

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS  
DIVISION OF FIRE SAFETY  
NEW JERSEY FIRE SAFETY COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING**

**Meeting of May 15, 2024**

The New Jersey Fire Safety Commission meeting was held on Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at the New Jersey State Firemen's Association in Wall Twp., NJ.

**Commission Members Present:** Mr. Kevin Krushinski, Chairman  
Mr. Arthur Londensky, Vice-Chairman  
Mr. Lawrence D. Wood  
Mr. Steve O’Gorman  
Mr. George Aleu  
Mr. Arthur Hayducka  
Mr. Gerard Naylis  
Mr. Richard Blohm  
Mr. Charles Siedenburg  
Mr. Daniel DeTrolio  
Mr. Charles Maria  
Ms. Kathleen O’Leary  
Mr. Frederick Collender  
Mr. John Wisniewski

**Commission Members Excused:** Sen. Anthony M. Bucco  
Mr. Paul McGrath  
Mr. Armando Roman  
Mr. Nelson Wiest

**DCA Staff Members Present:** Louis Kilmer, NJDFS  
Timothy Weiss, NJDFS  
Charles Lavin, NJDFS  
Don Nelsen, NJDFS  
Lenny Inzerillo, NJDFS  
Greg Kirkham, NJDFS  
Steve Dyl, NJDFS  
Scott Royle, NJDFS

**Guests:** Ronald McGowan  
Rich Heimbach Bob Ordway  
Joseph Hankins Elizabeth Sweeney  
Matthew Janora William Quinn  
Christopher Tamayo Joseph Ehrhardt  
Cary Costa Timothy Lynch

Peggy Brookes  
Kristie McNeill-Free  
Joe Signorello  
Vincent Corsaro  
Helge Nordtveit  
Richard Orlando  
William Gee  
John Hund

Robert Bailey  
Robert Clark  
Michael Whalen  
Robert Taylor  
Kevin Batzel  
Paul M. Matula  
John H. Lightbody  
Brian Pericone

#### **A. Call to Order**

Chairman Kevin Krushinski called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM. He led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for those recently lost in the line of duty and the men and women serving our nation overseas.

#### **B. Approval of Minutes**

With no discussion requested or additional corrections, the minutes of the regular meeting of March 20, 2024, were approved as submitted.

#### **C. Correspondence**

Chairman Krushinski noted that any and all correspondence for today's meeting was contained in the Commission packets.

Chairman Krushinski made a special presentation, recognizing Joseph Ehrhardt and Helge Nordtveit from the Youth Firesetting Prevention Advisory Council. Chairman Krushinski thanked Mr. Ehrhardt and Mr. Nordtveit for their dedication and commitment to youth firesetting intervention in the State of New Jersey, and expressed gratitude for their expertise and guidance to the fire service community in this area nationwide. Chairman Krushinski presented them with plaques and Mr. Ehrhardt and Mr. Nordtveit thanked him and the Fire Safety Commission for this honor.

#### **D. Public Comment I**

Chairman Krushinski opened up the meeting to any members of the public present wishing to address the Commission.

Joseph Ehrhardt and Helge Nordtveit spoke on behalf of the numerous members of the Youth Firesetting Prevention Advisory Council, who were presented at the meeting today, regarding the ongoing problems being faced by youth firesetting intervention programs statewide. Having several decades of fire service and youth firesetting intervention experience between them, Mr. Ehrhardt and Mr. Nordtveit spoke about the failure to get all counties participating in youth firesetting intervention with viable county programs.

