



STATE OF DELAWARE
STATE FIRE PREVENTION COMMISSION
DELAWARE FIRE SERVICE CENTER

(302) 739 – 3160
FAX (302) 739 – 4436

1463 CHESTNUT GROVE ROAD
DOVER, DELAWARE 19904

STATE FIRE PREVENTION COMMISSION

Monthly Meeting

August 20, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT

David Roberts, Chairman
Alan Robinson, Jr., Vice Chairman
Ron Marvel
Lynn Truitt
William C. Kelly
Joseph J. Leonetti, Sr.
Richard T. Perillo

ALSO PRESENT

Joseph C. Handlon, Deputy Attorney General
Patrick Matthews, BLS Medical Director
Sherry Lambertson, Executive Assistant
David J. Truax, Investigator/Compliance Officer
Grover P. Ingle, State Fire Marshal
Robert P. Newnam, Director, State Fire School

GUESTS

Jay Jones, DVFA
Tom Dicristofaro, DVFA
Bill Betts, DVFA
Robin Brown, OEMS
Bradley M. Gosch, Smyrna American Legion
Peter Stephens, Station 72
Matthew Smith, Station 72
Johnathan Rutledge, Station 44
Michael Bundek, St. Francis Hospital
William Walton, NFPA 1917 Committee

Guest cont.

Warren Jones, DVFA
Mike McMichael, DSEMSA
Anthony Spiezio, DTI

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Roberts called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

REGULAR BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF JULY 16, 2019 COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Truitt, and seconded by Vice Chairman Robinson that the minutes of the July 16, 2019 Commission meeting be approved. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

REPORT OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Personnel Items

Fire Marshal Ingle reported on an article that ran in the August 2019 Delaware Today Magazine entitled "Cop Rock" The article is written to recognize the First State Force Band and vocalist Captain Alice Brumbly is interviewed for the article. She refers to all of the band members having stories about reaching a child through music or through the conversations they have with kids sitting in the cafeteria after the show. Capt. Brumbly remembers when band bassist and fire marshal John Galaska sat down with a child who had gotten in trouble for arson. He talked about responsibility and fire safety and left a strong enough impression that the child recognized Galaska and went to greet him when the band came back the next year. Capt. Brumbly said, "You have to be aware that there are opportunities around you all the time," and you never know when that one magical moment will occur." Fire Marshal Ingle appreciates the efforts that Deputy Galaska puts into all that he does. The article is a testament to what Deputy Galaska does.

Deputy Fire Marshal II Tyler Sipple and Tom Looney have been accepted into the National Fire Academy Forensic Evidence class from September 14th – 20th.

Deputy Fire Marshal III James Hedrick has completed 10 years of state service.

Four staff members have been accepted into the ATF Post Blast class in Huntsville, AL from September 15th – 20th. Two of the staff members are already committed to the National Fire Academy and won't be able to attend at this time. John Yednick and Deputy Pfassenhauser will be attending.

Assistant John Rudd, Fire Protection Specialist Mike Moran and Jim Fachiola participated in the University of Delaware Resident Agent training. They trained over 200 college students in fire safety along with the Delaware State Fire School, Delaware State University Police, Newark Police and the Newark Fire Department. The Office of State Fire Marshal has participated in this training for the last several years. Fire Marshal Ingle appreciates his employees and their accomplishments.

Door Openers – FY 21 Budget

Fire Marshal Ingle reported that he has been working on completing the Door Openers request for the FY21 Budget. He will be requesting funding for IT support.

Delaware Burn Camp

Fire Marshal Ingle reported that he attended the Delaware Burn Camp during the Friday afternoon gathering. This was the 11th year with eight children in attendance. Fire Marshal Ingle commented that it was an incredible week and they continue to do a good job.

Annual Report

Fire Marshal Ingle reported that the agency Annual Report is anticipated to be completed prior to September 1st.

Croda Public Meeting

Fire Marshal Ingle was invited to attend the second public hearing by DNREC for Croda on August 14, 2019. Fire Marshal Ingle attended to answer any possible questions that may arise regarding fire protection features. Croda has been working with the Office of State Fire Marshal to work through any previous concerns.

