

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY
NEW JERSEY FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING**

Meeting of January 15, 2014

The New Jersey Fire Safety Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, January 15, 2014 at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville, NJ.

Commission Members Present: Mr. Pasquale Intindola, Acting-Chairman
Mr. Charles W. Schilling
Mr. Stanley Sickels
Mr. Kevin Krushinski
Mr. Lawrence D. Wood
Mr. Roger Potts
Mr. Kevin Bellew
Ms. Kathleen O’Leary
Mr. Fredrick Collender
Mr. Steve O’Gorman
Mr. Daniel DeTrolino

Commission Members Excused: Assemblyman John Wisniewski, Chairman
Mr. Arthur Londensky
Mr. John Lightbody
Mr. Richard Blohm

DCA Staff Members Present: William Kramer, Acting Director
Lou Kilmer, NJDFS
Tim Weiss, NJDFS
Glenn M. Smyth, NJDFS
Charles Lavin, NJDFS
Jerry Clark, NJDFS
James McFadden, NJDFS
Michael Whalen, Codes and Standards

Guests: David Kurasz, NJFSAB John Garton, NJ Department of Labor
Richard Silvia, NJSFPPA Vinny Corsaro, Jefferson Twp. Fire Bureau
John Caufield, NFPA Ray Lonabaugh, NFSA
Peter Hodge, BC Law/Public Safety Doris Flatley, Somerset Co. Fire Academy
Josh Lazarus, NJDFS (ret.) Donald Scher, Somerset Co. Fire Academy
Charles Augenbaugh, NJ Deputy Fire Chiefs
Ronald McGowan Jr., Wildwood Crest Fire Co.

A. Call to Order

Acting-Chairman Pat Intindola called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM and began the meeting with the “Pledge of Allegiance” and pointed out the fire exits. A moment of silence was observed for the firefighter who had recently passed away in Bergen County.

B. Approval of Minutes

With no discussion requested or necessary corrections, the minutes of the regular meeting of November 20, 2013 were approved.

C. Correspondence

Acting-Chairman Intindola noted that all correspondence for today’s meeting is contained in the Fire Safety Commission packets. With no discussion requested on any of the correspondence at this time, the meeting was moved to Public Comment I.

D. Public Comment I

Acting-Chairman Intindola opened up the meeting to any members of the public wishing to address the Fire Safety Commission.

John Caufield, the Mid-Atlantic Regional Director from the National Fire Protection Association, spoke briefly to remind everyone to keep tabs on the NFPA website (www.nfpa.org). In particular, he said a number of codes and standards are posted and ready to be commented on. They are always looking for input from the people in the field, and Mr. Caufield named a handful of standards that are currently accepting comments and suggestions. He urged all the Fire Safety Commission members to check the website periodically and mentioned that many NFPA committees are looking for new members.

Charles Aughenbaugh asked if the Division of Fire Safety has the statutory authority to enforce the incident command system for the fire service in New Jersey. He then asked what agency has the authority to enforce the incident command system for the fire service in New Jersey. He then asked if the Division of Fire Safety has responded to the Governor on Assembly Bill 2593. Acting Director Bill Kramer answered that the Division of Fire Safety has received significant correspondence both for and against Assembly Bill 2593. The Division has another couple months to gather more information and make a recommendation – and they will respond to the Governor within the 6-month time-frame. Chief Kramer said if Mr. Aughenbaugh needs additional answers, he can send a letter and he will answer them officially.

E. Division of Fire Safety Activities

Acting Director William Kramer began his report by talking about two recent line-of-duty deaths that had taken place in New Jersey – one in Hightstown, one in Cliffside Park. Both were medically-related. Chief Kramer assumed that both were heart attacks, but that is not confirmed at this point.

Under the leadership of Bureau Chief Lou Kilmer, the Division of Fire Safety was able to complete 100% of its required life hazard use inspections. This includes over 13,000 inspections in over 100 municipalities and all State owned and operated buildings. The Division of Fire Safety is continuing to deal with issues with RIMS. The next hurdle will be the 2013 Annual Reports, and Chief Kilmer will be sending out documents very soon as far as submitted those reports. It looks like the reports will be allowed to be sent in between January 31st and February 28th. The document from Chief Kilmer will also include some additional instructions for a supplemental document – which will not be unfamiliar to local fire officials. Also, the Division of Fire Safety has recently added two full-time inspectors, and additional vacancies are in the process of being filled.