Mr. Ehrhardt and Mr. Nordtveit gave background on the history of youth-set fires and intervention in New Jersey, dating back to Andy Braig's efforts in the early 1980's in Camden County. Throughout the years there have been numerous youth-set fires throughout the state, causing loss of life and property. Despite a mandate for local authorities having jurisdiction to refer youths involved with fire to a recognized county program, many counties do not have functioning programs due to a lack of a mandate (legislatively or otherwise) for counties to actually have a program. Mr. Ehrhardt spoke about the counties that do have programs and the strain being put on them by surrounding areas that do not participate. Although there has been efforts and support by State Fire Marshal Mikutsky, they have been unable to get assistance from the Attorney General's Office to enforce/mandate all counties having a problem. Mr. Ehrhardt asked the Fire Safety Commission for their assistance and support conveying this to the Attorney General's Office. He especially wanted to ask the legislative members of the Fire Safety Commission for their help on this, but none of them were present at the meeting. Mr. Ehrhardt and Mr. Nordtveit stressed that, because of these deficiencies in New Jersey's system of addressing youth firesetting, preventable tragedies have happened and will continue to happen until there is accountability. Youth firesetting is a community problem that demands a community response and they asked the Fire Safety Commission to address it in that way.

With no more members of the public wishing to address the Commission at this time, the meeting was moved to Division of Fire Safety Activities.

#### **E. Division of Fire Safety Activities**

In the absence of Director Richard Mikutsky, Bureau Chief Louis Kilmer gave the NJDFS Activities report on his behalf. Chief Kilmer began by reported that the NJDFS is working closely with the DCA Commissioner's Office on backfilling vacant positions within the Division. The Commissioner and her staff have been very supportive on getting these done. Chief Kilmer also spoke about Senate Bill 2580/Assembly Bill 3894 that amends certain fire safety statutes to update licensure and equipment requirements and liability, fee, and penalty provisions. This bill would also prevent inspections from being done by uncertified people. The bills are currently moving through the legislative process.

Chief Kilmer reported that the Community Risk Reduction Unit will be hosting the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual New Jersey FIRE Bowl State Championships on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at Kean University. For the first time ever, there will be FOUR teams competing live at the event. Those teams are from Nicholas Oresko School (Bayonne), Dwight D. Eisenhower School (Freehold), Helen A. Fort Middle School (Pemberton), and Washington Community School (Bayonne). All are welcome to attend the event.

Chief Kilmer reported that an NFA Youth Firesetting Intervention Specialist class was successfully held on April 17-18 at Monmouth County Fire Academy. Also, a Youth Firesetting Intervention County Program Seminar was held on May 8<sup>th</sup> in Princeton.

Chief Kilmer thanked Peggy Brookes, Robert Taylor, and the Mercer County Program for presenting and sharing their best practices.

The Operation Save-a-Life program is ongoing, however the allotment received from Kidde for 2024 continues to lessen. The NJDFS only received 1,200 smoke alarms and 500 CO alarms for the entire state. The program is being kept alive with help from the American Red Cross, and the NJDFS is now strictly requiring distribution data from fire departments before any more alarms are given out.

From the Office of Training and Certifications, Chief Kilmer reported that they have processed over 7,100 certifications this year, 3,300 of which were for Hazardous Materials. The HazMat SME Group recently revised the program to reflect the recently-adopted NFPA 470 Standard for HazMat/WMD. The Hazardous Materials certifications will be changing their code cites, also to reflect the recently adopted NFPA 470 Standard. Also, individuals do not need to take the “new” Hazardous Materials: Awareness and Operations programs to receive the “new” Hazardous Materials: Incident Commander state certification. The requirement was on the HM:IC Instructor to be better certified and qualified than the students they were teaching.

A memo was released by the Office of Training and Certification detailing the Hazardous Materials Operations Mission Specific PPE and Product Control credentialing programs for those individuals who were not offered these courses before 2018. This course should take approximately one day to complete. It includes 3 hours of classroom lecture, 1 hour lunch, 3.5 hours of practical skills, and 30 minutes for the written exam (2 exams – 10 questions each).

Chief Kilmer reported the NJDFS/Kean staff will work to schedule Train-the-Trainer sessions for Hazardous Materials: Awareness and Operations credentialing programs. This would be a complete HazMat TTT for all “new” Instructors that have never been previously approved to teach these courses. The instructors would need to possess the following state certifications issued by the DFS: Firefighter 2, Hazardous Material: Awareness, Hazardous Materials: Operations, Hazardous Materials: Operations Mission Specific PPE, Hazardous Materials: Operations Mission Specific Product Control, Fire Instructor 2, and Drill Ground Instructor.

