

FIRE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes

January 7, 2015
9:37 a.m. – 10:35 a.m.

League of Minnesota Cities
145 University Avenue West
St. Paul, MN 55103

P	Bob Johnson <i>Chair</i> Insurance Federation of MN	P	Don Smiley MN State Fire Chief's Assoc. (MSFCA)
P	Steve Zaccard Fire Marshals Assoc. of MN / International Assoc. of Arson Investigators-MN Chapter	P	Chris Parsons MN Professional Firefighters Assoc. (MPFF)
P	Rick Loveland MN Professional Fire Fighters Assoc. (MPFF)	P	Mark Rosenblum MN State Fire Department Assoc. (MSFDA)
A	Sue Iverson League of Cities	P	Mark Dunaski MN Department of Public Safety - Commissioner Designee
A	William Goede League of Cities	P	Mark Kulda Alternate Member
P	Jim Fisher MN Assoc. of Townships		
P	George Esbensen MN State Fire Chief's Assoc. (MSFCA)		

Guests: Marv Calvin – MNSCU
Bruce West – MN State Fire Marshal
Steve Flaherty – MBFTE
(MN Board of Firefighter Training and Education)
Jim Smith – Chief Deputy MN State Fire Marshal Division
Larry Freund – Department of Public Safety Chief Financial Officer
Kevin Reed – HSEM
Margaret Koele – FSAC Committee Staff Administrator

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Call to order

- The meeting was called to order by Chair Bob Johnson at 9:37 a.m.

Acceptance of today's agenda

- The Committee accepted the agenda as written.
- Bruce West, State Fire Marshal, requested that the Committee may want to add to "other business", setting the 2015 calendar for meeting dates and time.
- Margaret Koele, Staff Administrator, offered to create a calendar to send out and get it posted on the web site. Margaret Koele, also mentioned if there are to be changes to be made we can do a change of order with five day notice.

Approval of September 10, 2014 minutes as written

- The meeting minutes were approved without objection.

New Business

- Rail & Pipeline Safety Law Update – Mark Dunaski, Commissioner Designee
 - Mark Dunaski, Commissioner Office, reported that last year when Legislation was passed the Department of Public Safety was mandated to do a couple of things:
 - The first thing was to provide initial training to the First Responders along the rail & pipeline. HSEM and the Fire Marshal office have been working on that and they can probably give you a further update downstream. To date HSEM has completed 30 training events with First Responders across the state. We have another 40 scheduled and they have been in contact with over 100 organizations about the initial training. The response has been very positive on the training that has been given thus far.
 - The other piece that the Department of Public Safety was responsible for was to conduct a "GAP" analysis report for the Legislature that is due January 15th. DPS contracted with Management Analysis and Development (MAD) to draft the report. The report is very consistent with where we are going and the conversation we had last year about some of the needs that are out there. This report will be out by January 15, 2015 and an electronic copy will be sent to the Chair, so it can be distributed to the Committee.
 - Mark Dunaski, Commissioner Designee, mentioned that Steve Flaherty with MBFTE has been putting together a FAQ sheet for HSEM for reimbursement. Unlike some of the other accounts, this reimbursement for First Responders and Firefighters will be

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eligible for overtime and backfill. Steve Flaherty, MBFTE, will have the sheet available for distribution by the end of the week.

- Bruce West, State Fire Marshal, commented that they are adding to the draft, Post certification information for law enforcement, Post credit.
- Mark Dunaski, Commissioner Designee, reported on pipeline, there will be conversations with Legislators and other groups. Mark suspects there will be some sort of legislation on pipeline and rail again this session. The next meeting we will have a lot to discuss on what the legislation will look like and what the role of DPS is with that legislation.
 - Bruce West, State Fire Marshal, mentioned that the new HSEM training person started today and is part of the administrative costs listed above from the allocated money. Kevin Reed, HSEM, replied that person will be full time and his job is geared from the study done on what training is needed in the field.
- Mark Dunaski, Commissioner Office, reported the Governor's budget will be out no later than January 27th.
- FSA Balance and 2014 Financial Report – Bruce West, State Fire Marshal
 - Bruce West, State Fire Marshal, handed out financial reports to the Committee members. Bruce reported, through December collections are 6.893 million. The fiscal year budget is located in the second hand out from Bruce West. The revenue is based on 10.2 million. Larry Feund, DPS Chief financial officer, is present for any questions that may arise from the budget. This is the last year, potentially, of the transfer to the General Fund of the 2.368 million. Technically, fiscal year 2015 is the last of the transfer to that account. The other payments that were allocated by the committee are going out to HSEM, CAT, MBFTE and Fire Marshal Division. There is no slot currently in the additional one-time appropriation, as that has not been approved yet, but could potentially be put in at 3 million 28 thousand done at the September meeting here. Bruce West, noted that the surcharge on the revenue is on the 10.2 million and the Fire Safety Account generally collects around 13 million. The number budgeted on the report is based on the 10.2 million.
 - Bob Johnson, Chair, mentioned we want to keep watching the financial sheet, which shows we will be above the 10.2 million when we get to the end of the fiscal year. We have more opportunities to look at the not so far off future on addressing other issues we have discussed in the last couple years. We need to stay on top of the financials for this committee, to address all the issues and make a difference with fire service needs.