Facilities Management

Fire Marshal Ingle was contacted by Facilities Management to begin scheduling a number of upgrades that will begin in August.

Incidents of Interest

July 17, 2019 – Around 11:30 AM Talleyville Fire Company was dispatched to a building fire in the 3500 block of Silverside Road inside the Concord Plaza complex. Upon arrival firefighters had a fire on the exterior of the building at ground level extending upward and outward on the building. The firefighters quickly extinguished the fire and checked for fire extension in the building. The on duty Deputy Fire Marshals were called to the scene to conduct an investigation. The fire investigators determined a cigarette was discarded in the mulch bed causing the ignition of ground cover next to the exterior of the mercantile/residential four story building. The fire was determined to be accidental with no reported injuries and damage estimated at \$10,000. The building was equipped with a sprinkler and fire alarm system. Due to the fire being outside and not in an area where sprinkler coverage was required the system was not activated.

July 17, 2019 – Just after 9:00 PM Laurel Fire Company was dispatched to a house fire in the 32000 block Mount Pleasant Road, Laurel. Upon arrival there was a fire in the crawl space. The firefighters extinguished the fire and requested the on duty Deputy Fire Marshal to respond. The Deputy Fire Marshal determined the fire was accidental and caused by a lightning strike to the home. Damage was estimated at \$25,000.

July 17, 2019 – Around 9:30 PM Indian River Fire Company was dispatched to a house fire in the 32500 block Woods Court. On arrival there was smoke showing. Firefighters quickly extinguished the fire and requested the on duty Deputy Fire Marshal to respond. The Deputy Fire Marshal determined the fire was accidental and caused by a lightning strike to the crawl space causing minor damage to the home. Damage was estimated at \$15,000. Hard-wired smoke detectors with a battery backup were present in the home, however the fire was too small for the smoke detectors to activate.

July 17, 2019 – Around 10:30 PM Indian River Fire Company was dispatched to a second house fire in the 32500 block of Woods Court. On arrival smoke conditions were present. Firefighters extinguished the fire and requested the on duty Deputy Fire Marshal to respond. The Deputy Fire Marshal determined the fire was accidental and caused by a lightning strike to the crawl space and garage causing minor damage to the home estimated at \$15,000. Hard-wired smoke detectors with battery backup were present in the home. The fire was too small to activate the detectors.

Incidents of Interest cont.

July 18, 2019 – Just before 7:30 PM Farmington Fire Company was alerted to a structure in the 3100 Woodyard Road, Harrington. On arrival firefighter's encountered a 20' x 10' pole barn with fire showing. The firefighter's extinguished the fire and a request was made for the on duty Deputy Fire Marshal to respond to the scene. The Deputy Fire Marshal determined the fire was accidental and caused by a malfunction of a portable generator igniting surrounding combustible/flammable materials. Moderate damage to the structure was estimated at \$20,000.

July 20, 2019 - Around 4:30 PM Ellendale Fire Company was dispatched for a structure fire in the 16000 block County Road 595. On arrival there was fire showing. Firefighter's performed fire suppression operations extinguishing the fire. The on call Deputy Fire Marshal was requested to respond to the scene. The Deputy Fire Marshal determined the fire was accidental caused by a malfunctioning generator causing heavy damage estimated at \$200,000.

July 20, 2019 – Around 8:00 PM Millville Fire Company was dispatched to a fire in the 34000 block Atlantic Avenue. On arrival they encountered a boat on fire. Firefighter's extinguished the fire and requested the on call Deputy to respond to the scene. The incident remains under investigation with estimated damage at \$75,000.

July 20, 2019 – Just after 5:00 PM Clayton Fire Company was dispatched to a structure fire in the 3000 block Blackiston Rd. Upon arrival they discovered a 20' x 10' pole barn involved. The firefighter's extinguished the fire and requested the on call Deputy Fire Marshal to respond. The Deputy Fire Marshal determined the fire was accidental and caused when a generator malfunctioned igniting surrounding flammable/combustible materials causing a total loss to the structure. Estimated fire loss is \$30,000.

