

Prince George's County Fire Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday October 4th, 2023

Tonight's meeting was held in person at the Fire Services Building with approximately 45 participants, was gavelled to order by Chairman Bolden at 7:30 pm.

Chaplain – opened the meeting with an invocation prayer followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Chaplain Frank Underwood Provided the Champlain's report.

Volunteer Services Office –Assistant Chief White

- Over the last few months the Chiefs Office and Association Leadership, County Council and other stakeholders met after the failure of the reappointment of the Fire Commissioners at the County Council meeting. Discussed the process for the Fire Commission selection, Volunteer Training, Station Management, and 508 Funding,
- Tonight everyone saw step one to create an opportunity to come in person and speak to the stakeholders. Phase 2 is having the Association President, Union, and Fire Chiefs Office to meet and select top candidates to submit to the County Executive's Office for consideration. County Executive will get all the resumes and executive letters.
- CB8223 was submitted to the County Council's Health & Human Services Committee with a meeting in October, please visit the County Council website for details.
- Volunteer Training Standards workgroup has been established.
- MOU vs General Order and General Order 519 Ambulance Billing are upcoming topics to be discussed.
- More information will be coming out in a Memo from the Fire Chief's Office soon.

Commissioner Hegwood (Lisa)-

Reminded everyone that we started another quarter, please don't hesitate to reach out to your Commissioner to spend the funds and fill out forms.

Commissioner Snyder (Kyle)-

- **Made a motion for the approval of the September 20th, 2023, Commission Minutes. The motion was 2nd by Commissioner Surles, with all in favor the motion passed.**
- **Made a motion for an expenditure request in the amount of \$2,688.50 for College Park Station 12 for Insurance Policy renewal. The motion was 2nd by Commissioner Bell, with all in favor the motion passed.**
- The CIP workgroup submitted the final recommendation the Chair and VSO, thanked Commissioners Hegwood and Selmon for serving on the workgroup.

Commissioner Chandler (Michelle) – No report.

Commissioner Holbert (Antwan) – No Report

Commissioner Bell (Gloria) – No report.

Commissioner Smalls- No report.

Commissioner Selmon- No report.

Commissioner/Vice Chair Surles (Vanessa)-

- **Made a motion to approve the FY21 Kentland Co. 33 and FY22 Baden Co.36 & Morningside Co.27 LOSAP Reports. 2nd by Commissioner Chandler, and with all in favor the motion passed.**
- Meeting with County Council brought up to making adjustments to getting LOSAP, looking at different ways to get awarded earlier after making 25 years but not hitting th age limits. Council is open to doing that but need to anlylizew the affect on the budget. Changes may hit in Fall of 2024.

Chair Bolden-

- **Made a motion to approve the equivalency packages for the following Joey Allen Company 14, Eric Bridgess Station 9, Aris Indino Station 27, Karl Loots Station 27th. Seconded by Holbert, and with all in favor the motion passed.**
- **Made a motion to support the Volunteer Chief Council by allowing them the ability to request from the Commission for use of County training funding as needed. Seconded by Commissioner Hegwood. With all in favor the motion passed.**
- Attended the deputy meeting at MFRI with the Fire Chief. Working with the Commission, Fire Chief, and Commissioner/Battalion Chief Chandler on the Accident Reporting process. The current process is too complex, and the Commission is looking to take the lead in streamlining the process.
- Met with Mr. Rose, chairman of the volunteer Chief Council regarding training funding, office space, and vehicle usage. The chair will be meeting with AMD to discuss potential County vehicle usage by the volunteer Chief Council.
- Everyone who has completed the LOSAP inquiry online may have seen responses coming in already.
- Spoke with the County Executive today to provide an update on Commission operations.
- CIP projects were put in order by the workgroup and working through the County process.
- Comments from the Special Meeting, process for the special meeting and Fire Commission intro is new and we are all working through the process. He clarified the process, and advised that Each candidate will receive and email with further instructions.

Recruiter Update: County recruiter Patricia Shelton provided an update on recruiting efforts and statistics.

Chairman of the Chief Council- Rajah Rose

Provided an overview of the last meeting of the Chief's Council, and listed their recommendations regarding volunteer training updates including the creation of a Volunteer Development Handbook.

President of the Volunteer Fire & Rescue Association– President Lee Lutz

- Mentioned how several key PGCVFRA figures passed away this past week.

- The Founders circle memorial service was not well attended this year, asked companies to please send representation to these important events.
- There will be a Chiefs and President's meeting tomorrow at Co. 9
- Next meeting will be Oct 11th at Accokeek hosted by Underwater Rescue.

Ladies Auxiliary:

- Next meeting will be Oct 12th.
- A four-page document was sent regarding how items were missing from the old office and provided a list. A police report will be filed as well and requested that the list of items be included in the minutes.

Questions from the floor:

**Not all names captured as some attendees did not provide names prior to asking questions.*

-Frank Underwood asked about the status of the audits. The Chair advised they will be going to the district commissioners later this week for review

-Jeremy Co. 11 asked about the term limits topic that came up in the special meeting. The Chair provided an overview of the reappointment of Chair Bolden, Vice-Chair Surles, and Commissioner Holbert will go before Council. After that, the next round of Commissioners will go through the process. Chief White also provided some input. He also asked about the Chief's Council funding that was authorized tonight. The Chair provided some explanation on purchasing mobile technology and other items are needed to access County information.

-Peter Mellits asked if an amount was authorized by the Commission, and asked if the Chiefs could access the items through the MDTs in the apparatus. The Chair clarified that the Council would need to request the individual purchases, but the Commission simply expressed support to allow the funding to be made available.

- Asked about the distribution of 508 Funds. The Chair advised that we had not yet received the funds from the State, but the Commission 508 workgroup will meet to allocate funding. The Chair estimated the 2nd week of November for the funds to be sent out. Also advised that the fillable PDF for the VSC form was completed.

Gerald Co.25- Asked the Vice-Chair on the status of past LOSAP reports, the Vice Chair offered to walk him back to the office to check, but the reports were emailed out today.

Company 55- Also asked about missing LOSAP reports.

Janet Demerit- Asked about the new VSC document that came out and how it is unfair to volunteer corporations. She also advised the Fire Commission signature was removed from the form. Chief White advised that the VSC office manages that program.

Brian Lau- Asked for clarification about the terms of the Fire Commissioners, and the term of Commissioner Smalls. Also brought up concerns of the potential data breach of the missing documents from the Ladies auxiliary forms. Also asked about if anyone has reached out to the unconnected LOSAP recipients such as spouses to see if their benefits are correct. Asked for a copy of the workers comp policy and the minutes from September and several other items.

-A member of the Ladies Auxiliary asked about who authorized people to come into the office without authorization. Chief White and the Chair provided some comments.

Frank Underwood announced that the tribute is that Baden, he is selling tickets.

Chaplain providing a closing benediction. Chairman Bolden adjourned the meeting at 8:26 pm.

Minutes were recorded and typed by Commissioner Kyle Snyder, Secretary