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- George Esbensen, MSFCA, mentioned some concern over being down in the first quarter over last year in total collections. The concern is the number in percentage tracking behind.
 - Bruce West, State Fire Marshal, replied that fiscal year 14 was the first year of the reduced factor, so cannot compare the dollar amount to FY13 or FY12.
 - Bob Johnson, Chair, replied the pattern is a consistency of payments that come in from the insurers. The key is what is the growth and overall premium. The growth of premiums has been a consistent double digit for about twelve years.
 - Mark Kulda, alternate member, mentioned that the increase in premiums has been since 1998 and has been about a 275% increase.
 - Bob Johnson, Chair, mentioned the key is the commitment to the general revenue, which will affect the bottom line finances. If we are targeting 10.2 million for FY15, it looks like we will be above that number. We have to remember the 13 million is not a target, as we have to track the budget based on the 10.2 million. Anything in excess is a surplus at the end of the year.
 - Bruce West, State Fire Marshal, replied at the September meeting the budget was projected at the 13.2 million and if it comes short then the numbers allocated for FY16 & FY17 will need to be adjusted. The report is given to the Chair around the first part of each month when the figures are given to Bruce West from the DPS Financial Officer.
- Letter to the Commissioner on FY14, Unallocated Money
 - Bob Johnson, Chair, put this on agenda to bring attention to the letter that was sent out by the Committee to the Commissioners' Office. Commissioner Mona Dohman was re-appointed, so the Commissioners' Office stays as it has been.
 - FY14 Fire Safety Account report was distributed with an additional sheet showing the members of the Committee, which Bruce West added to the document. Bob Johnson, Chair, mentioned this is useful to have added so the Legislature and budget committees know who the FSAC members are.
- 2015 Legislative Session
 - Bob Johnson, Chair, mentioned the legislative session just started so this topic will be discussed again at the next meeting.
 - George Esbensen mentioned that the MSFCA is trying hard to make a biennial appropriation, so in the two year window we do not have to go back to the Legislature on the unallocated funds. We are hoping this passes this year session. This will be in the "umbrella group" agenda.

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- Chris Parsons, MPFF, replied he is holding discussion with Legislators on the health and safety issues regarding firefighter health. This will also be brought to the FSAC group focusing on firefighter health. The new legislative majority is receptive to firefighter needs.
- Fire Service Needs Report Update
 - Bob Johnson, Chair, discussed this report was a document that Nyle Zikmund had started a preliminary draft and held a couple meetings with Bob Johnson. Bob Johnson has not had much information going forward, but will get together with George Esbensen and update everyone at the next meeting on this report. This will just be a draft to tell the story and look ahead.
- Member Update and New Administrator Introductions
 - Welcome to Margaret Koele, the new FSAC Committee Staff Administrator.
 - Bob Johnson, Chair, announced membership changes that Mark Rosenblum will be serving for the MSFDA, replacing Shane Schmidt, and George Esbensen will be serving for the MSFCA, replacing Nyle Zikmund.

Old Business: No old business to discuss.

Other Business

- Chris Parsons, MPFF, implied the fire service mission is ever evolving and now it has come that an important mission is the health and safety of the firefighter. A study has come out that 30,000 firefighters in the last several years have a higher rate of cancer. To do our job and get proper training is one piece, but also the health effects of a career firefighter need to be addressed. Cities have tight budgets and so departments are not able to fund the proper cleaning equipment needed for turn out gear or get extra set of turn out gear. Chris Parsons, would like to see this Committee put forth funds, through a grant program, to allow departments to purchase extractors, dryers or a second set of turn out gear.
 - Chris Parson, MPFF, will bring in some studies and more materials to go over at the next meeting. Chris Parson would like to see something done to help the firefighter before the situation gets to be a health issue by proper equipment being purchased and used.
- Calendar
 - Committee will meet 2nd Wednesday of the month.
 - Time will be set 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
 - Dates set will be: January 7, 2015 / March 18, 2015 / June 10, 2015 / September 9, 2015 / December 9, 2015.
 - Margaret Koele, Staff Administrator will distribute the calendar.

Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned 10:35 a.m.