July 22, 2019 – Just before 9:00 PM Bridgeville Fire Company was dispatched to a structure fire in the 6000 block Federalsburg Road. Upon arrival of the Fire Company they had a garage on fire. Firefighter's extinguished the fire and requested the on duty Deputy Fire Marshal to respond to the scene. The Deputy Fire Marshal determined the fire was accidental caused by an electrical malfunction in the garage causing moderate damage to the garage estimated at \$40,000.

Incidents of Interest cont.

July 24, 2019 – Just after 7:30 PM Seaford Fire Company was alerted for a structure fire in the 24000 block Concord Pond Road. Upon arrival the Fire Company had a working fire and began fire suppression operations. The on duty Deputy Fire Marshal was requested to respond to the scene. The Deputy Fire Marshal determined the fire was incendiary with multiple points of origin and indication of other crimes being committed. Delaware State Police is assisting with the investigation which is ongoing. No injuries were reported and damage is estimated at \$100,000.

July 27, 2019 – Just after 12:00 noon Dagsboro Fire Company was dispatched to a Commercial Structure Fire in the 33000 block Main Street, Dagsboro. Upon arrival the Fire Company had an outside fire which extended into the structure of the Dagsboro Paint and Wallpaper causing moderate damage to the building in excess of \$25,000. The Firefighters extinguished the fire and requested the on call Deputy Fire Marshal to respond to the scene. The Deputy Fire Marshal has determined the fire occurred in the mulch outside the building and extended into the building. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

July 29, 2019 – Just after 8:30 PM Claymont Fire Company was dispatched to a structure fire in the 2700 block Philadelphia Pike. On arrival the Firefighters found indication of fire at the structure with minimal damage. The on duty Deputy Fire Marshal was requested to respond to the scene. The Deputy Fire Marshal determined that an incendiary fire had occurred and the incident is currently under investigation. Damage was estimated at \$1,000.

July 30, 2019 – Prior to 11:30 AM Aetna Hose Hook & Ladder was dispatched to a building fire in the unit block of Winterhaven Drive, Newark. Upon arrival firefighters had smoke in the building and a fire inside an apartment unit. The firefighters extinguished the fire and requested the on duty Deputy Fire Marshal to respond to the scene. The Deputy Fire Marshal determined an electrical malfunction in the ceiling fan inside the apartment caused minor damage and one minor injury. Fire was determined to be accidental and damage was estimated at \$10,000.

July 31, 2019 – Just prior to 6:30 PM Claymont Fire Company was dispatched to a house fire in the 100 block Honeywell Drive, Radnor Green Development Claymont DE. On arrival firefighters encountered a burn victim with no active fire. The on call Deputy Fire Marshal was requested to respond to the scene. The Deputy Fire Marshal determined that the burn victim had ignited his clothing from the stovetop and received burns to his chest area. Investigation further revealed this was an incendiary fire and New Castle County Police are investigating a suicide attempt by the victim. The victim was transported to Crozer and listed in serious but stable condition.

Incidents of Interest cont.

August 2, 2019 – Just before 6:30 PM Cheswold Fire Company was dispatched to a house fire in the 200 block of Tammie Drive. On arrival smoke and fire was showing from the two story single family dwelling. Firefighter's performed fire suppression and search and rescue operations extinguishing the fire in a second floor bedroom and reporting all occupants out of the structure. The on duty Deputy Fire Marshal was requested to respond to the scene to determine the origin and cause of the fire. The Deputy Fire Marshal determined the fire originated in the second floor bedroom of the occupied residence caused by a juvenile playing with matches, igniting the bed on fire causing minor damage estimated at \$10,000 to the structure. The home was equipped with hard wired smoke alarms that alerted the occupants of the fire allowing them to escape without any injuries. The Juvenile was referred to the Juvenile Fire Setter's Intervention Program.

