

**Fire and Rescue Commission
Pinecroft Sedgefield Fire Department, Greensboro
January 8, 2019**

Attendees:	Harley Cook, Chairman	Freddy Johnson
	Phil Welch	Robert Poe
	Kevin Gordon	Cloyce Anders
	Gary Whitman	Vernon Massengill
	Josh Smith	Walter Gardner
	Ryan Cole	Paul Padgett
	Brian Taylor	Scott Mullins

Welcome, Call to Order, Invocation

Chairman Harley Cook called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
Phil Welch gave the invocation.
Congratulations to Phil on his new baby grandson.

Ethics Statement

Chairman Harley Cook presented the Ethics Awareness and Conflict of Interest reminder as required by the North Carolina State Ethics Commission.
There were no conflicts of interest reported at this time.

Approval of Agenda

Cloyce Anders made a motion to approve the agenda. Phil Welch seconded the motion. Agenda approved.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Harley Cook to approve the minutes of July 10, 2018. Ryan Cole seconded.
Motion carried.

Welcome Fire & Rescue Commission Appointments

Chairman Harley Cook announced and welcomed the following Fire and Rescue Commission appointments:

Freddy Johnson – Reappointed. Freddy represents the NCSFA.
Scott Mullins – Appointed by the Governor.
Paul Padgett – Paul represents the NC Fire Marshal’s Association.

CFI Position representing the NC Association of Fire Chiefs Nominees:

Matt Davis

Ryan Cole

Matt Davis nominated by Freddy Johnson. Kevin Gordon seconded. Matt Davis nomination approved.

Board Reports

Certification Board Chairman Kevin Gordon delivered the report.

Winterville Fire Department was approved as a Delivery Agency.

The age of Live Fire participation being 18 was reiterated.

Removing testing for Fire Officer III discussed. Motion to require testing motioned by Freddy Johnson.

Phil Welch seconded. Motion approved.

Two additional Proctors have been added for Delivery Agencies and is currently being implemented.

Driver Operator Techs discussed.

Phil Welch motioned to approve agenda. Kevin Gordon seconded. Motion approved.

Volunteer Safety Worker's Compensation Board

VSWCB Chair Cloyce Anders delivered the report. VSWCF has transitioned from Key Risk to York Services Group for Claims and Loss Reports however York has kept the same adjusters and managers.

There has been no change in the budget this year. New definitions will be forthcoming that will encourage and allow departments to better reward their volunteers without changing their status.

Updated York Contact Information has been attached.

Certified Fire Investigator Board

Chairman Freddy Johnson presented the report. There have been requests to teach FIT equivalent courses. A FIT equivalent ad hoc meeting has been set for February. There have been some changes to the program including automation in the certification process.

At the CFI meeting on January 2, 2019 there were twenty approved recertifications and seven approved initial certifications. Two certifications are currently pending approval.

Old Business

Rules Update presented by Tom Felling.

Outlined his December phone meeting with Amanda Reader and the General Council discussing statutory authorization pertaining to granting power to the Board to revoke, appoint, or suspend certifications.

By the next meeting Mr. Felling would like to have a draft proposing rules and statutes.

Motion to take this to the State Legislator by Vernon Massengill and seconded by Cloyce Anders.

New Business

Kevin Gordon discussed Live Burn Training participation and whether one may participate if under the age of 18 and how that relates to High Schools, Fire Departments, and Community Colleges. High Schools cannot run TIMS, Hazmat Operations, or Fire Control. High Schools should have no Live Burns.

Brian Taylor added the differences between special events such as the Junior Firefighter Challenge and the difference between events such as those and delivery agency courses.

Phil Welch motioned that participants in any Live Burn that goes through the Commission must be 18 years of age. Motion shelved and remanded to Certification Board to set the definition of Live Fire.

Ryan Cole seconded. Motion carried and shelved pending definition by Certification Board.

Agency Reports

Department of Insurance

Bryan Taylor reported that last year was the deadliest year in North Carolina with 133 deaths. There have been six deaths reported already this year. Departments must report fire deaths to the Office of State Fire Marshal within 48 hours.

Five more Fire Investigators are needed and OSFM is actively recruiting.

