

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

Meeting of July 17, 2025

The New Jersey Fire Safety Commission meeting was held on Thursday, July 17, 2025 at the Surf City Volunteer Fire Department in Surf City, New Jersey.

Commission Members Present:

Mr. Kevin Krushinski, Chairman
Mr. John Wisniewski, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Lawrence D. Wood
Mr. George Aleu
Mr. Arthur Hayduka
Mr. Richard Blohm
Mr. Charles Siedenburg
Mr. Charles Maria
Mr. Steve O’Gorman
Mr. Gerard Naylis
Mr. Armando Roman
Mr. Kevin Bellew
Mr. Nelson Wiest
Mr. Raymond Heck
Ms. Kathleen O’Leary

Commission Members Excused:

Mr. Frederick Collender
Mr. Arthur Londensky

DCA Staff Members Present:

Richard J. Mikutsky, State Fire Marshal
Louis Kilmer, NJDFS
Charles Lavin, NJDFS
Greg Kirkham, NJDFS
Steven Taylor, NJDFS
Don Nelsen, NJDFS
Jenna Ventres, NJDFS
Thomas Johnson, NJDFS
Leonard Inzerillo, NJDFS
Dan Timmerman, NJDFS

Guests:

Maddy Dazilme
Joseph M. Lenarski
Michael R. Marks
William Hollingsworth Jr.

Michael Smith
Robert Morris
Dennis Allen
Christopher Freeman
Zachary Sharp

Nihari Kessireddy
John Hayowyk Jr.
Matt Janora
Brian Mount
Kaitlyn Freeman

Chris Ventrice
Nicholas Brescia
Darlene Genovese
Robert Read
Charlie Lind Jr.
Robert Hull

Matthew McKelvey
Kenneth Anderson
William Quinn
Adam Ellender
Andrew Fosina
Bernie Cunningham

Buddy Ott
Brent Cunningham
Kevin McCarthy
Todd MacLennan
Brian Kubiel

A. Call to Order

Chairman Kevin Krushinski called the meeting to order at 10:09 AM. He led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for those recently lost in the line of duty and the men and women serving our nation overseas.

B. Approval of Minutes

The Fire Safety Commission unanimously approved the minutes of the regular meeting of May 22, 2025. Chairman Krushinski noted that the minutes were in today's meeting packets for all to review.

C. Correspondence

Chairman Krushinski noted that any and all correspondence for today's meeting was contained in the Commission packets.

*******SPECIAL PRESENTATION*******

Led by State Fire Marshal Rich Mikutsky and NJDFS Senior Planner Don Nelsen, a special presentation was made to honor the members of the fire service who went above and beyond in the response to the Jones Road Wildfire in Barnegat, NJ. Honorees were award with certificates of appreciation from the State.

Honorees were as follows:

Ocean County Fire Marshals – Chief Dennis Allen, Buddy Ott, Darlene Genovese, Michael Marks, Zachary Sharp, Jordan Lavundi, Nicholas Brescia, Delaney O'Connor, Brian Mount, William Hollingsworth, Christopher Ventrice, Christopher Freeman, Adam Nappi, Jillian Eble, Jerry Hayes, Roger Hull, Sean Waldron, Matthew McKelvey, and Kaitlyn Freeman.

Ocean County Fire Coordinators – Chief Kyle Grace, Brian Stasik, Robert Morris, Kevin Flynn, Ken Anderson, and Bill Dikun.

Waretown Fire Department – Chief Shane Leaming, Hunter Hawk, Robert Ziegenfuss, Walter Bohn, Kevin Moore, Past Chief Brent Cunningham, Past Chief Matthew Ambrosio Sr.

Chairman Krushinski and the New Jersey Fire Safety Commission thanked all the honorees for their distinguished service.

D. Public Comment I

Chairman Krushinski opened up the meeting to any members of the public present wishing to comment. With no members of the public wishing to address the Commission at this time, the meeting was moved to Division of Fire Safety Activities.

