

Gary Whitman moved to establish a moratorium on developing new certification programs until June of 2025. Seconded by Walter Gardner, Jr. Motion approved.

Volunteer Safety Worker's Compensation Board – Cloyce Anders. The State of NC has established a permanent funding source for Worker's Compensation Board. A fund cap was established at 45 million dollars. Cancer program is funded with current retained funds with no additional appropriations needed from the State of NC.

Certified Fire Investigator Board – Freddy Johnson, Sr., Chairman. Last Board meeting was cancelled. NC/SC Training Conference will be held next week in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Unfinished Business

Harley Cook recognized Kevin Gordon and presented him with a plaque for his service and contribution to the Fire Rescue Commission.

New Business

Rules and Bylaws – Kevin Gordon

Staff has been working with attorneys to develop rules and bylaws. Draft rules are not complete at this time. It has taken longer than expected to review. Expected to have by January 9, 2024 meeting. To prepare for that, some adjustments need to be made to the bylaws. A draft of the bylaws has been provided as attachments. The draft of the new bylaws was reviewed with the Board. Will also be requesting to repeal FRC Policies 200.01 to 200.07 at January meeting. Everything from 200.08 forward in FRC Policy will be moved to Admin Rules.

Agency Reports

NC Department of Insurance – Brian Wade. NFA Weekend will be November 17-19, 2023. Approximately 200 students expected to attend. Working towards breaking ground on new training facility. Also, Staff have been working diligently on the rules and bylaws. Will have them ready for review in January.

NC State Firefighters' Association – Tim Bradley. Relief Fund reports are due soon. Remind Chiefs that Rosters and Board of Trustees Reports are due by January 25, 2024. Please remember to add members to roster as soon as they join the department so they will be covered by insurance. Approximately 5,200 people attended annual conference. Next annual conference will be held in Raleigh on August 7-11, 2024. NC General Assembly House Bill 378

passed and was signed into law, making changes to the background and fingerprinting requirements. Background checks can now be obtained from the NC Department of Public Safety. Junior members were exempted from background checks. Senate Bill 326 passed the Senate, but did not pass the House.

NC Association of Rescue and EMS, Inc. – Joel Faircloth. Please be sure to updated rosters. Scholarship applications will open January 1, 2024. Convention was recently held in Asheville. Elections were also recently held.

NC Association of Chiefs – Wesley Hutchins. Recognized members in attendance from NC Association of Fire Chiefs. Awards are open, please encourage folks to apply. There is still grant money available for recruitment and retention. Mid-Winter Conference will be held January 30-February 2, 2024 in Concord. Registration is open.

NC Community Colleges System – Kenny Weatherington. Reviewing funding mechanism and funding sources to support training programs and program rewrites. Will continue to advocate for Public Safety programs. GS 115D will allow fifteen-year-olds to participate in firefighting training programs. Still working to clean up roster data errors, but making great progress. Annual Fire Rescue School Directors Meeting will be held on October 25-26, 2023 at Rowan-Cabarrus Community College. OSFM will be on hand to deliver professional development for School Directors.

NC Division of Emergency Management – Scott Zander. Hazmat Regional Response Team Rules are out for public comment, will work to get them adopted. Hazmat Software will now be CAMEO Suite, part of NOAA and EPA, saving \$100,000 per year.

NC Society of Fire/Rescue Instructors – Not in attendance.

Professional Firefighters and Paramedics of NC – Scott Mullins. Working to promote cancer screenings. Working on Honor Act, which would make occupational cancer deaths covered by PSOB. Advocating to remove PFAS from turnout gear. PFFPNC supports Senate Bill 326.

NC Department of Labor – Not in attendance.

NC Office of Emergency Medical Services – Not in attendance.

NC Division of Forestry – Randy Kearney. Have averaged 75-100 staff out of state since June to support wildfire fighting efforts on Engine and Plow Strike Teams. VFIS Matching Funds grant is open until end of October. Encourage departments to apply for these funds.

NC Department of Justice – None

Other Business

Harley Cook introduced new Board member Brent Gordon.

Motion made by Scott Mullins to move into Closed Session, pursuant to North Carolina General Statute Section 143-318.11(A)(3), following a recess at 11:40am. Seconded by Gary Whitman. Motion carried.

Closed Session

Entered Closed Session at 11:54am for discussion of an investigation.

Motion made to move into Open Session by Tim Henshaw. Seconded by Ryan Cole. Motion Approved.

Open Session

Motion made by Walter Gardner, Jr. to uphold recommendation of Certification Board - revoke Mr. Wood's Instructor Qualifications. Seconded by Tim Henshaw. Motion Approved.

Motion made by Andy Thomas for the Fire Rescue Commission to allow Mr. Wood and DOI Attorneys to pursue a Voluntary Consent Agreement. Seconded by Cloyce Anders. Motion Approved.

Motion made to adjourn by Freddy Johnson. Seconded by Gary Whitman. Motion Approved. Meeting adjourned at 12:36am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Chris Decker