August 3, 2019 – Around 10:00 PM Greenwood Fire Company was dispatched to a shed fire in the 13000 Miles Stretch Road, Greenwood. Upon arrival the firefighter's encountered a shed involved in fire with exposures to two other buildings. Firefighter's performed fire suppression operations limiting the damage the exposures. The on call Deputy Fire Marshal was requested to respond to the scene. The Deputy Fire Marshal determined the fire originated in the shed and was accidental. The cause of the fire was an air compressor in the shed that malfunctioned destroying the shed and causing minor damage to two other buildings. No injuries were reported and estimated damage was \$25,000.

August 7, 2019 – Just after 2:30 PM Indian River Fire Company was dispatched to a structure fire in the 34000 block Scarp Street, Pots Net Bayside. Upon arrival of the first Engine smoke and fire was showing from the rear of the structure with a report of children trapped in the structure. Firefighters began fire suppression and search and rescue operations. A parent was able to remove one child from the residence unable to account for three other children. The fire was extinguished quickly and during search and rescue operations firefighters found three deceased children in the bedroom. The one child that was removed from the structure was treated and transported to Beebe for evaluation. That victim was later released from the hospital. The on duty Deputy Fire Marshals responded to the scene and the Major Incident Response Team from the Office of the State Fire Marshal was activated to assist with the investigation. The three victim's bodies were turned over to the Division of Forensic Science for autopsies and positive identification. The Delaware State Police and Office of the State Fire Marshal are conducting a joint investigation. Damage was estimated at \$50,000 and no smoke detectors were present in the structure. The investigation is continuing.

Incidents of Interest cont.

August 9, 2019 – Shortly after 6:00 AM Minquas Fire Company of Newport was dispatched to a commercial structure fire in the 300 block of South Walnut Street, Newport. On arrival they had a building full of smoke and an active fire in a Van inside the building. Firefighter's worked to extinguish the fire in the van, check for extension and remove the smoke from the structure. The on call Deputy Fire Marshal was requested to respond to the scene. The Deputy determined the fire was accidental caused by an electrical/mechanical failure within the engine compartment of a vehicle igniting combustibles causing fire damage to the vehicle and structure estimated at \$100,000. There were no reported injuries.

August 17, 2019 – Just before 11:30 AM Georgetown Fire Company was dispatched to a structure fire in the 300 block of Race Street, Georgetown. On arrival there was smoke showing and the firefighters began fire suppression operations extinguishing the fire. The on call Deputy Fire Marshal was requested to respond to the scene for an investigation. The Deputy Fire Marshal determined the fire to be accidental caused by a malfunction of an electrical extension cord. Estimated damage is \$10,000.

August 18, 2019 – The on call Deputy was notified after 12:30 AM that Townsend Fire Company was on scene of a bonfire in the unit block of Blackbird Forrest Road with a burn victim. The on call Deputy responded to Crozer Medical Center where the Juvenile patient was being transported. The Deputy Fire Marshal's investigation revealed the Juvenile fell into a bonfire at the above location and received 2nd degree burns that were non-life threatening.

August 19, 2019 – Around 19:00 hours Aetna Hose Hook and Ladder Fire Company was dispatched to a structure fire in the 2200 block Pleasant Valley Road. On arrival the Fire Chief reported a fire inside the one story garage used for storage and converted to a living unit. Upon further investigation by the firefighter's it was determined the fire had confined itself to the structure and was self-extinguished. The on call Deputy Fire Marshal was requested to respond to the scene for an investigation. The investigation is continuing with damage estimated at \$100,000. No smoke detectors were present in the structure and there were no reported injuries.

DFIRS Incidents Received

TOTAL STATE PARTICIPATION IN COMPLIANCE
84 %

DELINQUENT DEPARTMENTS

New Castle County	
Brandywine Hundred	February – June
Five Points	May - June
Minquadale	March - June
Kent County	
Dover	April – May
Frederica	June
Hartly	June
Houston	February - June
Sussex County	
Blades	May – June
Gumboro	June
Roxana	March - June

OVERDUE REPORTS BY DAYS

30 Days	60 Days	90 Days	90+ Days
3	2	1	4

Source: DFIRS Incidents received as of 8/9/19.

