

**FIRE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**August 22, 2022**  
**8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.**

Meeting Location: Teams Meeting

<b>P</b>	Mark Kulda Insurance Federation of MN	<b>P</b>	Don Smiley MN State Fire Chief's Assoc. (MSFCA)
<b>P</b>	Kip LaMotte Fire Marshals Assoc. of MN / International Assoc. of Arson Investigators-MN Chapter	<b>P</b>	Scott Vadnais MN Professional Firefighters Assoc. (MPFF)
<b>A</b>	Rick Loveland MN Professional Fire Fighters Assoc. (MPFF)	<b>P</b>	Dave Yurczyk MN State Fire Department Assoc. (MSFDA)
<b>P</b>	Mark Windschitl <i>Vice Chair</i> League of MN Cities	<b>P</b>	BJ Jungmann <i>Chair</i> MN State Fire Chief's Assoc. (MSFCA)
<b>P</b>	Tim Meehl League of MN Cities	<b>P</b>	Ed Hoffman MN State Fire Department Assoc. (MSFDA)
<b>P</b>	Jim Fisher MN Assoc. of Townships	<b>P</b>	Commissioner Harrington (DPS)

Guests: Michael Gaede (St. Paul), DeeDee Jankovich (MSFDA & MnFIRE), Wayne Kewitsch (MnFIRE), Jim Smith (SFM), Steve Flaherty (MBFTE), Kathleen Donovan (SFM), Pete Knaeble (MN-TF1), Dean Wrobbel (St Cloud FD), Shawn Kremer (DPS FAS)

**FIRE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**August 22, 2022**  
**8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.**

Meeting Location: Teams Meeting

**Call to order at 8:01 a.m. – Chair BJ Jungmann**

- Agenda
- Motion to approve the agenda by Mark Windschitl, seconded by Scott Vadnais

**Emergency Business**

- Funding issue with MnFIRE
  - \$1 million in outstanding bills
  - Previously able to receive money as grant, now required to do as reimbursement
    - Wayne Kewitsch, MnFIRE- Have no current fund balance, or funds to pay insurance for firefighters. Unable to get money from grant until they pay their bills. Have monthly expenses of \$300K-\$400K, only \$100K-\$150K in account. Unable to get line of credit. Proposing FSAC grants MnFIRE one time funds of \$1 million. Once bills paid off, they would be reimbursed and then return the balance of funds to FSA, with the exception of \$400K, which would act as float or line of credit and prevent return to FSAC for further assistance with this situation
    - Chair Jungmann notes Commissioner Harrington joined meeting
    - Marshal Smith yields his time to Shawn Kremer, CFO for DPS FAS
    - Shawn Kremer gives overview. FSAC allocation process is different, so it doesn't get managed the same way a state grant does. When funding transitioned to permanent appropriation, language was written to make it a grant. That is the specific change that happened with funding. Grant was set up through OJP and mistakenly functioned like an advance for the first 10 months. Should have been run like reimbursement. The goal is to ensure there are no impacts to the Grantee, using this process to bridge that float between two programs
    - Mark Windschitl questions Shawn Kremer if MnFIRE will be able to keep a balance moving forward, if this is legal, won't run into situation like this again
    - Shawn Kremer clarifies it is legal for non-profit to have cash fund, and moving forward reimbursement should work fine. More frequent reimbursement is possible if needed
    - Scott Vadnais is in support of this, and wonders if it will have effect on rest of FSAC funding priorities
    - Shawn Kremer states this will eat into available balance. Will be sending Marshal Smith and Chair updated accounting of where that account closed for FY22. A comprehensive financial overview will be prepared for the next meeting

# FIRE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Meeting Minutes

August 22, 2022

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Meeting Location: Teams Meeting

- Marshal Smith questions Wayne Kewtisch if the loan of \$400K would need to be repaid or if it will be used going forward as cash flow.
- Wayne Kewitsch states it be used ongoing so MnFIRE will not have to come back every biennium and ask for cash flow loan
- Chair Jungmann clarifies the ask is for \$1 million, and MnFIRE will pay back \$600K and keep \$400K
- Mark Kulda asks if any legislative concerns, questions if legislator would ask if able to keep that much floating, that suggests maybe the funds are not needed. Questions if any worry about legislative concerns like that
- Shawn Kremer states that should have probably been part of the discussions when grant written into law, ensuring that Grantee had enough cash flow from previous funding mechanism to shift to new one. Legislature does not appropriate funds to non-state agencies. Only way to get funds if non-agency, is a grant, which is almost always reimbursement, so there would have been no way get advance through legislative process
- Ed Hoffman states although doesn't want to lose what we have for MnFIRE, the concern is now there is roughly \$400K no longer in FSAC. Even though it is overall good for the fire service, losing that money is a bit of concern
- Chair Jungmann states that it is a one-time ask, not a base budget ask, but that \$400K is not going towards programming
- Mark Windshittl states when they were looking at presentations, MnFIRE was requesting for money, so was already in equation somewhat. Thinks will be okay, the way it is being done is different. Realizes that after all the work of getting MnFIRE running, hate to see it lapse. Questions Wayne if this funding would also satisfy the needs requested by MnFIRE in their presentations
- Wayne Kewitsch states the original ask, \$250K, was for cancer program and they are good with withdrawing that ask.
- Dave Yurczyk states he serves on MnFIRE board and questions if conflict in this, questions if needs to abstain from voting
- Chair Jungmann suggests if it doesn't feel right, then abstain. It is simpler to abstain than take issue if it is a conflict.
  - Don Smiley makes motion to approve the \$1 million dollar request for MnFIRE funding, seconded by Jim Fisher.
  - Motion approved
  - Ed Hoffman makes motion to adjourn, Windschittl seconds,
  - Motion carries, meeting is adjourned

**FIRE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**August 22, 2022**  
**8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.**

Meeting Location: Teams Meeting

**Public Comment**

No public comment

**Old Business**

No old business

**Adjourn Meeting 8:32 a.m.**