E. Division of Fire Safety Activities

Director Mikutsky reported that the Division of Fire Safety remains busy on all fronts. This week the NJDFS on-boarded three interns, two of whom will be assisting in the Fire Incident Reporting Unit, and one will be assisting in the Compliance Unit. Also, this year's Fire Prevention Week is October 5-11 and the campaign, "Charge into Fire Safety™: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home," is aimed to educate everyone about using these batteries safely. This stresses how important it is to BUY, CHARGE, and RECYCLE safely when it comes to lithium-ion batteries.

Director Mikutsky announced that the NJDFS has been working with the National Fire Academy to reschedule this year's New Jersey Weekend. The dates will be October 25th and 26th. The same classes will be available as were offered in the spring. The NJDFS is also working on the New Jersey Weekend for 2026.

From the Bureau of Fire Department Services, Director Mikutsky report that NJDFS staff were active participants in the Emergency Preparedness, Fire/Rescue and Intelligence groups with FIFA ahead of the upcoming tournaments. Staff assisted in the preplanning for responses to the confirmed venues, hotels, training facilities and base camps during the time periods the teams were at those locations. They also staffed and enhanced positions at MetLife Stadium during the scheduled FIFA Club World Cup games.

NJDFS Staff also continue to promote the SAVER program, from within the state working group and as ASIM B instructors. They work with NJSP/law enforcement, EMS and Fire personnel from throughout the state to deliver the Active Shooter basic course. (ASIM B) NJDFS staff also continue to staff the ESF4 (fire) position at the SEOC. Staff worked with NJOEM to develop and update the State Emergency Operations plans, and the Hurricane Decision Support Tool. Critical staffing is also supported by the DFS SEOC support group.

Director Mikutsky offered the following year-to-date statistics from the Bureau of Fire Department Services:

- *Notifications-multiple alarms – 57
- *Emergency responses – 36
- *Exercises – 48
- *Special Events – 50
- *Fire Department Assistance – 88

- *Trainings – 111
- *Fire Department Complaints – 135
- *Meetings Attended – 906

Director Mikutsky reported that the Office of Fire Department Preparedness is currently working on a number of projects, including: Development of Telegram group for South Jersey Fire Coordinator, support and operation with New Jersey All Hazards Incident Management Team, developing a quarterly workshop for Fire Coordinators, standardization of the Wildland Urban Interface response program, CODES program planning/training, and mutual aid plan restructuring.

Director Mikutsky reported that Fire Incident Reporting Unit staff have trained approximately 367 fire service members in Fire Incident Report Writing Classes. The delivery method included in person and virtual classes including four for Kean University and 39 local delivery classes. These training classes encompassed 45 different fire departments including both volunteer and career departments. Staff also conducted 64 emergency responses (29 South/35 North) to fire departments for NFIRS Coding assistance in various types of fires including multiple alarm fires, Fatal Fires, Civilian Burn Fires, Electric Vehicle Fires, Warehouse Fires, Church Fires, Colonial Infrastructure Fires and Residential Dwelling Fires.

NJDFS Fire Incident Reporting Unit staff attended 3 Fire Investigation Task Force Meetings, 3 Fire Prevention Meetings, 3 County Presidents Meetings, and 21 Local Fire Department meetings. They calculated Property Loss Estimation of Fires in New Jersey at approximately \$46,531,942.40 during emergency responses. Unit staff have also audited, processed, and released 147,895 fire department incidents to United States Fire Administration for Data Analysis. Only 598 of the 692 or 86% of fire departments have reported any NFIRS Reports in 2025. NJDFS Fire Incident Reporting Unit staff also received and reviewed 325 Civilian Burn Reports, 34 School Fire Reports, 79 Lithium-Ion Battery Fire Reports, 8 firefighter burn reports, and 44 fatality reports, of which 34 were residential.