REPORT OF THE STATE FIRE SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Director

- DTI – DSFS Record System development – status
 - Vendor contract – 150k yearly – discussions with OMB and Symbiosys to determine among other things, who will be fiscally responsible.
 - Enhancements may be included in the re-write
 - Meeting with vendor – Wed/Thur present business requirements to vendor
 - Classroom computers updated to WIN10
 - Ten Instructor kits equipment updated (computer & projector)
 - O365 – last agencies – meeting this quarter – go live maybe second quarter 2020
- Annual Report FY19 – Copy provided to Commissioners.
 - Student attendance total – 19,059 (+682)
 - Industrial students – 1,542 (-307)

Director cont.

- EMT Training, Basic class 211 students, EMT-Refreshers 452 students (+97)
- Fire Safety & Injury Prevention Program– 59,323 person reached, an increase in both
- Proboard Certificates awarded 1055 increase of 170 certificates.
- Room Rental Revenue - \$6,662 showed an increase.
- Instructor Payroll – Fire, 442,738, EMT, 135,982 – Total 578,720 (Budget 502,400)
- DVFA – Fire Company Apparatus Inventories – Title 18 Chapter 7. – Copy of list provided to Commissioners.
 - Met with Warren Jones – update information, assign staff stations – January
 - Director Newnam introduced Patricia Fox as the new Senior Instructor and announced that she has been assigned as the EMS Program Manager for the Fire School.

Staff Activities

- Trinidad 8/12-16, Del. National Guard, Urban Search & Rescue Operations – Dempsey
- Scott SCBA maintenance certification – July 30 – Aug. 2 at factory - Chillas
- Fire Officer I&II programs for Wilm. Fire Dept. – development for Sept/Oct. – Dempsey
- ALERRT training Emily Bissell – 08-13-19 - Fox
- National Fire Academy – Delaware Weekend, Miller, Ingram

Programs/Courses

Figures in red are reference to last year's comparison of class attendance.

- Current Month
 - Camp Fury – 60 campers
 - Fire Officer I – Blended program - 9 students (10)
 - Campus Fire Safety Training programs in August
 - Del State, Goldey Beacom, U of Del., Wesley College
 - In-Service programs – 18 programs/classes scheduled (19)
 - Delaware Weekend –National Fire Academy – 34 attendees
- Additions – Revisions
 - Drone Operations Training – equipment ordered – classes in 2020.

EMS

- Current Month
 - CEU programs – 3 programs scheduled
 - EMT classes – 29 students, NCD, 21 students, KCD, 14 students, SCD

Public Education and Injury Prevention - Activity Report

- Current Month
 - Fire Safety Programs – 7, (4)
 - Fire Safety Workshop – September 7th – **flyer attached**
 - DSFS Tours – 1, (4)
 - Fire Safety Displays – 2, (4)
 - Injury Prevention Programs – 0, (5)
 - Injury Prevention Events – 6, (5)

Maintenance – Building and Grounds

- Floors scheduled for waxing Dover Center during August 19th-31st
- Ground anchor points installed for Rope Rescue tower
- Fall grounds opening procedures completed
- Rest Room project – Bid opening held \$571,600 – Start mid-September
- Solar Panel/System – SCBA building, lighting/electric to the Rescue Tower

Financial

- Past Due Billings
 - 30 days – 18,201.00
 - 60 days – 41,225.00
 - 90 days – 2,218.33
- 20678 Tuition Fund – 706,584.00
 - Accounts receivable – 75,744.00
- Revenue Comparison
 - Tuition – 2019 – 106,215.79, 2018 – 119,075.05
- Special Funds Summary – The Special Funds Summary report was submitted to the Commissioners for review.

- Expenditure Report – The Expenditure report was submitted to the Commissioners for review.

Financial cont.

FY21 Budget Process

- Door Opener requests due August 23rd – none for the General Operating Budget
- Budget request target meeting – Scheduled for September
- Operating and Capital Budget requests due – October 15th
- Agency Budget Hearings – November
- Governor’s submits – Budget Hearings – Jan. – May 2020

General Fund FY21

- DSFS Record System – unknown status of maintenance requirements, DTI

Capital Budget (Bond Bill) FY21

- Rescue Tools – 52.5k, 6 Fire Companies and DSFS – this is a pass though.
- Grounds Generator – 55k – Dover Center
- Concrete pad repairs – Dover Center 50K

Staff and Office Staff Meeting Minutes

Staff and office staff meeting minutes were submitted for Commission review.

