

# **KENTUCKY FIRE COMMISSION**

Virtual Fire Commission Meeting

Minutes

October 14, 2020

Lexington, Kentucky

## **Present:**

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

## **Absent:**

Dr. Fadi Akhrass

Chairman Scott Lawson called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm (EST). Ricky King motion to approve the minutes from August 12, 2020 in Lexington Kentucky. Dwane Smeathers seconded. Motion approved.

Scott Lawson said we need to add an amendment to the agenda. Scott said we need to add the By-Laws report from the taskforce, the taskforce on the policy of the PTSD funding and a letter creating a new taskforce for volunteer and combination issues, update on the administration regs committee meeting on October 13, 2020 and notifications of elections for the Fire Commission Board. Scott Lawson said any Commission member wishing to serve as an officer needs to submit their letter of intent to the Chairman and Executive Director of the Fire Commission. John Wood said that the open meetings act requires that the Commission members be seen and heard. In order for the votes to count, the Commission members need to have their cameras turned on. Josh Keats motion to amend the agenda. Lonnie Madden seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

## **Eligibility Committee**

Dwane Smeathers said the Eligibility Committee met yesterday. Dwane said that Marc Rudder provided the information that some of the fire departments is wanting to take all their training virtually. No action was taken on this.

Dwane Smeathers said the next item on the agenda was concerning the changing of the State Aid approval list due to COVID-19. Ricky King motion to approve the changes to the State Aid approval list. Lonnie Madden seconded. Motion approved.

Dwane Smeathers said the committee discussed the required training hours for the career firefighters. Due to COVID-19, the committee is requesting that training hour requirement be reduced from 100 hours down to 70 hours for the year 2020. Howdy Kurtsinger said he talked to our Attorney John Wood about this. Because the Career training hours is a KRS, we could not find a way to do this. Larry Potter contacted Rocky Adkins in the Governor's Office. He informed us to seek an Executive Order from the Governor's Office concerning this. Dwane Smeathers motion to contact the Governor's Office and request an Executive Order for the training hours for the career firefighters to be reduced from 100 hours to 70 hours for the year 2020 due to COVID-19. Dustin Isaacs seconded. Motion approved.

## **Finance Committee**

Michael Mosbey said the Finance Committee met yesterday to discuss some different items. The first item was dealing with the Acadis training program to create an online testing portal for the firefighters to use. This would have an annual fee of \$40,609.92. The second part of this cost would be to purchase computers for each SFRT Area and NRPC for online testing. The cost for the computers is \$64,034.46. The third item is for purchasing the development of the batch report and certification summary report in Acadis to make the system more user friendly for the training officers and the fire departments. The cost to purchase these reports is \$45,655.06. The total cost for these items is \$150,309.54. Andrew Scott motion to approve. Dwane Smeathers seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Michael Mosbey said the HVAC units in the Area 2 Office building needs to be replaced. We would like to get those replaced before winter. Michael said we have one bid for the HVAC units. We would like to have a second bid and then go with the lowest bid. Ricky King motion to approve. Tamela Kerr seconded. Motion approved.

## **Health and Wellness Committee**

Michael Mosbey said the Health and Wellness Committee met yesterday to discuss a few items. The first item is to purchase 33 gear extractors. The extractors will be distributed across the state. Bruce Roberts said he just emailed a copy to everyone of where the extractors will be located. Joe Choate motion to approve purchasing 33 gear extractors. Ricky King seconded. Motion approved.

Michael Mosbey said the Health and Wellness Committee discussed purchasing additional pieces of fitness equipment for the fire departments across the state. Andrew Scott motion to approve. Lonnie Madden seconded. Motion approved.

Michael Mosbey said the Health and Wellness Committee discussed purchasing additional equipment this year that would benefit the fire departments. Our goal was to spend all the money that was allotted to us. We plan on presenting this at the next Commission meeting.

## **Loan Committee**

Joe Choate said the Loan Committee met yesterday to look at two loans. Oldtown Volunteer Fire Department is requesting \$44,500.00 for a 2020 Ford F-550. Michael Mosbey motion to approve. Lonnie Madden seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Lily Fire Department is requesting \$11,287.50 for a Cascade System. Dustin Isaacs motion to approve. Dwane Smeathers seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

## **State Fire Rescue Training**

Marc Rudder said that SFRT has taught nearly 800 virtual classes between April and June. In July, SFRT started teaching in the classrooms with COVID-19 restrictions and policies in place. Marc said during July, August, and September, SFRT taught 1082 classes and reached over 12,000 students. Marc said we have not been able to have our regional fire schools this year. The areas are finding different ways to help their departments. The areas are now offering monthly weekend classes.