Eight technical NFIRS analytical reports were produced, which included 2 School Fire IDR's (Intelligence Dissemination Report) and 6 Lithium-ion Battery Reports. Micro mobility devices (e-bikes, scooters, hoverboards, etc.), power tools, and portable electronics make up the highest number of incidents year-to-date. In over 69% of the incidents, the battery was indoors and about half the time it was not charging at the time of the fire. Staff also assisted multiple branches within the NJ State Police, State Medical Examiner's Office, US Federal Bureau of Investigations, US Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, US Homeland Security, FEMA, US Secret Service, NJ Office of Homeland Security and Protection, NJ Forest Fire Service, United States Fire Administration, US Postal Police, and 36 other states' NFIRS State Level Program Managers.

From the Community Risk Reduction Unit, Director Mikutsky reported that on July 2, 2025, staff completed and posted the Summer 2025 Fire Focus Online Newsletter. It is available on the NJDFS website. Additionally, Toyota's financial donation for the

Operation-7 Save-a-Life program has been received, and smoke alarms have been ordered from Kidde. We anticipate receiving them within the next couple of weeks. CRR staff continue to fill requests with the combo smoke/CO alarms we have in stock. We are still waiting for our supply from Operation Save-a-Life.

CRR staff is also working on putting together the 22nd Annual Anthony R. Braig Conference on Youth Firesetting. By the September Commission meeting, registration information will be available – as well as a full program and agenda for the 2-day event scheduled for December 4-5. Year-to-date, Community Risk Reduction staff have distributed 426 smoke alarms, 30 CO alarms, 593 combination smoke/CO alarms, and attended 27 meetings.

Director Mikutsky reported the following year-to-date statistics from the Fire Investigations/K-9 Unit:

- *Fire Investigations – 159 (Totals: 21 Incendiary; 47 Accidental.; 5 Nat.; 86 Undetermined / Pending; 12 w/fatalities; 6 w/arrests)
- *Duty Officer Notifications – 290 (30 were invests cancelled enroute)
- *FF Injury Cases – 60 (Totals: 23 burns; 5 cardiac; 5 falls; 4 impacts; 2 cuts; 20 other)
- *FF LODD Cases – 0
- *K9 Deployments – 15 (13 cases w/ evidence secured)
- *Staff / K9 Trainings – 57 (30 in-person; 27 virtual)
- *Meetings Attended – 63 (50 in-person; 13 virtual)
- *OPRA / Requests – 40 (14 info sent; 3 withheld; 23 no records)
- *K9 Demos / Teaching – 14
- *Special Events – 3
- *Deposition / Court – 2

From the NJDFS Training & Certification Unit, Director Mikutsky reported that staff continue to process initial applications and renewals. Also, the NJDFS and Kean will be sponsoring an ARFF class this fall. Notices have been sent to the local fire departments and airports for interested parties. This course will be held at the Middlesex County Fire Academy, Newark International Airport, and Atlantic City International Airport.

The Office of Training & Certification and the Contractor's Certification & Emblem Unit are working with the CSI Group to develop a new training, certification, and licensing computer system. They are shooting for a September 9, 2025, date for live training by staff. This system will allow the chiefs, training officers, and academies more access to the system:

- *Individuals will be able to see all their personal information and change the information that is needed and print certificates as needed
- *Chief and training officers will be able to see the members listed under their department FDID number, see what certifications are held by their members, and print out needed documents/certifications
- *Academy directors and instructors would be able to see the students registering for academy classes and their certifications

- *Academies and approved EO's would be able to submit Course Delivery Forms electronically, populate rosters and give credit for classes
- *Electronically submitted certification/license applications and payments

The Code Enforcement SME group continues to work on updating the NJ Fire Inspector credentialing program to the new standards of:

- *New NFPA 1030 Standard for Fire Inspectors
- *The IFSTA 9th Edition Fire Inspection and Code Enforcement student manual
- *Revising the JPR Skill Sheets to reflect the new ProBoard evaluation requirements
- *Updating the PowerPoint presentation
- *Train-the-trainers will be scheduled once this work has been completed

The 2025 fall semester training brochure should be posted online on or about August 20, 2025. Registration will begin on September 3, 2025. Individuals can sign up for no more than six classes per semester. Kean will send out email notices to those individuals who register for more than the maximum six classes that they will need to withdraw from classes before Kean withdraws them.

