

Governor's Council on Fire Prevention & Control

January 25, 2012 – Falcon Heights City Hall

Meeting called to order at 9:00am by Chairperson Tom Brace. Introductions were given by everyone in attendance. Special recognition was given to and comments were made by Department of Public Safety Assistant Commissioner Mark Dunaski.

Minutes were approved on a motion by Bert Tellers/Ted Zwieg.

Chairperson Report: Tom Brace has been contracted with for another 3 years as the MN State Fire Chiefs Association Executive Director. New leadership is in place in the Fire Chiefs Association and some changes are being made. Bob Brown will likely continue as the alternate.

Vice-Chairperson Report: The 2012 Legislative Session started yesterday and they have announced a short session is in the plan. The boundaries of the legislative districts will be announced on February 21 – there will be some changes. The State budget is not at issue for this session due to the forecast surplus. Another forecast will be provided on February 29.

Secretary Report: Sign-in sheet was routed around for signatures. A quorum is present for this meeting. A roster was distributed for members to update.

HCMC Burn Center attendance was discussed. A notice was sent to their representatives, per the by-laws, inquiring about their future intentions after they had missed several meetings. No response was received from them. A motion was made by Dennis Stark/Ted Zwieg to remove them from membership due to non-attendance. A personal notification should be made to them about this action. The motion carried. Chairperson Brace will contact them.

The Home Safety Inspection presentation by Becky Booker (Spring Lake Park/Blaine/Mounds View Fire Department – SBM) was revisited for possible action by the council. Having a booth at the State Fair might be a way to further distribute information about this concept. Becky Booker (SBM Fire) and Becki White (SFMD) might be able to coordinate this effort. Dennis Stark also mentioned the involvement of the Fire Chiefs Public Education Committee in this effort. Tom Brace and Terrie Trudeau will carry this concept to the State Fair Committee. A home fire safety inspection form should be on “our” web site.

Tom Brace updated members on the Firefighter Memorial project. Over \$600,000 has been donated toward this project – which was the goal. The memorial cost is projected to be \$500,000 and \$100,000 must be provided to the state for perpetual maintenance. The proposed dedication date at this time is September 30 at 2pm. A series of events is planned to move the statue from the airport to the foundry and then to the final site.

Tom Brace and others updated members on the residential sprinkler issue. The Department of Labor & Industry's advisory committee to the International Residential Code approved a recommendation at the December 14 meeting from (BAM) that amends the IRC's residential sprinkler requirement. The amendment requires sprinklers in all housing of two units and more but excludes single family dwellings.

This is not the final step in the process. All amendments will eventually be published for public comment and a public hearing held if requested. This issue had come up in last year's Legislative session - where a bill passed the Legislature to prevent the adoption of this requirement, but the Governor vetoed the bill so the issue is still alive. Insurance discounts, committee make-up and other topics were also discussed.

Jerry Rosendahl updated members on the Shared Services grant project. The 8 reports that were completed by outside consultants for these grants are located on the SFMD web site. Many "lessons learned" are contained in these reports – both good and bad. Members are encouraged to review these reports (<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/sfm/document-library/Pages/Shared-Services-Grant.aspx>)

Legislative Update: Tom Brace reviewed several general issues relating to state budget, legislative redistricting, prediction of a short session; this is an election year for all legislators, etc. The Fire Safety Account will be the main issue of the fire service. Fire Service Day at the Capitol is February 21, starting at 8am at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in St. Paul. Mark Kulda reported on an issue the Insurance Federation has been asked about relating to the accuracy of the dollar loss reported through fire reporting. The thought was to require insurance companies to provide this information to the fire department. This is not as easy as it may seem.

Bert Tellers reported on retirement plans for 2 employees in RAM which will involve him moving up to a department head position so he will move to the alternate and a new primary member, Colin Emans, will become the primary member. Thanks and congratulations were offered to Bert for his service.

John Piper again offered to host the March meeting in St. Cloud as part of their conference. This meeting will be held on March 28th at Holiday Inn & Suites.

Dennis Stark handed out information on the Fire Department Association annual conference in Alexandria.

Steve Simmer reported that DNR Gene Mannelin retired and the job will be posted soon and published widely.

Jerry Rosendahl asked that all associations contact the DPS Commissioner's Office directly (copy Rosendahl) to invite either Commissioner Dohman or Assistant Commissioner Dunaski to attend their meetings or conferences.

Frank Langer reported on the education tuition subsidy (voucher dollars) being cut off as of June 30, 2013. No more tuition dollars are being given out.

MN Chapter of the Society of Fire Protection Engineers will be meeting tonight with State Fire Marshal Rosendahl doing the presentation along with Kevin McGinty who will review the updating process for the State Fire Code and the NFPA Standards.

Ted Vanderbeek reported on meetings with Legislative leaders on various issues.

Review of Goals: A. Develop a white paper on the emerging trends, practices and technology in the world of fire prevention and control. Mark Kulda will work on a more detailed description of this goal. B. Conduct a strategic-level review of the 13 years of the Governor's Fire Prevention Day at the State Fair. Ted Zweg, Tom Brace and Mark Kulda will work on the description of this goal. C. Develop a marketing plan for the council. Ted Zweg and Mark Kulda will work on this goal further to include outreach (and internal) awareness. Council apparel was also discussed by Terrie Trudeau who will bring some new ideas. D. Provide an educational program – when scheduled/allowed – a few times per year. E. Sponsor 2012 Governor's Fire Prevention Day at the State Fair Day.

All goal statements as revised will be shared with all council members before a final report is produced.

Frank Langer suggested an article be written as a summary of 2011 activities and 2012 goals for use in association publications.

Next meeting will be at the MN IAAI annual conference in St. Cloud at the Holiday Inn & Suites at 9am on Wednesday, March 28th.

Meeting adjourned at 11:32am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Rosendahl, Secretary