MAINE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES COMMISSION

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, March 11, 2019**

***(Unanimously Approved on Monday, June 3, 2019)***

Chair Dan Brooks called the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission to order at 9:03 a.m. in Room 438, State House, Augusta. Fire Commission members attending today’s meeting included Senator Scott Cyrway, Deputy Chief Kenneth Desmond (RET), James Graves, Chief Joseph Guyotte, Harty Norris, Vicki Schmidt, Chief Joseph Thomas, Chief Michael Thurlow, Chief Larry Willis (RET) and Susan Pinette (staff). Members excused included Stephan Bunker, Senator Brownie Carson, Gerry Gay, Matt Gomes, Steven Greeley, Ron Green, Chief Thomas Higgins, Suzanne Krauss, Representative Catherine Nadeau, Charles Soltan, Shaun St. Germain, Representative Timothy Theriault and Representative Charlotte Warren. The Fire Commission welcomed Chief William Gillespie of the Liberty Fire Department as guest of today’s meeting.

***A motion by Chief Joseph Guyotte, seconded by Chief Larry Willis (RET), that the Maine Fire Protection Services Commission accepts the meeting minutes of January 7, 2019.*** The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports and Old Business

The Joint Spring Conference Committee reported that plans are being finalized for the conference scheduled for Wednesday, March 27th through Friday, March 29th at the Grand Summit Hotel and Conference Center at Sunday River. The Joint Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday afternoon.

The Education and Training Strategy Committee reported that three bids have been submitted. The ETS Committee has scheduled Thursday, March 14th to begin the review process with awards expected in late May or early June. Additional information regarding the grant process is available on the Fire Commission’s webpage.

The Recruitment and Retention Committee updated Fire Commission members on the National Firefighter Grants and that further information will be forthcoming by late Spring.

Fire Commission members discussed the Office of the State Fire Marshal’s and Maine Fire Service Institute’s funding issues. Members discussed the challenges both the OSFM and MSFI face with limited resources.

The Elections Committee proposed that the current five Fire Commission officers be nominated to serve another year.

***A motion by Chief Joseph Thomas, seconded by Chief Joseph Guyotte, that the current slate of Fire Commission Officers be presented at the Fire Commission’s Annual Meeting as the nominees for the next year.*** The motion passed unanimously.

The Fire Commission reviewed the Bills of Interest list for the First Regular Session of the 129th Maine Legislature. LD 1014 *An Act To Attract and Retain Firefighters* sponsored by Senator Erin Herbig, also known as the LOSAP bill, was referred to the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. The public hearing has been scheduled for Friday, March 22 at 9:00am in Room 436 of the State House.

New Business and News from Members

Fire Commission members learned recently that one of their members, Representative Catherine Nadeau, became a first time grandmother. Welcome Remington!

On a sad note, the Maine fire service lost two members recently. Captain Joel Barnes of the Berwick Fire Department lost his life saving his fellow firefighter as they fought a structure fire on March 1st. Over 7000 attended his memorial service held on a snowy Saturday at the Cross Insurance Arena in Portland. Chief Gary Sacco of the Oxford Fire Department, attending Captain Barnes’ service, fell ill and later died at a Portland hospital. The Maine Fire Protection Services Commission mourns the tragic loss of these two heroes and adjourns today’s meeting in loving memory and honor of Captain Joel Barnes and Chief Gary Sacco. May you both rest in peace.

With no further business to come before the Maine fire Protection Services Commission, Chair Brooks adjourned the meeting at 10:23pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Pinette

Staff

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

Monday, April 1, 2019 MEETING State House 9:00am

Monday, May 6, 2019 ANNUAL MEETING State House 9:00am

Monday, June 3, 2019 MEETING DPS 9:00am

Monday, July 1, 2019 MEETING DPS 9:00am

***Dates of Interest:***

*Wednesday, Thursday, Friday* *2019 Joint Spring Conference, Sunday River*

*March 27-29, 2019*

*Wednesday, March 27, 2019* *Joint Meeting, Sunday River (time TBA)*