Personnel Issues

- Retirement – Charles (Chuck) Bradley, August 30, 2019 – employed 08-16-1988
 - Third longest DSFS employee with 31 years (Martin 33 years, Amabili 32 years) Charles Bradley was thanked for all that he has done and been a part of in his years of service.
 - 2nd Maintenance Supervisor, served 27 years (Evans Neal 10 years)
- Request to post and fill the position – Maintenance Supervisor. It was moved by Commissioner Truitt, seconded by Commissioner Perillo to authorize Director Newnam to begin the hiring process for the Maintenance Supervisor when appropriate.

Scheduled Activities

- Director Newnam will be on annual leave from August 29th - 30th.

REPORT OF THE BLS MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Dr. Matthews reported on a couple of incidents that involved BLS getting on scene and cancelling ALS after they would have been dispatched. He stated that some of these patients would have benefited an ALS assessment and intervention. He asked that BLS be cautious when cancelling ALS when they are near and if they are not clear on the patient's condition.

Dr. Matthews reviewed some of the findings in a Department of Public Health Press Release highlighting the drug overdose mortality in Delaware. It is meant to provide a comprehensive picture of victims and identifying opportunities for engagement. Delaware is ranked 5th in the drug overdose mortality rate in the nation.

Below is a link to the report for review.

<https://www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dph/files/dedrugoverdosemortsurvprt2017.pdf>

REPORT OF THE INVESTIGATOR/COMPLIANCE OFFICER

8 Annual Ambulance Unit Inspections
1 New Unit Inspections
10 Complaints Received
5 Arrest Notifications were received.
4 Patient Care Issues
1 Fire Safety Complaint – Turned over to the SFMO.
4 New Investigations
5 Open Cases from 2018
9 Open Cases from 2019

Mr. Truax requested that Case No. 1907 be closed. It was moved by Commissioner Perillo, seconded by Commissioner Truitt to close Case No. 1907 as presented to the Commission. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

REGULAR BUSINESS

ACTION ITEMS

Citizens Hose Fire Company Rule to Show Cause Hearing

Jonathan Rutledge, Treasurer of Citizens Hose Fire Company was sworn in and presented a hardship argument to the Commission for requesting an extension of submitting the 2018 audit. After deliberation it was moved by Commissioner Truitt, seconded by

Citizens Hose Fire Company Rule to Show Cause Hearing cont.

Commissioner Perillo to grant the 45 day extension request. The hearing began at 9:40 am and concluded at 9:52 a.m. Motion carried by a roll call vote.

Commissioner Truitt -	Yes
Commissioner Marvel -	Yes
Commissioner Kelly -	Yes
Commissioner Leonetti -	No
Commissioner Perillo -	Yes
Vice Chairman Robinson -	Abstained
Chairman Roberts -	No

Townsend Fire Company Rule to Show Cause Hearing

Dana F. Wattay of Wattay Accounting was sworn in and presented a hardship argument to the Commission for requesting an extension of submitting the 2018 audit. After deliberation it was moved by Commissioner Truitt, seconded by Commissioner Kelly to deny the extension request. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

It was moved by Commissioner Leonetti, seconded by Commissioner Kelly to levy a fine of \$100 per day for the 26 days they were delinquent. They will be fined \$2,600. The hearing began at 9:53 a.m. and concluded at 10:27 a.m. Motion carried by a roll call vote.

Commissioner Truitt -	Yes
Commissioner Marvel -	Yes
Commissioner Kelly -	Yes
Commissioner Leonetti -	Yes
Commissioner Perillo -	Yes
Vice Chairman Robinson -	Abstained
Chairman Roberts -	Yes

Bridgeville Fire Company Rule to Show Cause Hearing

Peter Stephens, Treasurer of Bridgeville Fire Company was sworn in and presented a hardship argument to the Commission for requesting an extension of submitting the 2018 audit. After deliberation it was moved by Commissioner Leonetti, seconded by Commissioner Truitt to deny the extension request and impose a fine of \$100 per day that they are late. A fine of \$800 will be imposed for their 8 days of their delinquency.