The Physical Agility subcommittee continues to meet and discuss what is needed for this program. A draft version of the program was sent to the subcommittee members for review and discussion. Also, the next Eligible Organizations meeting will be held on August 22, 2025, at the Ocean County Emergency Services Training Center.

Year-to-date the Training & Certifications Unit certifications processed 7,485 certifications and issued 254 contractor's certifications. Also, the Code Enforcement SME is working on revisions to the 2018 Fire Inspector program. The SME group already updated JPR Skill Sheets and Written Exam questions to the new 2018 IFC. The Code Enforcement SME will work on the Fire Official program as soon as the Fire Inspector program is finalized. Train-the-trainer sessions will be scheduled as soon as everything is ready. N.J.A.C. 5:71 – Fire Code Enforcement, N.J.A.C. 5:73 – Standards for Fire Service Training & Certification are going through the approval process. N.J.A.C. 5:74 – Standard for the Certification of Fire Protection Equipment Contractors should be published in the August 4th NJ Register.

Director Mikutsky gave the following report on the New Jersey Fire/EMS Lifeline: In May 2025, 93 contacts were made and 27 firefighters were served. In June 2025, 105 contacts were made and 23 firefighters were served. The team continues to provide ongoing mental health support to first responders as was exemplified in the Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) debriefings held in northern NJ in May. Throughout June, which is recognized as National PTSD Awareness Month, the First Responder Unit conducted six Critical Incident Stress Management (CISMs) responses across the state. This included one EMS-only debriefing, highlighting the focus on the unique challenges faced by different responder groups. The increase in requests for CISM interventions is an encouraging indicator that the stigma around mental health is decreasing and that departments are recognizing the value of timely support after traumatic events.

Commissioner Gerard Naylis asked Director Mikutsky whether the new certifications of inspectors would be accredited by ProBoard. Greg Kirkham from the NJDFS answered that they already are and would only need to test again if they want additional accreditations.

Deputy Director Louis Kilmer began his report by talking about the conclusion of FY2025 and onset of FY2026. The past year was a record year for the NJDFS as far as collections and Deputy Director Kilmer noted the new Dynamics computer systems as being a great asset with augmenting the level of compliance statewide. He added that these greater collections enhances the fire service statewide in a number of ways.

Deputy Director Kilmer announced that the adoption notice went out for N.J.A.C. 5:74 – Standard for the Certification of Fire Protection Equipment Contractors – and it will be published in the New Jersey Register on August 4th. The new regulations will give the NJDFS more power as far as enforcing the standards. Deputy Director Kilmer also spoke about the licensure for fire officials that is in the process of being adopted as well. The standards for training and certification and the changes to the emergency management system are going through the approval process as well.

Deputy Director Kilmer reported that the NJDFS is still working with the Food Truck Association to look at requirements, how inspections are done, fees, etc. The primary concern is with the amount of paperwork that needs to be filed, so they are working to try and streamline that process using an online statewide portal. Deputy Director Kilmer is hopeful that this will all be in place by the end of the year. The NJDFS also put out a bulletin to all food truck operators about the new regulations. The NJDFS also continues to get questions on the new regulations regarding mulch, but that seems to be slowing down as everyone gets up to speed. The NJDFS has continued to work with realtors, management companies, landscapers, etc. on this. Deputy Director Kilmer added that they continue to talk with the NJ Turnpike Authority about the standpipes on highways, but there has not been much progress in that area.

Deputy Director Kilmer gave the following year-to-date statistics from the Bureau of Fire Code Enforcement:

- *Initial Inspections - 10,306
- *Reinspection – 7,137
- *Violations – 28,796
- *Event Permits – 1,708
- *Change of Occupancy Smoke/CO Certificates – 1, 135
- *Complaints – 219

Deputy Director Kilmer added that a few of the vacancies in the Code Enforcement Unit had been filled, but there are still looking for more qualified individuals to bolster the ranks.

