

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

Minutes

February 28, 2014

Lexington, Kentucky

Present:

Eric Bach

Dr. Box

Teresa Rochetti- Cantrell

Rick Daugherty

Greg Dearing

Pamela Dickens

Vicki Herald

Scott Lawson

William Lilly

Greg Lowe

Jim Nickell

Tiger Robinson

Jennifer Schott

David Stump

William Swope

Kevin Tyler

Tiger Robinson called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. Ronnie Day conducted the swearing in of Teresa Rochetti- Cantrell, Vicki Herald, and Kevin Tyler.

Eric Bach motion for Tiger Robinson as the chairman of the Fire Commission. Rick Daugherty seconded. Eric Bach casted a vote. Motion approved. William Lilly motion for Greg Dearing as the vice chairman of the Fire Commission. Scott Lawson seconded. Scott Lawson casted a vote. Motion approved. Scott Lawson motion for Eric Bach to be the secretary-treasurer for the Fire Commission. Rick Daugherty seconded. Kevin Tyler casted a vote. Motion approved.

David Stump motion to approve the minutes from December 18, 2013 in Lexington Kentucky. Scott Lawson seconded. Motion approved.

Tiger Robinson thanked David McCrady and Green River for hosting this meeting. David McCrady thanked the Fire Commission for everything they do.

E&E Committee

Jeremy Rodgers said the E&E committee met on February 18th. Jeff Birt from Fairdale High School conducted a presentation on their high school fire and EMS program. Jeremy said we approved that program along with East Technical School here in Fayette County.

Captain Hogsdon from Lexington Fire Department is asking for the approval of curriculum for structural collapse. The E&E committee did approve this. Jeremy said they needed this passed for support for Kentucky to take the next step toward USAR.

Jeremy Rodgers said we had four fire departments that had different issues that was brought before the committee. Jeremy said he conducted an audit on Southeast Bullitt County Fire Department and discovered that the chief was deficient hours for his incentive pay. Jeremy said this goes back to 2008. They have been notified.

Jeremy Rodgers said the chief from Gallatin County did not get his 100 hours for incentive pay. Also during the investigation process we found out that the chief was not a full time employee. Jeremy said we have received a letter from the Gallatin County Judge Executive. They are no longer participating in the incentive pay program and we are going through the process to recoup those funds.

Jeremy Rodgers said North Oldham has two firefighters who were deficient hours for incentive pay. The committee made the decision that those funds would have to be reimbursed for last year. Notification has been sent to the department on this and we are waiting for this process to take course.

Jeremy Rodgers said the Community of Canoe Fire Department received a 2013 thermal imaging camera grant from the Fire Commission. We were contacted by the supplier that they still have not paid for that camera. We have sent them a registered letter and we copied the Judge Executive concerning this.

Jeremy Rodgers said we have been working to revamp survival, rescue, wildland and the flashover courses. Casey Hall said we have final draft versions of the survival, rescue and wildland classes. We have conducted the pilot process and

will be sending them out to be printed. Scott Lawson said we had our first pilot program class last week for survival and rescue. Everything went well. There were some nicks in the skills portion of it. Scott said this weekend it will be at Dixie Fire School. Scott said we are going to get the instructors together who is teaching this course and get their opinion on any problems. Then we will offer train the trainer courses and get this information out to the area offices. Jeremy Rodgers said he was present for the wildland pilot class and everything went well. Jeremy said David Goldsmith taught a pilot class for Flashover and that went well also.

Jeremy Rodgers said we will need final approval to seek reimbursement from Southeast Bullitt County, North Oldham, and Gallatin County. Greg Lowe motion to approve. Scott Lawson seconded. Motion approved.

Jeremy Rodgers said we have updates going on with the fire training system. We have been working with Paul Adams on developing a single entry process for instructor and student entries. Jeremy said he will be traveling the state and conducting classes on the new updates.

Casey Smith said the approval letters went out in January for 156 thermal imaging cameras. The departments have until March 15th to submit that back to us. Casey said she has only received 19 back so far. Casey said as of March 15th, she will send out a second and final notice to the first approved group of fire departments. The departments will have to have their information in by April 15th. Casey said if she doesn't receive anything back by April 15th she will move on to the departments who were denied the first go around to receive cameras. Ronnie Day said if you receive a grant for a camera and you purchase one, please pay for the camera. Eric Bach said thank you to Casey Hall and everyone who has been working on the new curriculum.

Finance Committee

David Stump said the finance committee met this morning and they approved the minutes of the meeting from October 24, 2013 in Owensboro. The committee reviewed the latest financial statements that Brenda Goddard provided for us. Everyone should have a copy in their folders. The expenses are on track for this budget year. Brenda discussed the upcoming budget and the timeline that everything needs to be submitted. David said there has been some proposed budget reductions. We are aware of those.

