

## **CHAPTER 75 FIRE CHIEFS**

### **Meeting Summary**

Date: 06/11/08  
Place: Fern Creek # 1  
Called to Order: 10:00 AM

#### **ATTENDANCE**

Anchorage, Buechel, Eastwood, Fairdale, Fern Creek, Highview, Jeffersontown, Lake Dreamland, Lyndon, McMahan, Middletown, Okolona, PRP, St. Matthews and Worthington.

Col. Russ Rakestraw was introduced as the new fire chief for Lyndon.

#### **DISCUSSION**

*Pension Reform* – Col. Reckner provided an update on pension reform that included the following points of interest:

\* 1.5% annual COLA (effective 07/01/09) for all retirees

\* Retire / Rehire (effective 09/01/08) members may rehire after thirty days but they will not be able to rejoin CERS or KERS; however, the employer must still contribute to the system as if they were. And employees that are enrolled in a health insurance plan other than that the state offered plan will not be allowed to participate in the state health insurance plan after September 1. Col. Seng reported that St. Matthews has recently begun offering an HSA plan as an incentive for their retire/rehire employees to decline the JCFS group health coverage; providing significant savings in premiums for the fire department.

A copy of the side-by-side comparison on the proposals is attached to this summary. Thanks to Col. Reckner!

*Housing, Building & Construction* – Changes to the building code are being proposed that would prohibit local authorities from passing sprinkler ordinances and other measures that may be considered more stringent than the standard code. Russ Sanders has shared his concerns with recent proposals and asked for our support. Col. Seng reported on a recommendation to hire Bob Benson to work on behalf of the fire service in preparation for the committee meeting that will take place on June 23 in Frankfort. Bob has agreed to offer his services for a fee, not to exceed \$5,000. The fire districts that support this effort will be asked to share the cost. If enough money is available, then a contract with Mr. Benson will be signed. (\$2,300 committed as of this writing)

*Kentucky Fire Chiefs Association* – Col. Baker's retirement from the Lyndon Fire Department will create a vacancy in the third district vice-president position for the Kentucky Fire Chiefs Association. Col. Larkins has suggested that Col. Yurt be nominated to fill the vacancy. Motion of approval by McMahan. Second by Buechel. Motion Carried. Col. Baker will forward the nomination on our behalf.

## *Communications*

*Best Practices Committee* – Col. Carlson reported that one of the things decided upon at the first meeting of the best practices committee is that there needs to be a common system of operations and procedures for all of the fire departments, urban and suburban. Everyone recognizes the differences and the importance of compromise. Motion by Middletown to support, endorse and support the recommendations as they are made by the best practices committee. Second by Anchorage. Motion Carried. Col. Barth reported that Lt. Col. Bowman will replace Col. Smith on the committee, due to time constraints.

*Rehab Policy* – The districts have reviewed the policy as distributed following the May meeting of the JCFCA. Several questions were posed with regard to the required detectors and the expenses thereof. Col. Yurt has since shared some information that Worthington obtained regarding the various products that are available. Further discussion deferred to the July meeting of the JCFCA.

*EMS* – Col. Barth reported on a meeting that he attended with Mayor Abramson, Deputy Mayor Rick Johnstone, Deputy Mayor Bill Summers, Public Safety Cabinet Director Kim Allen, and Ron Wolf, regarding emergency medical response by the fire districts. Col. Barth shared statistical information and response levels, as well as the financial concerns of the districts. Group discussion then turned to issues involving departments responding to non-injury motor vehicle accidents. Okolona made a motion that we revert back to the previous procedure, of not responding to motor vehicle accidents that are originally coded as non-injury. Second by St. Matthews. Roll call vote to support the motion: Motion Failed.

Anchorage – No	Buechel – Yes
Eastwood – No	Fern Creek – Yes
Highview – No	Lake Dreamland – Yes
Jeffersontown – No	Okolona – Yes
Lyndon – No	St. Matthews - Yes
McMahan – No	Worthington – Yes
Middletown – No	
PRP – No	

*MetroSafe* – A press conference was held on Tuesday, June 10 at the site of the newly installed tower at Fern Creek FD. Col. Barth reported on the progress that is being made and stated that there are two obstacles that need to be resolved: Blue Cross Blue Shield has not agreed to the placement of a new generator by MetroSafe in their building, and access to a tower located on NTS property at Hubbards Lane has been blocked, although it should not be (according to Col. Carlson and the planning commission). Construction is underway in the 510 building. The new radios should arrive in December (will not be distributed until the spring of 2009). Col. Carlson has since followed up with an email describing the radio proposals. Project completion (if the mayor's budget is passed by metro council) is expected by next summer.

*HazMat* – Col. Yurt reported on the need for department assistance in the coming fiscal year for HazMat, in response to the request for funding that has been issued. Currently, several of our departments are financing many of the repairs and required testing of equipment. Cost recovery is utilized (very successfully) whenever possible. The expenses that have been budgeted are minimal for what we have to work with and the responsibility that the team has assumed. Grant money will be pursued in order to replace the 1994 truck, inherited from Jefferson County EMS. If you have any questions about the HazMat team or their funding needs, please contact Col. Yurt.

## **NEXT MEETING**

Jefferson County Fire Chiefs Association: 07/09/08 10:00 a.m. @ Jeffersontown  
Chapter 75 Fire Chiefs: 08/13/08 10:00 @ McMahan

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 11:20

Respectfully Submitted:

Terri Livers, EFA