

## **FIRE ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING**

**Wednesday, March 5, 2014  
Office of State Fire Marshal  
1035 Stevenson Dr., Springfield, IL  
1:00 p.m.**

### **Minutes**

#### **Attendees:**

Gerald Farina, State Farm Ins.	Greg Knoll, IL Professional Firefighters Assn.
Steve Iovinelli, IL Fire Services Assn.	Jim Kreher, IL Fire Services Assn.
Phil Zaleski, IL Fire Safety Alliance	Les Albert, OSFM
Joe Holomy, Effingham FD	Royal Mortenson, IL Fire Service Institute
Jim Watts, OSFM	Larry Matkaitis, OSFM
Kent Tomblin, Peoria FD	Stephen Clarkson, IL Fire Chiefs Assn.
Bryan Doyle, IL Fire Chiefs Assn.	Robert Morris, IL Fire Inspectors Assn.
Mike Toika, IL Fire Inspectors Assn.	Joe Welter, IL Fire Inspectors Assn.
Mike Falese, IL Fire Chiefs Assn.	Bill Hoffmeister, Northern Alliance
Sean Maloy, IL Fire Chiefs Assn.	Cheri Breneman, IL Assoc. of Fire Prot. Districts
Brett Kunkel, IL Assoc. of Fire Prot. Districts	Brian Thompson, IL Society of Fire Service Instructors
Katherine Nunes, OSFM	Robert Buhs, IL Fire Chiefs Assn.
Terry Ford, IL Firefighters Assn.	Nick Steker, Franklin Park FD
Kevin Schott, Volunteer Firefighter Rep.	Tom Roate, Assoc. Fire Fighters of IL
Cathy Bormida, OSFM	

The meeting was called to order by K. Tomblin, Chairman, at 1:00 p.m.

L. Matkaitis introduced Katherine Nunes of OSFM and Philip Zaleski, Executive Director of the IL Fire Safety Alliance.

#### **Old Business:**

##### **A. OSFM Budget update:**

L. Matkaitis stated that OSFM is beginning their annual budget process and has had meetings with the Governor's budget office; there should be no reductions but still have to get through two appropriation hearings. Legislators were pleased with the small equipment grants going out to fire departments and fire protection districts. OSFM will have more grant awards next year along with \$10 million in zero or low interest loans for fire apparatus and \$4 million for ambulances as soon as an agreement with the IL Finance Authority is executed. The interest money and repayment money goes back into the funds so eventually they are self-sustaining.

OSFM is hoping to hire 7-8 additional inspectors agency wide in the next fiscal year. Some of these will help with public school inspections; there are 800 schools that need these inspections which normally should be performed by local inspectors but many fire departments do not have the qualified personnel to perform them. When the time comes, OSFM will send out House and Senate

appropriations bills to all fire service organizations and ask for submittal of electronic slips in support of the legislation.

**B. SCAC Update:**

L. Albert reported the following SCACs established and working: FAE, FSVO, Fire Officer, Haz Mat, and Rescue. FAE & FSVO should be completed within the month. Airport Firefighter SCAC is being established. On another item, OSFM is researching the possibility of electronic testing. There may be a cost to take a certification exam. Now the price is \$18.00 which will need to be paid by the individual or department before the exam is taken. OSFM will continue to research this possibility.

**C. IFSI Proposal Regarding SCAC Process:**

R. Mortensen re-capped the proposal that was first presented at the November meeting of the Fire Advisory Commission, which would give the IL Fire Service Institute an increased leadership role in the SCAC process. After discussion, a motion was made by S. Clarkson to run a pilot for one SCAC program thru the Fire Service Institute proposed process and see how it works, with L. Albert overseeing the process for OSFM; motion seconded by M. Toika, all voted "aye", motion passed unanimously.

**New business:**

**A. Small Equipment Grants:**

L. Albert reported that OSFM had \$4 million to grant to fire departments and fire protection districts in amounts up to \$26,000. OSFM received 389 applications and 193 departments were granted money. Notices to fire departments/districts have been sent out.

**B. Other new business:**

OSFM sends out a letter to municipal officials twice a year reiterating their duties and responsibilities regarding the minimum fire code and are thinking of making adjustments to the letter to include the duties and responsibilities of the fire chiefs; this is a result of some departments not adhering to the NFIRS reporting requirements. NFIRS reporting is a qualifier to receiving any grants, federal or state.

L. Matkaitis stated that OSFM has someone at the Capitol every day of session so no legislation is filed that the fire service is not aware of and will notify fire service organizations if need be. Matkaitis urges all to visit your local legislator and introduce yourself; it is important for all of us to make contact.

S. Clarkson voiced support from the IL Fire Chiefs Assn. for the update of the Life Safety Code and that the IFCA looks forward to moving this legislation forward in the coming months.

M.Toika asked about a new contact at OSFM concerning fireworks as previous contact D. McMullin retired. Matkaitis stated that Kevin Switzer or Vickie Fraase are contacts for now but OSFM is looking for a replacement. J. Watts reported that this position and responsibilities fall under division of Fire Prevention and also include sprinklers and fire equipment duties. The position, previously considered part time in Chicago office, has been changed to full time in the Springfield office, with this person covering the whole state. The hiring process is through Central Management Services.

R. Buhs reported that he has updated the IL Fire Chiefs website to show how to submit a witness slip electronically. He also reported that April 9th is their Legislative Day in Springfield, at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel.

Motion to adjourn by K. Schott, 2<sup>nd</sup> by G. Farina.  
Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.