This year’s New Jersey Weekend at the National Fire Academy is scheduled for June 1-2, 2024. There are now 5 courses available – Youth Firesetting Intervention Specialist was canceled due to very low enrollment. The courses are: Leadership in Supervision: Perspectives in Thinking, New Fire Chief: Contemporary Issues, Emergency Response to Terrorism: Strategic Considerations, Preparation for Initial Company Operations, and Building Organizational Support for Community Risk Reduction.

The Office of Training and Certification is already working on New Jersey Weekend 2025 and are waiting to hear back from the NFA on dates. **The Real ID Act will be in effect.** The courses will be: Residential Sprinkler Plan Review, Command and Control for Company-Level Operations, Introduction to Unified Command for All-Hazard

Incidents, New Fire Chief: Administrative Issues, Building Resilience in Leadership: Strategies for Growth and Confidence, Safety for Hazardous Materials Incidents, and Fire Investigation: Fire as a Weapon.

Chief Kilmer reported the Office of Training and Certification has three more Eligible Organization meetings scheduled for 2024. They are:

- Union County Fire Academy – May 17, 2024
- Toms River Twp. Fire Academy – August 23, 2024
- Atlantic County Fire Academy – November 22, 2024.

Chief Kilmer reported that the NJDFS ran the first ARFF class early in April. The class was a success with all 26 students successfully completing the New Jersey ARFF credentialing program. The ARFF program is set up to be run exclusively at Middlesex County Fire Academy, and both Newark and Atlantic City International Airports. All testing was completed at the Middlesex County Fire Academy. The SME Group and class instructor met to critique the program on May 8<sup>th</sup> at the Kean Fire Safety Training Program office.

The 2018 International Fire Code (IFC) of New Jersey, Subchapters 2 and 4, will go into effect on April 15, 2024, with Subchapter 3 going into effect October 15, 2024. The change that includes mulch separation from structures goes into effect April 15, 2025. The Code Enforcement SME Group started updating the Fire Inspector credentialing program to reflect and include all changes to the code; we are looking to have the program ready for Train-the-Trainers (TTT) to be run in the fall. Then the Fire Official credentialing program will be revised to reflect the same changes. Commissioner John Wisniewski asked about the change regarding mulch separation and if it applied retroactively to mulch that already exists. Chief Kilmer answered that yes, this will apply to all mulch and it will be required to be 18 inches from structures. This does not apply to one- and two-family dwellings and does not apply to shrubs/living plants/etc., only mulch.

The N.J.A.C. 5:71 regulation revisions are being updated and reviewed. Some changes are being made to the Fire Inspector/Fire Official credentialing programs language and the creation of Code Update/Core Classes. All Fire Inspectors and Fire Officials will have to take a Code Update, Retrofit, or Core Class designated by the Office of Training & Certification during their certification cycle.

The N.J.A.C. 5:73 regulations are currently being worked on and will be sent for review. Changes will include the Incident Management Level 2 requirement for all chief level officers (promoted, acting, or elected), the Incident Management Level 1 requirement for the Hazardous Materials: Incident Commander state certification, and the establishment of the Junior Firefighter training regulations.

The N.J.A.C. 5:74 regulations covering the Standard for the Certification of Fire Protection Equipment Contractors is being updated and reviewed. Changes include the addition of “Smoke Damper”, “Fire Damper”, “Combination Fire and Smoke Damper

Contractor”, “Smoke Control System Contractor” state certifications and a revised fee schedule.

Chief Kilmer issued a reminder that you can only use meetings to meet half of the CEU requirements for the Fire Inspector and Fire Official state certifications – N.J.A.C. 5:71-4.5 (c)1 and 2. #1 pertains to Fire Inspector. #2 pertains to Fire Official. The Training office has been receiving complaints recently due to some Officials misreading their transcripts and thinking their CEU requirements have been met.