Marc Rudder said the Accredited Certification Office has started back with the practical skills testing for Firefighter I and II. A maximum of 25 candidates can be a part of the skills testing. Marc said testing dates have been scheduled in

Louisville for October 18 and 19. Testing will be offered on November 14 and 15 at the Area 14 Office. November 21 and 22 testing dates is available at NRPC. Testing dates will be available on December 5 and 6 at the Jessamine County Fire Department.

Marc Rudder said the Acadis (KYFIRES) training system is live for the departments who attended a virtual training class and submitted their user identification application to the Fire Commission. Marc said department must have someone attend a training session and submit a user identification application before they can have access to KYFIRES. Currently 80% of the fire departments have taken the training for KYFIRES. Marc said we still have several department's that need to take the training. Marc said we will be mailing out to all the departments, makeup dates for KYFIRES training.

Marc Rudder said Kentucky State Fire School is scheduled in person for June 10 through the 13 2021.

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

None.

### **Kentucky Office of Homeland Security**

Josh Keats said they are in the middle of sending out grant awards right now.

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

None.

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

Jason Colson said he is now the president of the association after Gregg Bayer's term expired. Jason said they are accepting nominations for Fire Chief of the year for 2020 for paid and volunteer fire departments.

### **Kentucky Professional Firefighters Association**

Joe Baer said the chili dinner is scheduled for February 16 2021, Covid permitting.

## **KBEMS**

Mike Poynter said they will be moving in December 2020. KBEMS just hired a Cardiac Registry Enhancement Program Coordinator. Mike said they have been tasked by the Kentucky Department of Public Health to help put together a program for vaccinations. It will be a tier system. Mike said they are putting together a five-year strategic plan on the recruitment, retention, and education research.

## **Old Business**

Howdy Kurtsinger said he has two different taskforces that he needs to talk about. Howdy said he has sent out a lot of information in the last couple of days. Howdy said he will go over some of highlights of the By-Laws Taskforce. Howdy said section 1.3 has some big changes. They cleaned up the grammar and updated the KRS information. John Wood said the biggest change made was the process for removal of members for missing meetings. Howdy said the second biggest change is the vacancies in office. Howdy said on section 3, the law says that the Fire Commission must have four meetings a year now instead of six. John Wood said we will not need to approve the By-Laws changes until the next Commission meeting. John asked everyone to please review the By-Laws before the next meeting. Ricky King motion to move the By-Laws forward. Dustin Isaacs seconded. Motion approved unanimously. Howdy said the By-Laws committee can now be disbanded.

Howdy Kurtsinger said at the last legislative session, the Governor included in the budget 1.25 million dollars for PTSD funding. Howdy said the PTSD Taskforce has met four or five times now. The Taskforce recommends using the guidance that is in HB 436. Howdy said there will be around five forms that a firefighter will need to fill out. Howdy covered each form that needs to be filled out. Each firefighter could be reimbursed up to \$50,000.00. Howdy said unless a different budget process comes out, these funds will end at the end of June 2021. This is why we feel we need to move forward with this process. Dwane Smeathers motion to approve the PTSD funding. Ricky King seconded. Motion approve unanimously. Howdy said we do not want to disband this Taskforce right now.

Scott Lawson said a letter was sent to the Commission members concerning the Taskforce for volunteer and combination fire department issues. Lonnie Madden said we have a lot of good ideas and this may help with the recruitment and

retention. Dustin Isaacs motion to approve this taskforce. Lonnie Madden seconded. Motion approved.

Howdy Kurtsinger said 739 KAR 2.040 which is the survivor benefits. Our change is so we can hire a doctor. 739 KAR 2.155 (Alan “Chip” Terry Professional Development and Wellness Program) passed yesterday. Howdy said we have one more administrative reg coming up.

### **New Business**

Larry Potter welcomed Chief Colson for being here. Larry said we have been working on moving into the new building in Paris. Our lease will be up on the building in Lexington at the end of October. Area 15 and CPAT will be moving into the building with us.

Larry Potter said Marc Henderson and his staff is doing a great job at NRPC. The driving pad is finished. Larry said this area has so much potential. Larry said we have a meeting on Tuesday with NRPC.

Scott Lawson said anyone intending on seeking a position as chairman, vice chairman or secretary of the Fire Commission Board needs to submit a letter of intent to the Chairman and Executive Director of the Fire Commission by December 10, 2020.

### **Correspondence**

None.

### **Announcements from the Audience**

None.

Ricky King motion to adjourn. Dwane Smeathers seconded. Motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 2:36 pm.