Bridgeville Fire Company Rule to Show Cause Hearing cont.

The hearing began at 10:28 a.m. and concluded at 10:36 a.m. Motion carried by a roll call vote.

Commissioner Truitt -	Yes
Commissioner Marvel -	Yes
Commissioner Kelly -	Yes
Commissioner Leonetti -	Yes
Commissioner Perillo -	Yes
Vice Chairman Robinson -	Abstained
Chairman Roberts -	Yes

South Bowers Fire Company Rule to Show Cause Hearing

Terrance Johnson, CPA of Lank, Johnson & Tull was sworn in and presented a hardship argument to the Commission for requesting an extension of submitting the 2018 audit. After deliberation it was moved by Commissioner Kelly, seconded by Commissioner Perillo to deny the extension request and impose a fine of \$100 per day that they are late. A fine of \$2,900 will be imposed for their 29 days of their delinquency. The hearing began at 10:38 a.m. and concluded at 10:48 a.m. Motion carried by a roll call vote.

Commissioner Truitt -	Yes
Commissioner Marvel -	Yes
Commissioner Kelly -	Yes
Commissioner Leonetti -	Yes
Commissioner Perillo -	Yes
Vice Chairman Robinson -	Abstained
Chairman Roberts -	Yes

NFPA 1917

NFPA 1917 Standards will be included in the draft 710 Ambulance Regulation updates. This regulation update is anticipated to be scheduled for a public hearing by November. Ms. Lambertson has emailed a copy of the NFPA 1917 Standard to the Presidents, Chief's, EMS Officers of private ambulance companies and fire companies. It has been added to the Fire Prevention Commission website for review as well at the following link:
<https://statefirecommission.delaware.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/103/2019/08/2019-NFPA-Edition-NFPA-1917.pdf>

It was moved by Commissioner Perillo, seconded by Commissioner Truitt to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters. Motion was carried by a unanimous vote. The Commission entered into executive session at 11:30 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commission exited Executive Session at 11:35 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

GENERAL INFORMATION

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

None

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Truitt

Commissioner Truitt reported that she attended the Monthly Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Marvel

Commissioner Marvel reported that he attended the Monthly Commission Meeting, Memorial Fire Company Fundraiser, Fire Museum of Maryland Meeting, Seaford Fire Department Meeting, New Castle Firefighter's Meeting, Seaford Funeral, Sussex Fire Chief's Meeting, Seaford Fire Department Burn Tournament.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

September 17, 2019 – 9:00 AM
Commission Chamber
Delaware Fire Service Center
1463 Chestnut Grove Road
Dover, DE 19904

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Dicristofaro commented on the audit hearing process. He believes that a “hardship” needs to be defined in the regulation. He stated that two years ago the Commission granted an extension because a company changed Officers. The Commission heard that today with Townsend and the request was denied. He couldn’t determine how the Commission could have granted the extension request for Citizens Hose Fire Company today and not grant the other three that came before them. He suggested that companies hand deliver their audits to the commission office as well as make the audit process part of the DVFA Conference educational break outs. There is a high turnover of officers within the state and he does not feel that everyone is being treated the same.

Scott Bundek commented that he has appeared before the Commission representing Little Creek Fire Company. He is of the opinion that fire companies are having a lot of issues with the CPA or Accounting firms. He feels that the CPAs and Accounting Firms are used to filing an extension with the IRS and it being granted without question. The extension request with the Fire Commission is different.

Commissioner Marvel and Perillo suggested that all fire companies add to their contracts with their accounting or CPA Firm that they are accountable for all fines levied by the Fire Prevention Commission that are due to lack of timely response from their firm.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Vice Chairman Robinson, and seconded by Commissioner Perillo that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried by a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry R. Lambertson

Sherry R. Lambertson
Executive Specialist

sl/