The labeling requirement for secondary power sources is now in effect for changes of occupancy. This concerns solar, generators, etc. to make sure fire departments are aware of what energy sources are on a particular site. The NJDFS is also continuing to work on

the report stemming from the School Suppression Survey, and this is being handled by Dan Timmerman. This will take some time to be put together but will be shared once it is available. The NJDFS also continues to offer training on the 2018 Fire Code

Vice-Chairman John Wisniewski asked about the standpipes on state highways. He had spoken to the New Jersey Turnpike Authority and, if the NJDFS is having difficulty maintaining contact or getting information from them, Vice-Chairman Wisniewski offered his assistance as he has a good working relationship with them. Deputy Director Kilmer said he appreciates the offer and will keep him in the loop on this. Commissioner Gerard Naylis asked if there was information on exactly where the standpipes are and what condition they are in. Deputy Director Kilmer answered that he is not sure what information the NJ Turnpike Authority has, but when this process started the NJDFS was told that the Department of Transportation did not have the information. It is his understanding, however, that they have started compiling a list. A lot of the fire departments do have the information on the standpipes in their jurisdictions. Commissioner Naylis suggested using the information from the local departments, this way it would at least be a start towards having a complete picture of what is out there.

At this time, Chairman Krushinski turned the meeting over to National Fire Academy Superintendent Eriks Gabliks. Superintendent Gabliks gave a comprehensive report on the U.S. Fire Administration and the National Fire Academy, and spoke about the nationwide issue of wildfires and thanked the folks from Ocean County and statewide in New Jersey for their hard work. Superintendent Gabliks also spoke about the National Fire Academy's recent closure/re-opening/rescheduling of New Jersey Weekend (if you're attending, please have Real ID or a passport). He also gave an update on NERIS, which went live last November. The main change is that departments will send their data straight to the national system.

With no further business to discuss regarding Division of Fire Safety Activities, the meeting was moved to Advisory Council Reports.

F. Advisory Council Reports:

1. Codes Advisory Council

Commissioner George Aleu reported that the Codes Advisory Council met on June 18th at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville. The minutes of that meetings were distributed to all Commission members in the their meeting packets for review.

Commissioner Aleu read the following letter into the record on behalf of Codes Advisory Council Chairman Arthur Londensky:

“Recently, fires have occurred in high-rise buildings without full sprinkler systems in Ewing and North Bergen. The Uniform Fire Safety Act Codes Advisory Council strongly recommends that the New Jersey Fire Safety Commission discuss and approve support of the adoption of retrofit provisions requiring the installation of fire sprinklers in all existing high-rise buildings at the next Commission meeting. If these

buildings were constructed today, fire sprinklers would be required and may have prevented these deaths. Sprinkler systems retrofitted into existing high-rise buildings will enhance life safety, protect property, and save building owners money over time through reduced costs of insurance premiums and potential liability.”

A discussion followed in regard to the retrofitting of high-rise buildings and the tragedies that have occurred through the years from not having sprinklers. Chairman Krushinski noted that this would take legislative action, which has failed in the past, so the Commission would have to get lawmakers on board with this. Vice-Chairman Wisniewski added that legislators don’t always understand why something like this is important and beneficial, so the Commission needs to make an effort to educate them on this (and other) matters important to the fire service. Commissioner Naylis stressed that now is the time to identify and develop good advocacy points ahead of a new administration taking over after the coming election.

The next meeting of the Codes Advisory Council is scheduled for August 20th at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville at 10 AM.

2. Training and Education Advisory Council

Commissioner Nelson Wiest reported that the Training and Education Advisory Council had met on June 17th and the minutes of that meeting were submitted in today’s meeting packet for all Commissioners to review. Commissioner Charles Siedenbourg added that the next meeting is scheduled for August 19th.