The NJSP/OEM is running a Type 3 IMT – All Hazard Facilitator Development course (N0310) on June 3<sup>rd</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024. This is a five-day course, and the individual must attend all five-days to receive credit. The Division was given five spots to fill; Training & OFDP are working to fill these spots.

Chief Kilmer reported that the RIC SME Group is planning on meeting one more time before scheduling Train-the-Trainer sessions. Topics will include Instructor and safety/facility requirements. Also, the NJDFS, the Fire Safety Commission, and the T&E Council have had some discussions on the formation of a Fire Training Commission (FTC), similar to what the police have with the PTC. These have been very informal discussions so far with two T&E and one FSC meeting. This very topic is being discussed in the proposed OSHA rules.

Chief Kilmer reported that Battleship New Jersey’s management group has reached out to the NJDFS and expressed interest in becoming an approved Eligible Organization and Training Facility. They will reach back out once the Battleship’s repair work has been completed and she has been returned to her berth in Camden.

From the NJDFS’s Investigations Unit, Chief Kilmer reported there have been approximately 100 fire investigations and 200 Notifications so far this year. In addition there have been 24 firefighter injuries and 3 line of duty deaths (one of which was a World Trade Center-related illness). The line of duty death cases in both Newark and Plainfield are progressing slowly. The Plainfield line of duty death SCBA examination and analysis was just recently completed.

The Investigations Unit recently received three new K9 Unit pickup trucks and they are currently gathering specifications and quotes for upfitting. The K9 Unit also participated in events associated with “Bring Your Kids To Work Day” and the 2024 New Jersey FIRE Bowl within the past month.

From the NJDFS’s Office of Fire Department Preparedness, Chief Kilmer reported that personnel continue to finalize the speakers for the upcoming 20th Anniversary of the Homeland Security and Fire Safety Conference. That event is scheduled for Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at Kean University’s STEM Building. Several New Jersey fire safety and law enforcement speakers will provide presentations on various related topics.

The NJDFS continues to work with several state agencies to promote, coordinate, and deliver active shooter classes. ASIM (Active Shooter Incident Management) integrates the responses of Fire, EMS, and Law Enforcement to an active hostile event. Through the SAVER program (Standardize Active Violent Emergency Response) the working group is committed to a statewide standardized response.

This year (2024) is a plan review year for all county fire mutual aid plans. OFDP personnel are reviewing all plans with their respective county fire coordinators. Updates, as well as the inclusion of Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) facilities this year, are being discussed. As per the New Jersey Fire Code, county fire mutual aid plans are reviewed on a 2-year cycle.

Currently, the NJDFS is in discussions with NJ Department of Labor and NJ Department of Health regarding the upcoming OSHA rulemaking changes for the fire service. Regularly scheduled working group meetings allow for the interagency collaboration on the changes.

Chief Kilmer reported that OFDP personnel have been planning with NJOEM for the biannual RERP (Radiological Emergency Response Plan) full scale exercise for May 16 - 22, 2024. Personnel are working with federal, state, county, and local responders for an active violent event with fire at the PSEG Salem-Hope Creek facility in Salem County. We anticipate 350 emergency responders will be participating in the exercise. OFDP staff also presented at the NJ Emergency Preparedness Association annual conference in Atlantic City on April 22 and 25. The topics were: the Deployment Act and the Fire Threat Taskforce. There are currently eight ongoing fire department complaint investigations and 3 pending lawsuits/court proceedings.

Chief Kilmer reported that, throughout the month of April, the NJ Fire & EMS team were extremely busy attending multiple conferences throughout the state and launched the new One-Day Peer Mentor Training. The first training occurred at Bayonne Fire Department. The next One-Day training will be held at Jersey City Fire Department in May. The team continues to work on their peer projects, upcoming live webinars, offering grief groups, and providing peer support to their clients. They also provided CISM/Debriefing services throughout the month and are looking forward to upcoming events/trainings in the upcoming months. For the month of April 2024, the NJ Fire/EMS Lifeline had 532 total contacts.