David Stump said Pat Thompson submitted a SFRT equipment request list to the committee. The committee reviewed the request and we made a recommendation that we will give Pat the authority to spend as he sees fit from the list out of the money we have budgeted from the current budget year. Ronnie Day said as long as we are within the KCTCS policy guidelines on purchasing with the year-end cycle coming. Pat Thompson said we are trying to get what we can out of this year's budget and next year's budget as long as the funds are available. Jim Nickell motion to approve. Rick Daugherty seconded. Motion approved.

Loan Committee

Eric Bach said the loan committee met this morning to look at one loan request. Keavy Fire Department is requesting \$44,478.75 to refurbish a tanker truck. Scott Lawson motion to approve. Jim Nickell seconded. Motion approved.

Personnel Committee

Greg Dearing said the personnel committee met this morning. Greg congratulated Casey Smith. She accepted a position with Area 15. Greg Dearing said we had a group to work on the by-laws. This morning the working group met with the personnel committee to go over the by-laws. The only change that needs to be voted on is in section 2.3. The word secret will be removed from the by-laws. William Lilly motion to remove the word secret from the by-laws. David Stump seconded. Motion approved. Greg Dearing said we need to vote for the complete draft on the by-laws which will take effect next year. Jim Nickell motion to approve. Scott Lawson seconded. Motion approved.

Jim Nickell said in the finance committee meeting we didn't approve the financial report. Jim Nickell motion to approve. Scott Lawson seconded. Motion approved.

Training Facility Committee

David Stump said the training facility committee met on January 28, 2014 in Lexington. There were two issues that were brought before us. Louisville Fire Department asked can they use the training facility money to make repairs. David said the KAR's states that they money must be spent on what it was originally requested for. The money they received cannot be used for repairs. David said we informed them of that and if the money hasn't been spent by August then we will request that money back.

David Stump said Brindle Ridge cannot get a clear title to the property they want to build a building on with money from a training facility grant. Brindle Ridge is asking for an extension to find some other property. David said we haven't awarded them any money yet. We can't award any money until the deed is in their name. The committee agreed to give them until April 1st to come up with a clean title for the property. William Lilly motion to give them an extension. Pam Dickens seconded. Motion approved.

David Stump said there are seven departments who have not turned in their quarterly reports for their training facility grant money. Casey will be sending them letters concerning this.

IFSAC

Duane Suttles said every five years we are required under IFSAC to be reaccredited. The reaccreditation process involves updating the test banks and skill sheets and evaluating our certification level. Currently we offer 13 levels. Those 13 levels involve a lot of hard work. In September of last year we ask IFSAC for an opportunity to extend our reaccreditation site visit from September until March 2014. Duane Suttles said the new test banks became available in December 2013. Duane said the other option is that we can write our own test bank. There would be a lot of liability involved in that. Duane said there are several terminology issues that apply to the test banks. Duane said we are about 85% complete on going through the test banks. Duane said firefighter I and II skills testing will be held on the last weekend of March in Owensboro.

Director Reports

Michael Kurtsinger passed out legislative reports to the board members. Michael Kurtsinger said HB 185 and HB 186 are tax credits for volunteer firefighters. HB 251 is the cancer presumption bill. HB 352 is a bill that will increase incentive pay and state aid. This bill was introduced by Representative Wayne.

Michael Kurtsinger said this year the state is taking 18 million dollars from the Fire Commission and will take 5 million the second year. If this money is taken the increase for incentive pay and cancer presumption will not be there. Michael Kurtsinger said they met with the chair of the A&R committee and he said they are looking for more money to take.

Michael Kurtsinger said they filed a cancer presumption bill that would move worker's comp from the cities and counties to the Fire Commission. Joe Baer said HB 251 would cover all worker's comp for all firefighters in the state of Kentucky. This bill would cover nine specific types of cancer. There is a ten year tobacco clause with this bill. A firefighter would have to be tobacco free for ten years prior to diagnosis of these cancers. This bill is sitting in A&R right now. Michael Kurtsinger said we need everyone's help. Ronnie Day said on the worker's comp portion of it, it is not an increase to us. The money is already there. Joe Baer said the only opposition to this legislation is the insurance companies. David McCrady said he will support this bill in any way he can. David Stump motion to give full support of HB 251. Scott Lawson seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Michael Kurtsinger said there is a bill that will allow the PVA to put a fee on special taxing districts. Please call your state representative and tell them you are against a provision in the budget and we are opposed to any fees of taxing fire districts.