Preparations for Super Bowl XLVIII at MetLife Stadium are ongoing and have (as expected) become all-encompassing. The Division of Fire Safety has gone through a whole credentialing process for the events and will begin conducting field inspections next week. Multiple venues will be in use on game-day, as well as several tents and temporary structures that the Division of Fire Safety is responsible for. This includes rehearsals each day, with pyrotechnics, etc., etc. The Division of Fire Safety seems to find out about more and more events on an almost daily basis, and the Division of Codes and Standards is equally busy with Super Bowl-related issues.

Chief Kramer and Bureau Chief Rick Farletta were at a meeting recently with the New Jersey Highway Incident Management Team, and the Division of Fire Safety became a partner of the team (which was previously limited to DOT and State Police). Division of Fire Safety staff will be involved in major incidents on limited-access highways going forward. Also, the Division of Fire Safety recently received a grant of \$35,000 from the Board of Public Utilities for the purpose of developing training with photovoltaic systems for the fire service. The Division is also in the process of obtaining two new K-9 Arson Investigations so that two of the current dogs can retire from work on fire scenes. They will continue to work in other capacities.

Chief Kramer reported that the Division of Fire Safety is waiting on IFSAC to approve accreditations of their training programs at their annual meeting. The courses have already received ProBoard accreditation. Also, the issue of the five southern New Jersey counties (who had previously been acting on their own as far as accreditations) has been denied being the delegating authority by the NJDFS. ProBoard will be meeting in Florida in the near future and will, Chief Kramer believes, designate the Division of Fire Safety as the one accrediting agency for New Jersey

New Jersey Weekend at the National Fire Academy will be held on April 26-27. The Weekend will now be a partnership with the State of Mississippi since they were unable to fill enough courses of their own. This will up the amount of available courses from nine to eleven, and will be a unique networking and information-sharing opportunity.

Chief Kramer spoke about the potential Special Meeting of the Fire Safety Commission to examine the Seaside Park/Heights fire that was proposed at November's meeting. Division staff has been in contact with Chairman Wisniewski and has come up with three potential meeting dates in February. The Fire Safety Commission ultimately determined that February 26th at Middlesex County Fire Academy would be ideal, particularly since it follows a meeting of the Codes Council one week prior. Commissioner Lawrence Wood asked if the Deitz & Watson fire in Delanco would be discussed at the same meeting. The Commission determined, based on the discussion from November's meeting, that it would be examined at the February 26th meeting as well.

Commissioner Dan DeTrolio asked if Chief Kramer had gotten any indication as to whether the Governor would be signing the Residential Sprinkler Bill. Chief Kramer deferred to Commissioner Kevin Bellew, who reported that the bill was on the Governor's desk and he has until midnight on January 21st to act on it. If no action is taken, they will have to start over in the next legislative session. Commissioner Bellew commented that it was his gut feeling that it's a 50/50 shot.

Commissioner Steve O'Gorman asked whether there would be information posted on the Division of Fire Safety website regarding the new ProBoard and IFSAC accreditations. Chief Kramer answered that the Division of Fire Safety can certainly do. He also mentioned that ProBoard does not go backwards – you cannot be grandfathered in. The Division of Fire Safety is still in negotiations with IFSAC, and he believes you could be grandfathered in going back five years, but that is not a definite yet. Commissioner Gerard Naylis asked if ProBoard allows Challenge Exams. Chief Kramer answered that they do.

Commissioner Wood asked if the Division of Fire Safety had met with the Board of Public Utilities regarding the water companies. Chief Kramer answered that they had met in an effort to develop better relationships between the water purveyors and the fire service. BPU does not, however, regulate municipal water purveyors, only the larger water companies. Chief Kramer said it was a good meeting and many of the companies already had good policies in place regarding notifications, etc. They are working on standardizing those policies so that everyone is on the same page.

F. Advisory Council Reports:

1. Codes Advisory Council

Commissioner Charles Schilling reported that the Codes Advisory Council meeting was held on December 18th at the Middlesex County Fire Academy. The minutes of that meeting are contained in the Commission packets.