Chief Kilmer reported that the new Dynamics computer system is up and running and working well. One new design feature is an element where it shows a statement balance, so it is clear how much of outstanding fees are owed. This is helping not only the NJDFS collect fees, but benefits the local agencies in them getting money back. The system is providing any and all information on a given building/structure, by address, and is beneficial to all facets of the fire service.

The NJDFS's Peer Review Board has not been active for some time, however just today letters of appointment went out to the folks who will serve on the board. They are Dennis

Concannon, Vincent Knott, Scott McCormick, Skip Paul, Mark Sylvester. Chief Kilmer congratulated those gentlemen, as the DCA Commissioner signed their letters of appointment today. Chairman Krushinski inquired about the nature of infractions that will be examined by the Peer Review Board. Chief Kilmer explained that the focus is on extremely egregious problems and derelictions of duty, etc.

Commissioner Richard Blohm asked for an update regarding marine firefighter training. Chief Kilmer said he knows it is being worked on, but does not have an update at this time. Commissioner Blohm also asked about the process of going from fire inspector to fire official. Chief Kilmer said he believed it was two years for that process to take place, however from a training perspective an inspector can take a fire official class. Greg Kirkham from the Office of Training & Certifications clarified that it is three years of experience that are necessary to become a fire official.

Commissioner Blohm also spoke about the establishment of another committee on training and feels it is unnecessary to create another committee and level of bureaucracy in regard to training. Commissioner Blohm also spoke about the minimum physical fitness standards for firefighters and the detrimental effect implementing them would have on recruitment and retention in the volunteer fire service. Commissioner Blohm also felt this matter was more of a Firefighter Safety & Health issue than a Training & Certifications issue, and expressed the need for the various Advisory Council to be working on issues and initiatives in their designated concentrations.

With no additional questions raised regarding Division of Fire Safety Activities at this time, the meeting was moved to Advisory Council reports.

## **F. Advisory Council Reports:**

### **1. Codes Advisory Council**

Commissioner Arthur Londensky reported that the Codes Advisory Council met on April 17<sup>th</sup> at Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville. The minutes of that meeting are contained in the Fire Safety Commission meeting packets for all to review. Most of the meeting was taken up with the work of reestablishing the Subchapter 3 and Subchapter 4 committees. The Council also held a considerable amount of discussion on hospitality room permitting, which Chief Kilmer requested be handled by the Subchapter 3 committee.

Under New Business, Commissioner Arthur Londensky made a motion that David T. Phelan of Manahawkin be appointed to the Codes Advisory Council and submitted his resume for the Commission members to review. The motion was seconded by Commissioner George Aleu and passed unanimously.

The next meeting of the Codes Advisory Council is scheduled for Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at Middlesex County Fire Academy.



## **2. Training and Education Advisory Council**

Commissioner Charles Siedenbug reported that the Training and Education Advisory Council had met in April, but the minutes were not available for distribution and review at this time.

Commissioner Siedenbug noted that most of what had been discussed at the recent Training and Education Advisory Council meeting has been covered under NJDFS Activities. He also expressed the Council's support for the legislation that requires licenses for fire officials. There has also been continued discussion/debate about the minimum physical fitness standards, but now they are awaiting for OSHA to weigh in on this as well.

The next meeting of the Training and Education Advisory Council is scheduled for June 18<sup>th</sup> at the Burlington County Emergency Services Training Center.

## **3. Statistics and Information Advisory Council**

Commissioner Gerard Naylis spoke about the upcoming NERIS reporting system that is being rolled out by USFA in the coming months. Commissioner Naylis expressed concern that this new system will water down the data we are getting from fire departments. Commissioner Naylis also was dismayed to see the low percentages of fire departments reporting, especially when the hard data is so vital to the fire service when they advocate for themselves.

Commissioner Naylis also urged fire departments to update their contact information with the NJ Division of Fire Safety. This can be done via the Annual Fire Department Survey and is important to have current. Leonard Inzerillo from the NJDFS reported that numerous departments are not up to date on this survey, which he is working on compiling the data from statewide. He urged all Commissioners and those present to let their local departments know the importance of keeping this information current.

