running late and should be here at any time. Greg Lowe said their published start time has been on the internet and the agenda has been posted.

Kristin Chilton said that Falmouth Fire Department did do the merger with Butler Community Fire Department. Kristin said there was some confusion with training hour's certification for Radcliff Fire Department. Kristin said they are going to go back and look at when the FFI and II changes went into effect before we respond back to Radcliff Fire Department.

Greg Lowe said to Chief Martin, you said you were at 75%. Chief Martin said yes. He talked to one of the ladies at the Fire Commission and they told him he was at 75%. Ronnie Day asked when that was. Chief Martin said the first half of January. Bruce Roberts said it must have been for 2010 because Oldtown is not on the 2011 list. Ronnie Day asked him did he get state aid for 2010. Chief Martin said no. Greg Lowe said we are going to drop Oldtown out of this reconsideration and do further investigation. David Stump asked does all of state aid go to pay their loan. Chief Martin said they get around \$200.00 back usually.

Chief Rodney Hall from Burna Fire Department said they received a letter stating that they were not going to receive state aid. Chief Hall said he found six different trainings that were entered into the fire training system, but did not show up. They entered the records again and they did not show up. The third time they entered the records they showed up in the system. Chief Hall said he was confused concerning the recruits counting against the department after their first two years. Chief Hall said they use their state aid to pay for a tanker.

Greg Lowe asked out of the all of the departments here today, was there any department who did not get one or more notifications saying training has to be entered into the system by December 31, 2011. Dean Vencill said he didn't know he still had inactive firefighters listed on his department. Greg Lowe asked can you run a roster showing who is active and inactive on your department. Dean Vencill said everything is too confusing in the system right now. Greg Lowe asked will the roster show who is active and inactive on the roster. Mary Adams said if you go to the fire department roster and run query, it should show active and inactive firefighters. Greg Lowe asked Dean Vencill did you run a history roster on your department. Dean Vencill said he didn't see that report. Kristin Chilton motion to go back and review the training hours for the departments who were

here today and reevaluate to determine from there what we are going to do. William Swope seconded. Motion approved. Greg Dearing asked is this motion going to open up any other department who is deficient for 2011. David Stump asked Bruce Roberts does he get a lot of calls. Bruce Roberts said he gets calls every day. David Stump said he doesn't see how we can say just the ones who are here today. Bruce Roberts said there are eighty five departments on the list who are under 50% for state aid. A lot of departments are saying they won't make it without state aid. Bruce Roberts said if you give state aid to the departments here today, I am going to get bombarded with phone calls. Greg Lowe said there is a point where you have to help yourself. Rick Daugherty said as the fire chief of the department, it is the chief's responsibility to look at their roster. Greg Lowe said we are looking at a suspected glitch in the system with running active and inactive firefighters on a roster. That is the only thing we are looking at. If it is a matter of hours not being put in that is the chief's responsibility.

Dean Vencill said he talked Mary Adams a few months ago about the system running really slow. Ronnie Day said we monitor the system. The most people on the system at a time is around 33 departments. The date for most departments being logged on is December 31<sup>st</sup>. Eric Bach said we said at the Campbellsville Commission meeting that we were not going to extend the deadline for training. Are those departments going to come back and ask for their state aid? Ronnie Day said if this is about a glitch in the system then we will definitely need to take a look at it. William Swope asked can he amend the motion. Greg Lowe said yes. William Swope motion to go back and look to see if there is a processing issue with entering records which may have been caused by glitches in the fire training system. Rick Daugherty seconded. Kristin Chilton asked can anyone with a user id pull up an active or inactive roster of their department. Ronnie Day said yes, they can. Ronnie Day asked if this passes and we find a discrepancy in the system do we approve these departments to receive state aid or do we need to bring this back before the commission.

Butch McKinney asked if we have someone come in at a later date, are we not going to address their situation. Greg Lowe said no. David Goldsmith said if it is a glitch in the system, we will need to give everyone an opportunity to appeal. Betty Rauch said if a department did have a problem why didn't they call the office and say that something was wrong with the system. Greg Lowe said we are going to vote on the motion made by William Swope on whether there was a glitch in the process on active versus inactive members. Several members voted no.

Greg Lowe said Kristin's original motion was we go back and look at the departments who have appealed in writing or through personal appearance today and had their training in before December 31<sup>st</sup> and see if there was a problem with the system with active versus inactive firefighters. Roll call was done. Below are the vote results:

### **Voted Yes**

Kristin Chilton  
Greg Dearing  
William Lilly  
Greg Lowe  
Butch McKinney  
James Nickell  
Tiger Robinson  
Jennifer Schott  
David Stump  
William Swope

### **Voted No**

Eric Bach  
Dr. Box  
Gale Cherry  
Rick Daugherty  
David Goldsmith  
Walter Lage  
Betty Rauch

Greg Lowe said the informed motion was approved. David Goldsmith said the reason he voted the way he did is because if it is a glitch in the system then everyone needs to be notified not just the departments here today.

Kristin Chilton said Lower Cloverfork came before the E&E committee this morning to request being recognized by the Fire Commission again. Kristin Chilton motion to reinstate them as a fire department. Kristin said we will conduct an audit on them before the next fire commission meeting, but they will not be receiving state aid. Tiger Robinson seconded. Greg Dearing opposed the motion. Motion approved.

Greg Lowe said he would like to amend the agenda report. Representative Alicia Edgington has asked to make some remarks to the commission. Alicia Edgington said she serves on military affairs and public safety committees. She said if she can do anything for the fire commission or firefighters please let her know.

### **Finance Committee**

Walter Lage said the finance committee met this morning to review the monthly financial statement. We have spent approximately 64% of our budget which is close to where we should be. Our revenues are running slightly behind. This could be due a change in banking. Walter Lage said the state aid that had proper documentation has been paid.