A statewide smoke alarm canvassing is being planned.

Brian is currently working with Dr. Michelle Osborne on "captive insurance" and affordable healthcare for non-profit and volunteer fire departments. The OSFM has also been working with and supporting the Peer Support Group. A new training center is open in Stanly County. We have been allotted \$100,000. for four burn containers. These will be used primarily for FIT training.

Mike Williams presented Derrick Clouston's report.

OSFM Training division provided 361 courses last year, seven special schools, and 460 inspections.

Kim Robertson has been hired as the Grants Supervisor. The Grants division was able to award a total of \$132,000. in rescue grants this past year.

Shannon Bullock presented the Injury Prevention report. She reported that the Fire and Life Safety Conference is at the end of February and the Safe Kids Conference is in May.

CPS technicians are now in every county but five in North Carolina. There is a total of 3189 certified CPS techs in the state which is the highest in the nation. Last year there were over eight thousand checked car seats reported and over eight thousand smoke alarms provided, including forty-nine hearing impaired smoke alarms. The first smoke alarm canvassing event is planned for June.

Operation Medicine Drop recorded fifty-two million pills incinerated. Injury Prevention had twelve media events, five government proclamations, twenty-three press releases and received eleven grants.

There are now four regions instead of three. Jan Parker retired October 1, 2018.

Matt Thorpe presented on behalf of Kim Williams for the Fire and Rescue Commission.

The commission has two new staff members; Greg Palmer and Adam Blythe. The NFA weekend in November was a great success. Two hundred fifty-two students were able to attend as well as staff and we have been approved for thirty more next year.

Over one hundred Indoctrination classes were executed.

NC State Firefighter's Association

Tim Bradley presented the report. The NC State Firefighter's Association is hoping to be back in their former home by Spring of 2019. They have had 464 scholarship and grant requests totaling two million dollars. They are currently looking for a group health care program for non-profits. Tim discussed the Bailey Act and property tax exemptions for some fire service members as well as cancer benefits. There are new firework and building codes proposed that should be a future discussion. The SAFRE conference is set for August 21-24, 2019.

NC Association of Rescue and EMS

Joel Faircloth reported that the next NCAREMS Directors meeting is in May. The annual conference is September 5-7 in Atlantic Beach. High Angle school at Stone Mountain State Park has been set for March 22-24. Report Attached.

NC Association of Fire Chiefs

Ryan Cole spoke on behalf of Jake Whisnant. Ryan reported on Fire Prevention School's 60th anniversary. Executive Development will be in the Fall.

NC Department of Community Colleges

Kenny Weatherington presented on behalf of Winfield Abee. As costs continue to increase, the number one priority of the Community College system right now is funding. Gaston College partnered with OSFM for Breathing Equipment School, Cleveland Community College partnered with OSFM for Thermal Imaging School, and Sandhills Community College partnered with OSFM for the first Extrication School. Sandhills CC annual Leadership Academy is scheduled for this Spring. Jimmy Hensley is retiring.

Division of Emergency Management

Brain Baines spoke on behalf of Todd Brown. Thirty-one states provided resources and assistance to North Carolina during Hurricane Florence. Funding for Emergency Services was 2.3 million dollars and funding for flood and response equipment and resources amounted to 1.9 million dollars.

NC Society of Fire and Rescue Instructors

No report given.

Professional Firefighters and Paramedics of North Carolina

No report given.

NC Department of Labor

Cory Dunphy was present. No new items to report.

NC Office of Emergency Medical Services

Tom Mitchell reported that educational rules are changing. The NCOEMS will have a booth at the Piedmont Fire Expo. If you would like to have them come to your expo, visit their website and submit a form requesting their presence.

NC Department of Forestry

Randy Kearney presented the report and will be representing NC Department of Forestry at Board meetings in place of Gail Bledsoe in the future. He discussed Hurricanes Michael and Florence as well as the snowstorms this season.

Volunteer Fire Department grants are available for a total of \$10,000.

Other Business

The next Fire and Rescue Commission meeting is April 9, 2019.

With no further business to be addressed, Harley Cook motioned to adjourn. Robert Poe seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Jessica Lashbrook