There was also a discussion, led by Commissioner Aleu, about faulty smoke alarms that people are buying online. Commissioner Wisniewski and Commissioner Aleu asked the NJDFS if some guidance on this – in the form of a bulletin, etc. – could be disseminated. Chief Kilmer agreed and said the NJDFS would look into the details on this.

## **4. Master Planning and Research Advisory Council**

In the absence of Commissioner Raymond Heck, no formal report was available at this time. Commissioner Lawrence Wood reported progress and said the next meeting is scheduled for May 24<sup>th</sup>.

## 5. **Public Education Advisory Council**

In the absence of Commissioner Paul McGrath, no formal report was available at this time. Commissioner Daniel DeTrolio noted that the minutes of the previous meeting are contained in the Fire Safety Commission meeting packets for review.

## 6. **Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council**

Commissioner Richard Blohm reported that the Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council met on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and May 14<sup>th</sup> at the Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville. The minutes have been distributed both on paper and electronically from those respective meetings.

Commissioner Blohm reported that PEOSH has hired four new compliance officers for safety enforcement, bringing the current total to 10. They will be focused on indoor air quality. We also have moved an additional assistant chief over from another program area so we have two full teams to cover the state. It is expected that we will eventually have a third team. Instead of a county-based approach per compliance officer, we are hoping to have three regional teams to cover North, Central, and South. Included in the 10 staff is one investigator who will be specializing in discrimination/retaliation investigations. The new compliance officers are enrolled in a comprehensive training program using courses from Federal OSHA's Training Institute, PEOSH internal training, as well as Rutgers University.

New Jersey is hosting the Occupational Safety and Health State Plan Association meeting in Atlantic City on May 14-15. This is a private meeting but is worth mentioning as leaders from the Nation's state OSHA plans will be attending. Commissioner Blohm also reported that the investigations into the Port Newark and Plainfield line of duty deaths are ongoing. Also, work is continuing on a possible New Jersey heat stress standard.

Commissioner Blohm added that there was discussion on junior firefighters and their ability to commence Firefighter 2 after completing Firefighter 1, even if they are not yet 18 years old. There was also discussion about the capabilities of the pass device in SCBA's now and what information they record such as pre alert activation, activation and when it is reset.

St. Barnabas reported that they have hired a fulltime nurse educator. They are also looking track data regarding the width and depth of hood burns in particular for those that have hoods with a chemical used to protect the thyroid of a firefighter. St. Barnabas is having their annual valor awards scheduled for October 23, 2024 at The Grove in Cedar Grove. The submission deadline for consideration is June 30, 2024.

The next meeting of the Firefighter Safety and Health Advisory Council is scheduled for July 11<sup>th</sup> at Middlesex County Fire Academy.

## **7. Youth Firesetter Prevention Advisory Council**

Commissioner Kathleen O’Leary reported that, in lieu of a regular meeting, a Youth Firesetting Intervention County Program Seminar was held in Princeton on May 8<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner O’Leary thanked all those from around the state who attended, and particularly thanked Robert Taylor, Peggy Brookes, and the Mercer County program members who led the proceedings that day.

Commissioner O’Leary and Chairman Krushinski echoed the sentiments of Joe Ehrhardt and Helge Nordtveit heard earlier in the meeting in regards to getting all counties participating in youth firesetting intervention and having viable county-wide programs. They asked for the Commission’s support on this as well.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Anthony R. Braig Conference on Youth Firesetting will be held on December 5-6, 2024 at Middlesex County Fire Academy in Sayreville. Charles Lavin from the NJDFS will be putting this event together throughout the summer and registration will take place throughout the fall.

## **G. Committee Reports**

### **1. Residential Sprinkler Committee**

Commissioner Gerard Naylis reported that, unfortunately, there appears to be efforts on the part of some in the legislature to water down the recently passed Residential Sprinkler bill. Commissioner Naylis hoped that everyone would stay active to maintain the strength of the original bill to maximize its effect on fire and life safety. The opposition efforts are being led by the homebuilders.

