

**KENTUCKY FIRE COMMISSION**  
Virtual Fire Commission Meeting  
Minutes  
December 10, 2020  
Paris, Kentucky

**Present:**

Mike Haney  
Josh Keats  
Ricky King  
Scott Lawson  
Lonnie Madden  
Michael Mosbey  
Andrew Scott  
Dwane Smeathers  
Lloyd Stone  
Mike Sutt

**Absent:**

Dr. Fadi Akhrass  
Joe Choate  
Dustin Isaacs  
Tamela Kerr

Scott Lawson called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Jon Gay conducted the swearing in of Mike Sutt. Ricky King motion to approve the minutes from October 14, 2020 in Lexington Kentucky. Andrew Scott seconded. Motion approved.

**Comments from the Chair**

Scott Lawson asked everyone to stay safe and healthy and to take care of themselves and their families.

**State Fire Rescue Training**

Marc Rudder said SFRT is continuing to train, mostly in the virtual aspect. Marc said they will be conducting skills sessions that will be needed for certification. Marc said they have taught at 271 fire departments which is 35% of the fire departments in the Commonwealth. Marc said he thinks we can do a lot better than that. Marc said on January 1, 2021, Areas 1 and 2 will combine and the office will be located in Princeton Kentucky. Areas 9 and 10 will combine and the office will be located in Morehead Kentucky. Marc said the other Areas combining will take

effect on July 1, 2021. Marc Rudder said yesterday, Gary Hall accepted the position as our EMS Training Coordinator. He will start on December 16, 2020. Ricky King said he thinks SFRT has done an excellent job.

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

Mike Haney said they have put together virtual training classes. They will start virtual classes next week. Mike said they want to add a fire investigation class at some point.

Mike Haney said they hope to adopt the 2018 NFPA 101 and NFPA 1 as soon as possible.

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

Josh Keats said they are working on a COVID-19 response. They are looking at social media for protest activities. They are also involved in Cyber response and security initiatives across the state. They are in the process of hiring a new Fusion Center Director. He will start on December 16, 2020.

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

Marc Henderson said President Beatsch wanted to apologize for not being here for the virtual meeting today. Marc Henderson said if you are not receiving notifications of the KFA meetings please let us know. Marc said the KFA is planning on meeting in Owensboro at the Green River Officer's School. Marc said Officer's School will be virtual in February 2021. Marc said if the Fire Commission can be there for the Fire Commission meeting, we would love to have you.

Marc Henderson said the KFA recently sent a letter to the legislators requesting that firefighters, emt's and paramedics be moved to a high priority list for the COVID-19 vaccine.

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

Chief Jason Colson said they recognized Charles Watkins as the volunteer fire department chief of the year. They recognized Nathan Mulvey as the paid fire department chief of the year. Chief Colson said they are working with KBEMS on proposed changes to administrative regulations. Chief Colson applauded Mr.

Haney and the State Fire Marshal's Office for moving forward with the update for the standards of safety.

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

President Joe Baer said they are currently trying to educate their members concerning the vaccines and encourage all members to take the vaccine as soon as they possibly can. President Baer said they have been working with Senator McConnell's Office on various things that may be coming up in the next legislative session regarding COVID-19 and provide some assistance to cities, counties, districts, and the state as far as the financial impact it is making. President Baer said they are working on information for the upcoming legislative session.

### **KBEMS**

None.

### **Old Business**

Larry Potter said we are in the design phase on a classroom facility at NRPC. Marc Henderson has been on the design. Larry said they have a meeting next week at NRPC. Marc Henderson said the driving pad is being worked on. They have a meeting on Monday concerning the utilities. They are hoping to bid on the utilities in March or April 2021. Larry Potter thanked Marc Henderson for the great job that he is doing at NRPC.

Howdy Kurtsinger said we need to approve the By-Laws that the Fire Commission Board approved at the last Commission meeting. Josh Keats motion to approve. Ricky King seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Howdy Kurtsinger said as of last week, he talked to Brenda Goddard and we have one person who has requested financial refunds for PTSD. We are in the process of making sure that we have the proper documentation and utilize this policy.

Howdy Kurtsinger said 739 KAR 2.155 (Alan "Chip" Terry Professional Development and Wellness Program) will go into effect in February 2021.

### **Line of Duty Deaths**

Bruce Roberts said we have one LODD from a couple of meetings ago. Charles Wilburn who was a Forestry firefighter passed away from cancer. Dr. Fadi has approved this LODD. Lonnie Madden motion to approve. Dwane Smeathers seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Ricky King said on August 25, 2020, we received a letter from Bruce Roberts. We have not discussed this letter during a board meeting, but Ricky thinks we need to address it. The letter was in reference to an Eligibility Committee meeting on July 13, 2020 concerning Lebanon Fire Department. Ricky said the way that he understands it from the letter there were some statements made during the meeting that was a concern to Bruce. Ricky King said evidently a conversation between Scott and Bruce did not happen and he thinks we owe Bruce an explanation. Dwane said as the Chair of the Committee, we discussed this. When Scott was asked did he bring up anything to the Commission, he said he has discussed this with Bruce Roberts a couple of times. Ricky asked Scott, can you give us an explanation for these comments. Scott said he did not put anything down in writing, he just asked a couple of questions. Bruce said that Scott never discussed one particular department. We discussed training as a whole. Bruce said he wanted to clear his name. Bruce said that he talks to Scott all the time and there is no animosity between them. He just wanted to let everyone know that conversation never took place. Ricky said we as Commissioners are held to a higher standard. We want documentation to back us up. We do not want any hurt feelings. Dwane said he is glad that the air has been cleared up. Andrew Scott asked Bruce does he feel the statement made was inaccurate? Bruce said he still feels that it was an inaccurate statement. Bruce said if there is a complaint, we will investigate it. Scott Lawson said he did not mean anything towards Bruce.

### **New Business**

Larry Potter said we had four people that sent letters of intent to him to run for a board position. Ricky King is running for the Chairman position. Scott Lawson and Andrew Scott are both running for the Vice-Chairman position. Lonnie Madden is running for the secretary position. Dwane Smeathers motion that the letters of intent have been read to the Commission. Josh Keats seconded. Motion approved. Howdy Kurtsinger said the election will take place at the first Fire Commission meeting of the year.

Larry Potter said we are 95% complete on our new building. We plan on trying to have a chief's meeting in the new year. Joe Baer said the KPFF and KFA would

like to be included in the chief's meeting in the new year. Larry Potter said we will put a letter out to everyone.

Marc Henderson said the KFA meeting will be on February 27, 2021. Scott Lawson said we need to set at least one meeting date in the new year. Larry Potter said Green River called us and invited us to have our meeting at the Officer's School. Larry said he is not sure it is the best idea to set plans to be anywhere other than virtually. Ricky King motion to have the Fire Commission meeting virtually on February 26, 2021 at 1:00 pm (CST). Lonnie Madden seconded. Andrew Scott asked are we required in the By-Laws to have a Commission meeting in January? John Wood said the KRS says the first meeting of the year must be after January 1<sup>st</sup>. Motion approved.

### **Correspondence**

Dwane Smeathers welcomed Mike Sutt to the Commission.

### **Announcements from the Audience**

None.

Ricky King motion to adjourn. Dwane Smeathers second. Meeting adjourned at 1:58 pm.