Commissioner Gerard Naylis asked about the requiring of Firefighter 1 for all new firefighters and questioned whether the current regulations have an hours requirement for new firefighters. Greg Kirkham from the NJDFS answered that the requirements are more JPR-driven than it is by actual hours now. Commissioner Naylis asked the Training and Education Advisory Council take a look at possibly getting Firefighter 1 through means other than training (via courses, past experience, etc.), rather than specifying an amount of training hours. Commissioner Wiest answered that this would be discussed at the next meeting in August.

3. Statistics and Information Advisory Council

Commissioner Gerard Naylis took this opportunity to remind everyone that NERIS is coming and to prepare accordingly. Commissioner Naylis stressed that having good data in order to have good results, and he was encouraged to see the uptick in fire departments reporting statewide. Commissioner Naylis also urged fire departments to keep their contact information up to date with the NJDFS as that is vital to getting important information.

4. Master Planning and Research Advisory Council

Commissioner Lawrence Wood reported that he was unable to attend the last meeting of the Master Planning & Research Advisory Council meeting, so he referred to Commissioner Raymond Heck to give the report.

Commissioner Heck reported that the Master Planning & Research Advisory Council is focused on several areas including, but not limited to, working closely with New Jersey's colleges and universities, bringing together the fire service statewide which is fragmented, bolstering the ranks of the Council itself, and the recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters.

5. Public Education Advisory Council

In the absence of Commissioner Daniel DeTrollo, no report was available at this time.

6. Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council

Commissioner Richard Blohm reported that the Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council met on July 9th at Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville. The minutes of that meeting were submitted for inclusion in today's meeting packets for all Commission members to review. The Council was focused on getting briefed on the progress of the Recruit Firefighter Physical Agility Program Committee and discussing their findings. They are also looking into what, if any, cost will be incurred by fire academy should these requirements be put in place.

Commissioner Blohm also spoke about the NJDFS and Kathe Conlon's form for capturing more comprehensive data on firefighter burn injuries. There have been some tweaks to the form since it was presented at the last Fire Safety Commission meeting. These changes were explained by Lenny Inzerillo.

The next meeting of the Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council will be held on September 25th at the Middlesex County Fire Academy at 10AM.

7. Youth Firesetting Prevention Advisory Council

Commissioner Kathleen O'Leary reported that the Youth Firesetting Prevention Advisory Council met on June 5th at the Monmouth County Fire Academy in Freehold. The minutes of that meeting were submitted for inclusion in today's meeting packets for all Commission members to review.

Commissioner O'Leary spoke about the upcoming 22nd Annual Anthony R. Braig Conference on Youth Firesetting, which is set for December 4-5 at Middlesex County Fire Academy. Charles Lavin from the NJDFS is working on putting the event together and registration information will be available by October 1st. Commissioner O'Leary also

reported that the Operation Save-a-Life is continuing and departments in need can reach out to Charles Lavin to make arrangements for distribution.

Commissioner O’Leary also spoke about the “Chromebook Challenge” which was an online trend that youths were imitating and it caused a number of fires statewide. Numerous fire departments, fire prevention bureaus, school districts, etc. put out advisories warning educators and parents about this. The Council discussed how to combat this and other similar trends going forward.

The next meeting of the Youth Firesetting Prevention Advisory Council is scheduled for September 10th at the Wildwood Crest Volunteer Fire Department at 10 AM.

G. Committee Reports

1. Residential Sprinkler Committee

Commissioner Gerard Naylis reported that there was nothing new to report in terms of residential sprinkler legislation but added that he had put a draft letter together that he would be forwarding to the Fire Safety Commission members via the Secretary.

2. Ad-Hoc Committee on Legislation

Commissioner Kevin Bellew stated that there was no formal report to be given at this time and reported progress.

3. NJ Statewide Utility Safety Team

Commissioner Steve O’Gorman reported that the NJ Statewide Utility Safety Team continues to work with the forest fire service on making sure they are on the same page and improve communication. The Team also wants to make sure that everyone knows they are available for training, both at their facility and at the fire academies throughout the state, for free where needed.