### **2. Ad-Hoc Committee on Legislation**

Commissioner Wisniewski said there was no report from the Ad-Hoc Committee of Legislation available at this time. He will be coordinating shortly with Commissioner DeTrollo and Commissioner Bellew regarding their next meeting.

### **3. NJ Statewide Utility Safety Team**

Commissioner Steve O’Gorman reported that the NJ Statewide Utility Safety Team presented at the Emergency Preparedness Conference in Atlantic City. Commissioner O’Gorman also noted that there are three meets scheduled for the rest of 2024. They are as follows:

- May 30<sup>th</sup> – Bergen County Fire Academy
- August 22<sup>nd</sup> – Monmouth County Fire Academy
- November 22<sup>nd</sup> – Middlesex County Fire Academy

#### **4. Cannabis Committee**

There was no official report from the Cannabis Committee available at this time. Chairman Krushinski asked that this Committee be removed from the agenda going forward.

#### **H. Old Business**

Chairman Krushinski asked if anyone had any Old Business to bring before the Commission. There being none, the meeting was moved to New Business.

#### **I. New Business**

Chairman Krushinski took the opportunity to thank Commissioner Nelson Wiest and the New Jersey Career Fire Chiefs Association for sponsoring today's coffee and refreshments. Chairman Krushinski also thanked the New Jersey State Firemen's Association and President Ordway for their hospitality in hosting today's meeting at their facility.

Chief Louis Kilmer announced that the Civil Service Commission has posted for the position of full-time inspector at the NJ Division of Fire Safety. He asked that the Commission members share this, as they are looking for qualified candidates to fill these spots.

Commissioner George Aleu spoke about electric vehicle charging stations in parking garages, and asked where we are at in terms of dealing with this issue. Commissioner Aleu urged the Fire Safety Commission to be proactive on this and recommended forming a committee to look into this in detail. Chairman Krushinski referred this to the Codes Advisory Council to examine further. Commissioner Naylis expressed agreement with Commissioner Aleu and offered to serve on a committee along with Commissioners Wisniewski and Vice-Chairman Londensky. Chairman Krushinski agreed to establish with the mission of developing a guidance document on this issue that is geared towards planning and zoning boards.

Vice-Chairman Londensky made a motion that the NJ Fire Safety Commission work with the Youth Firesetting Prevention Advisory Council on a letter of support in getting all counties to participate in a youth firesetting intervention program. As spoken about earlier by Joe Ehrhardt and Helge Nordtveit, the letter would be sent to the Attorney General's Office and legislators asking for assistance on this statewide problem. The motion was seconded by Commissioner O'Leary and passed unanimously. Chairman Krushinski asked Secretary Charles Lavin to provide a draft following the meeting.

There being no further New Business to conduct at this time, the meeting was moved to Public Comment II.

**J. Public Comment II**

Chairman Krushinski asked if anyone from the public wished to comment at this time. Joe Signorello Jr. spoke and introduced himself as the new Union County Fire Marshal and spoke about their progress in putting together a county youth firesetting intervention program. Although Union County has fallen behind in this department in recent years, they are working on getting up to speed.

Michael Whalen spoke about a couple concerns, the first of which were the training classes that are offered to the fire service. He said within the last several years, volunteers aren't really signing up for classes and getting the valuable information that is available and everyone should be made aware of. Mr. Whalen suggested more classes be offered on weekend, and be more publicized, in order to get more of the volunteer fire service involved. Mr. Whalen also commented on the fire inspector certification process that was discussed previously in the meeting and stressed the importance of comprehensive training but also not driving people away – because people are not showing up looking for these jobs like they used to. Mr. Whalen also stressed the importance of bolstering the NJDFS NFIRS Unit, because there needs to be more people in the field drumming up data at fire departments as a lot are not reporting.

**K. Adjournment**

With no further discussion requested, Chairman Kevin Krushinski called for a motion to adjourn. Vice-Chairman Arthur Londensky made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Daniel DeTrolie and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:01 PM.

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