Commissioner Schilling spoke about the ‘All Hazards Information Sign’ and the Subchapter 3 Committee is working on this as part of their review. The sign currently under discussion would be in addition to the truss sign, but it was suggested that all the information be combined onto one sign.

Commissioner Schilling submitted two corrections to proposed modifications – one regarding open-flame cooking devices, one regarding means of egress. The exact language of each was submitted to the Commission members in their packets. Commissioner Stanley Sickels made a motion to accept these corrects. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Daniel DeTrollo and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Schilling submitted the resume of Kenneth J. Schweiker and made a motion that he be added to the Codes Advisory Council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Stanley Sickels and passed unanimously.

Another item that the Codes Advisory Council discussed was the storage of Liquid CO₂ Beverage Dispensing Systems. This is mainly an issue in restaurants and there have been incidents in Georgia and Arizona – one resulting in a death. The Codes Council considering whether an alert should be sent out by the Division of Fire Safety so that everyone is aware of the situation. Commissioner Stanley Sickels added that the problems with these systems are the dangers associated with an oxygen-rich atmosphere – and he feels that a guidance document could be in order. Chief Kramer said that the Division of Fire Safety has put together a draft bulletin on this.

The Codes Council is continuing to conduct a review on the two major fires from September 2013 – Delanco and Seaside Park/Heights. These will be examined at length at the upcoming meeting.

The next meeting of the Codes Advisory Council is scheduled for February 19th at Middlesex County Fire Academy at 10 am.

2. Training and Education Advisory Council

Commissioner Lawrence Wood reported the Training and Education Advisory Council met on December 17th at the Dempster Training Center in Lawrenceville. The minutes from that meeting are contained in the Commission packets.

The Training and Education Advisory Council had discussed the written and practical exams for ProBoard certifications. The fire academies can administer and charge for these exams, but they will have to submit Course Delivery Forms for the challenge exams. It was asked whether instructors needed to get certified and Kent Neiswender answered that the instructors are certified by the Division of Fire Safety and getting ProBoard accreditation is strictly voluntary.

The next meeting of the Training and Education Advisory Council is scheduled for Tuesday, February 18, 2014 at the Dempster Training Center at 10 am.

3. Statistics and Information Advisory Council

Commissioner Gerard Naylis reported that the Statistics and Information Advisory Council met on November 25th at the Monmouth County Fire Academy. The minutes of that meeting are contained in the Commission packets.

The Statistics and Information Advisory Council has begun examining the data from 2013 and working up an analysis. The priority right now is looking at fire death and serious injury data to assist in the preparation of the Division of Fire Safety's report on fire extinguishers.

Commissioner Naylis made a motion that William Newbury be added to the Statistics and Information Advisory Council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner DeTrollo and passed unanimously.

4. Master Planning and Research Advisory Council

In the absence of Commissioner John Lightbody, no report was given. The January meeting had been cancelled due to coinciding events in Trenton regarding the Residential Fire Sprinkler bill.

The next meeting of the Master Planning and Research Advisory Council is scheduled for March 3rd at the Toms River Fire Academy.

5. Public Education Advisory Council

Commissioner Daniel DeTrollo reported that the January meeting had been cancelled due to a scheduling conflict. Charles Lavin did inform the Commission that the New Jersey FIRE Bowl would have its largest participation ever with three new school districts getting involved.

Commissioner Stanley Sickels suggested that a 'Teacher of the Year' award be added to the Fire Safety Poster Contest. He noted that some art teachers around the state do a tremendous job each year and have had several State Winners – and felt they should be recognized. Commissioner Sickels added that this could also give participation a boost. The Fire Safety Commission agreed and Commissioner DeTrollo said the Council would discuss this at their next meeting.

Chief Kramer added that the WABC-7 Operation Save-a-Life Kickoff Breakfast would be taking place on January 22nd in New York City. The Division of Fire Safety has invited the entire Fire Safety Commission this year, and Chief Kramer encouraged all Commission members to RSVP and attend the event. It will be held at the Pierre Hotel starting at 8 am.

The next meeting of the Public Education Advisory Council is scheduled for Wednesday, March 5th at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville.

6. Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council

In the absence of Commissioner Richard Blohm, no report was given.

7. Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council

Commissioner Kathleen O’Leary reported that . The minutes of the meeting were submitted to the secretary too late to be in the meeting packets, so they will be distributed to the Commission members electronically.

Paul Elenio completed distribution of the Operation Save-a-Life smoke detector supply to the northern half of the state (ABC7 New York viewing area) and is now offering what remains to the rest of New Jersey. The Juvenile Firesetter Council is still trying to get some kind of participation and/or feedback from the Attorney General’s Office, so they will be redirecting efforts to focus on the county AG offices.

The National Fire Academy’s Juvenile Firesetter Intervention program is just about ready for rollout. Once it is ready the Juvenile Firesetter Council will be scheduling classes.

The Annual Juvenile Firesetter Conference in December was a success with 78 individuals attending over the course of two days at Middlesex County Fire Academy. Planning is already underway for the 2014 Conference where the theme will be “social media”. The Council is also focusing on getting participation from the counties that haven’t been submitting reports.

The next meeting of the Juvenile Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council is scheduled for March 13th at the Burlington County Emergency Services Training Center.

G. Committee Reports

1. Residential Sprinkler Committee

Commissioner Gerard Naylis suggested that everyone urge the Governor to sign the Residential Sprinkler Bill that is currently on his desk. Commission Naylis also reported that he had provided written testimony for the Commerce and Urban Affairs Committee on behalf of the Fire Safety Commission. He expressed the Commission’s unanimous support of the Residential Sprinkler legislation. Commissioner Naylis also submitted the same testimony to the Budget and Appropriations Committee.

Commissioner Stanley Sickels thanked his local senator – Senator Beck – who had spoken in favor of the Residential Sprinkler Bill and voted in favor of it. Commissioner DeTrollo asked who had voted against the bill. Commissioner Bellew answered that

there was one abstention and two votes against it – one of which was Senator Bucco of the Fire Safety Commission, who had sponsored the bill.

H. Old Business

Commissioner Lawrence Wood asked if the fire service would be alerted of the Special Meeting of the Fire Safety Commission on February 26th. Chief Kramer said the meeting would be open like any other Commission meeting, and a notice will be posted on the Division of Fire Safety website.

Commissioner Naylis suggested it should focus on fact-finding and making recommendations for how these fires could be prevented going forward. He mentioned a specific instance of a building at the Seaside boardwalk being saved by fire sprinklers. Chief Kramer said that the Division of Fire Safety can provide a lot of information because they were heavily involved in both incidents. He also said that there is a lot of pending litigation so there is a lot that cannot be discussed about these incidents as well.

I. New Business

Chief Kramer said that the Division of Fire Safety is in the process working with the Department of Treasury on the Recruit Firefighter Training Packages. The bidding process will begin in the coming weeks and will result in a three-year contract (with two one-year extensions) to provide the books for firefighter recruits throughout the state.

Chief Kramer also reported that Heather Allen of the Division of Fire Safety's NFIRS Unit has put out two memos recently. The first was thanking the fire service for all their participation in NFIRS. This helped make the 2012 Fire In New Jersey report as great as it turned out. The second memo was asking fire departments to submit data by the end of February 2014 if they want to be included in the 2013 annual report. They would like the Annual Reports to be more timely.

Chief Kramer reported that there was a meeting held this past Saturday with all the County Fire Coordinators. The new County Fire Coordinators were sworn in and will serve two-year terms starting January 1st.

Vice-Chairman Intindola asked Chief Kramer for a status update of the Peer Review hearings. Chief Kramer answered that the resumes of the members of the Peer Review Committee are still sitting in the Governor's Office, and have been since February 2013. He said this was unfortunate because there have been sanctions pending for a while now and are still awaiting review.

J. Public Comment II

Charles Aughenbaugh from the NJ Deputy Fire Chiefs Association asked if the Division of Fire Safety had served any violations in regards to the fire in Harrison or the Paulsboro

train derailment. Chief Kramer said he was unsure what was meant by “violations”, but either way the answer to Mr. Aughenbaugh’s question was no.

K. Adjournment

Acting-Chairman Intindola asked if anyone had any additional business they would like to bring before the Commission. There being none, the meeting adjourned at 10:58 am.

*** The next meeting of the Fire Safety Commission will be held on Wednesday, March 19, 2014 at 10am. It will be held at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville, NJ***