The next meeting of the NJ Statewide Utility Safety Team is scheduled for August 15th at Ocean County Fire Academy.

4. Electric Vehicles Working Group

Vice-Chairman Wisniewski reported that he is putting together ideas for possible legislation related to electric vehicles. He gave an example where he purchased an electric vehicle and the dealer had basically zero information in regard to the battery, and what should be done if its damaged or there is a problem with it. Vice-Chairman Wisniewski suggested there should be some form of education provided to consumers on this. Vice-Chairman Wisniewski added that, since there will not be any legislative movement until after the coming election/new administration is in place, it would be a good idea to come up with possible ideas to consider for next year. Commissioner Naylis

agreed and added that they should be working on ideas for legislation beyond the electric vehicle realm as well in terms of the lithium-ion batteries, etc.

Deputy Director Kilmer added that there should be someone looking at this from a codes perspective because, at the current time, there is not a lot in the code in terms of where charging stations can be, how they are to be installed, what should be in place in case of an incident, etc.

5. Recruit Firefighter Physical Agility Program

Commissioner Blohm reported that they are making progress and have had several discussions. A meeting of the committee has been scheduled for August 18th at the Middlesex County Fire Academy at 10 AM. A representative from the Civil Service Commission will be in attendance as well.

H. Old Business

Chairman Kevin Krushinski opened up the meeting for any Old Business to be discussed at this time. Commissioner Armando Roman reported that the New Jersey Fire Safety Commission lapel pins were in and had been distributed to Commission members. Commissioner Roman generously donated the pins. Anyone in need of one can ask Commissioner Roman, who thanked Commissioner Steve O’Gorman for his assistance on developing the pins as well.

Director Mikutsky followed up on the issue of appointments to the Fire Safety Commission that was discussed at the previous meeting. He had reached out to the Governor’s Appointments Office who said they will be working on getting appointments up to date, but it is likely that this will not be moved forward until the next administration comes in after the new year.

I. New Business

Commissioner Roman made a motion that only appointed members of the New Jersey Fire Safety Commission wear the exclusive lapel pins bearing the Commission’s logo. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chairman John Wisniewski and passed unanimously. Commissioner Roman also thanked Charlie Lind and his organization for donating the coffee and lunch for today’s meeting.

Director Mikutsky took a moment to recognize Surf City Fire Chief Kyle Costable and thanked him for his hospitality in hosting today’s meeting at their facility.

Commissioner Lawrence Wood made a motion that Jeffrey Betz and Dennis Allen be appointed to the Master Planning & Research Advisory Council. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Heck and passed unanimously.

Commissioner Gerard Naylis asked how much of the revenue that has been collected by the NJDFS has not been distributed to the local enforcing agencies. Deputy Director Kilmer answered that all of the collected fees have been redistributed to the locals. Deputy Director Kilmer added that he did not have a number on the amount of those rebate fees that had been taken back because inspections were not done if that is what Commissioner Naylis is referring to. Commissioner Naylis suggested taking steps to ensure that all of those inspections get done. A discussion followed amongst the Commissioners on how to potentially rectify the situation. Also, Commissioner Blohm inquired about Director Mikutsky's search for a funding source for maritime training for firefighters. Director Mikutsky answered that they have not secured a steady funding source to conduct this training as of yet.

There being no further New Business to conduct at this time, the meeting was moved to Public Comment II.

J. Public Comment II

Chairman Krushinski opened up the meeting once again for any member of the public wishing to comment at this time. John Hayowyk gave a report from the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation and explained the organization's training and education programs, as well as gave an update on what the revamp they are in the process of doing nationally. He encouraged anyone present who is looking for training to reach out to him.

David Kurasz from the New Jersey Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board spoke in support of the high-rise building fire sprinkler retrofitting that was discussed earlier in the meeting, and offered his assistance in putting together whatever information necessary that the Fire Safety Commission may need.

K. Adjournment

With no further discussion requested, Chairman Kevin Krushinski called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Armando Roman made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Gerard Naylis and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:51AM.

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