Walter Lage said the finance committee met on February 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss several items that needs to be funded. Walter Lage motion to request a million dollars of additional funding for SFRT salaries and \$250,000.00 will go toward projectors, laptops, and fire gear for SFRT providing the appropriate funding is available. Rick Daugherty seconded. Motion approved.

Walter Lage motion for the 2012-13 budget request, we are going to request an additional ten million dollars for the following seven items: training initiatives, personal protective equipment, mobile facilities, ems training and equipment, wmd hazmat response to terrorism, technical innovations and driver operator. Betty Rauch seconded. Motion approved.

Walter Lage motion that beginning in July 1, 2012 that the instructor rate be increased to \$21.00 per hour providing that the funding is there. Greg Dearing seconded. Motion approved.

### **Health and Wellness Committee**

Tiger Robinson said the health and wellness committee met this morning. Bruce Roberts said right now there are 226 applications in for fitness equipment. 54 of the departments are first time applicants so they will receive equipment first. The equipment should be delivered sometime in June.

Bruce Roberts said they have a peer fitness class starting on May 21<sup>st</sup>. This is a forty hour class. Eight slots are now open if anyone wants to apply. Bruce said if someone signs up for the class and doesn't show up then the department is responsible for the cost which is \$700.00 per student. Bruce said he needs to know as soon as possible. The class is being held at Buechel Fire Department.

### **Training Facility Committee**

Tiger Robinson said eighteen applications have been received. Tiger said the recommendation of training facility committee is to approve the following departments if KCTCS legal approves their applications:

Boyle County Fire Department- \$30,000.00  
Breeding Fire Department- \$58,306.00  
Calvert City Fire Department- \$49,260.00  
Frankfort Fire Department- \$6,600.00  
Kenton County Fire Chief's Association- \$50,000.00  
Kentucky Regional- \$60,000.00  
Lone Oak Fire Department- \$110,000.00  
Maysville Fire Department- \$100,000.00  
Northeast Nelson Fire Department- \$8,800.00  
Pleasure Ridge Park- \$45,000.00  
Russellville Fire Department- \$50,000.00

Tiger Robinson motion to forward these applications to legal. William Lilly seconded. Dr. Box asked once legal has approved these departments then we are approving these distributions, correct? Tiger Robinson said yes. Motion approved.

### **Director Reports**

Bruce Roberts said about six hundred bills have been introduced this year. Bruce said HB 38 would require any vehicle that has an official license plate be inspected by an ASE certified mechanic. This bill is on hold right now. HB 193 would create a tax break to volunteer firefighters. This bill has not moved. Bruce said HB214 is related to worker's compensation benefits for professional firefighters. This bill hasn't passed the house.

HB232 would allow Sheriff's offices to collect subscription fees for volunteer fire departments. This bill has passed through the house. Bruce said HB 326 is a bill to establish that cancer resulting in either temporary or permanent disability or death is an occupational disease for full time firefighters. HB 423 would allow a fire district to cede territory to a city annexing territory that the district serves.

### **Executive Director**

Ronnie Day said the simulator has returned after receiving an upgrade. The safety houses have been returned after being refurbished. Ronnie Day introduced three new staff members: Mike Sutt- Area 6, Ashley McWaters- Area 15 and Chantz McPeek- Area 14. Ronnie said please welcome them to our program.

Ronnie said the contract for the Wendell Ford Center was signed on February 15, 2012. The completion date is expected to be on December 12, 2012. Ronnie said they met with the commission for the deaf and hard of hearing. Ronnie said we are planning to partner with this group and hopefully get a grant to be able to administer equipment for the hard of hearing and the deaf.

Ronnie said they met with Dr. Hodges at Bowling Green concerning the new training center and new programs. Ronnie said Chief Muench is going to offer a class at fire school on everyone goes home safe. Ronnie said they met with KFA and Emergency Management regarding an all risk calendar. Ronnie said they met with the FBI and EPA in regards to radiation and hazardous materials.

Ronnie said that Bryant and he were in a conference call with Vice President Biden in regards to D Block. Ronnie said SFRT will be sending out a course catalog to all departments.

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

William Swope said the fire inspectors association would like to provide all departments with training on Kentucky building codes. William Swope said there is a class tomorrow and Sunday on inspection code enforcement. A class will be offered on Sunday for building codes. There will be a meeting of the fire inspector's association on March 15<sup>th</sup> in Frankfort.

### **Homeland Security**

Tom Arnold said Gene Kiser has agreed to purchase ICS 300 and 400 manuals to be sent to the area coordinators offices. Tom said they have a class here tomorrow with the Fusion Center. Tom said the Fire Service Liaison now has 258 firefighters that have signed up.

### **Emergency Management**

None.

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

Van Taylor said KFA will be a meeting at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday.

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

KAFC thanked John Weatherbee for his help with their conference.

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

None.

### **KBEMS**

None.

### **Old Business**

Bonita Bobo and Melinda Cowherd presented a program on train Kentucky for healthy hearts.

Bob Hobbs and Amy Miranda presented a program on the health screening they are doing on Saturday. The group they work for is 4UMD.

### **New Business**

Ronnie Day and Greg Lowe presented a plaque to Pat Thompson for all of his hard work and dedication to the Fire Commission. Ronnie said Pat is our new Recruitment and Retention Coordinator.

### **Announcements**

Greg Lowe said the CFSI Fire Caucus will be held April 25 through the 27 in Washington, D.C.

Greg Lowe said the Homeland Security Conference and 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Kentucky State Fire School will be held from June 6<sup>th</sup> through the 10<sup>th</sup> in Lexington, KY.

### **Correspondence**

None.

### **Comments from the Audience**



None.

Meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m.