Steve Calhoun passed out information on fleet management and equipment. The information passed out had a list of mobile fleet for the Fire Commission and SFRT. Steve said we are keeping a close look at what's going on with the fleet. Steve said if equipment costs \$500.00 or more, it is insured. We take care of these vehicles by using VIN, description and plate numbers. Steve said there are 129 trailers on the road today. Steve said he does not purchase trailers with spare tires because he doesn't want someone to get hurt changing tires. David Stump asked on the information how can you tell what is gas and what is diesel. Steve said we all have them listed. Steve said he reports to Ronnie, Pat, and Brenda. Ronnie Day said this has been set up for some time. David Stump asked what happens to the vehicles after we purchase new ones. Steve said we auction the older vehicles off. Chris Brummet at KCTCS takes care of this for us.

Fire Marshal's Office

William Swope said during 2013 there were 74 fire fatalities. There have been 28 fire fatalities for 2014. On March 19th there will be a roundtable discussion to talk about fire prevention. The meeting will be in Frankfort.

Homeland Security

None.

Emergency Management

None.

Kentucky Firefighter's Association

Chris Crawford said the fire department memberships are up. The next KFA meeting will be on Saturday March 1, 2014 at Heritage Hall.

Kentucky Professional Firefighter's Association

Joe Baer said they have been working with Michael Kurtsinger on HB 251 in Frankfort. Joe said they will try to have someone attend the roundtable meeting on March 19th.

Kentucky Association of Fire Chiefs

None.

KBEMS

None.

Old Business

Michael Kurtsinger said last year HB 1 passed. We have 700 fire departments that are not city or county agencies. If you are not a city or county fire department, you will need to file a report. Please call Laurie Wilson concerning this.

New Business

Ronnie Day said they met a couple of weeks ago with the Executive Board on relocating Area 7. Ronnie said they also need a testing facility for CPAT in Northern Kentucky. Ronnie said Boone County has offered them land at their training center so we can construct a multi-purpose building which would consist of approximately 12,000 to 15,000 square foot building. There would be 5,000 square foot for office space. 8,000 to 10,000 square foot will be for indoor CPAT testing. We currently have \$584,000.00 in the fund to work with. Ronnie said he has talked with Brenda and the KCTCS facility personnel about this. There is also money from CPAT that can go into this along with some carry forward money

from Pat Thompson's budget we can use. Rick Daugherty motion to approve. Scott Lawson seconded. Motion approved.

Ronnie Day said in Area 9 which is located in Morehead, we purchased a mobile facility. Ronnie said right across the street from where KCTCS is going is a 30,000 square foot facility that has become available. Ronnie said they have looked at the facility and it is in great condition. They are asking for 1.2 million for the property. Ronnie said we are having an appraisal done on it. Ronnie said they have another piece of land that was donated to them in Morehead. If we purchase the other land, then at some point we need to decide what to do with this piece of land. Ronnie said it is our goal to have a fire science degree program in every region. Scott Lawson motion to approve. Ronnie said we have legislative approval on this project also. We have \$972,000.00 set aside for this fund. Jim Nickell seconded. Motion approved.

Ronnie Day said Area 10 needs to relocate. Mark Hammond has found a building in Ashland that costs less than \$400,000.00 near the industrial park.

Ronnie Day said the Area 14 counties have been temporarily assigned to Area 4, 5 and 13. The City of Campbellsville and Taylor County are both interested in purchasing this facility. Charlie Shaw is also interested in purchasing this land. Ronnie said they have ordered an appraisal for that land. Once we have the appraisal we will come back to the Commission and report our findings. Jim Nickell motion to approve. Rick Daugherty seconded. Motion approved.

Ronnie Day said Area 15 needs to relocate. Lexington Fire Department contacted us and asked us if we would be interested in relocating to their training facility on Old Frankfort Pike. They have offered us a piece of land near their training center for us to be able to put a mobile training facility on. They have drafted an MOU. Legal is looking at this now. Pat has the money in his budget from carry forward to do this. David Stump motion to approve. William Lilly seconded. Motion approved.

Scott Lawson said the National Fire Academy classes went well. Scott asked where are we at on Wendell Ford. Greg Dearing said we are looking at getting a job description together on this for Director and Office Coordinator. Ronnie said HR is working on this now.

Pam Dickens asked could the October 14th meeting be moved to Owensboro at Kimberly Clark. Scott Lawson motion to approve. Greg Dearing seconded. Motion approved.

Correspondence

Tiger Robinson said the Fire Caucus will be in Washington D.C. on April 30th through May 2nd. Please let Ronnie know if you are planning on attending. State Fire School will be June 5th through the 8th in Lexington, Kentucky.

Ronnie said our simulator we purchased will be completed next month. It will be on display at FDIC. The helicopter prop and vehicle prop have already been delivered. Tiger Robinson said the next Commission meeting is April 17th at Boyle County Fire Department. Ronnie Day said the Combat Challenge has been moved to the weekend after state fire school at Lexington Green.

Tiger Robinson said a new committee list will be coming out soon. Greg Dearing said everybody needs to get involved with Fire Marshal Swope's roundtable meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.