



SPECIAL DVFA EXECUTIVE MEETING

Delaware State Fire School

January 19, 2020

Call to order at 10:00 A.M. by President Jay Jones

Invocation offered by Guy Hudson

Pledge of Allegiance led by Past President Jasper Lakey

Roll Call of Officers by Secretary Elmer Steele

- [X] Jay Jones, 75, President
- [X] Dan Carrier, 19, 1st Vice President
- [X] Ken Ryder, 48, 2nd Vice President
- [X] Elmer Steele 81, Corporate Secretary
- [X] Terry Whitham, 46, Treasurer
- [X] Ray Stevens, 88, Assistant Treasurer
- [] Richard T. Perillo 11, Past President – Director
- [X] Ron O’Neal, 83, Sussex County Director
- [] Doug Hudson, 88, Sussex County Director
- [X] Tom DiCristofaro, 13, New Castle County Director
- [] Jim Watson, 15, New Castle County Director
- [X] Jim Woznicki, 53, Kent County Director
- [X] Ben O’Neal, 53, Kent County Director

DVFA Staff

- [X] Warren Jones, 16/86 Executive Manager

As a note;

There were 16 Past Presidents and 1 President Emeritus in attendance

There were 47 out of 60 companies represented at this meeting. Also, in attendance today was Senator Anthony Delcollo (District 7) and Representative Kimberly Williams (District 19).

AGENDA FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING

The DVFA officers would like to further address, the feelings gathered, at the December work shop involving the Fire Prevention Commission and the DVFA. Looking to support legislation that The Delaware State Fire Prevention Commission promulgate regulations for the fire service in Delaware. Once

the proposal draft legislation has been written by the Fire Prevention Commission Attorney General (AG), it will be reviewed by the Fire Commission and then will be forwarded to the DVFA Officers for review and then forwarded to the member companies for final approval.

SYNOPSIS:

The purpose of this legislation would be to give the Delaware State Fire Prevention Commission the authority to promulgate regulations for the fire service in the State of Delaware, as they currently do with BLS.

Task Force Over-Sight Committee:

Fire Commission Representatives;
Ron Marvel, Sussex County
Bill Kelly, Kent County
Joe Leonetti, New Castle County

Fire Service Representatives;
Norman "Jay" Jones, Sussex County
Jeff Eisenbrey, Kent County
David Majewski, Sr., New Castle County

After calling the meeting to order, President Jones turned the meeting over to David Majewski for a power point presentation that included;

Why are we here?

(We are here because of all the issues that have been occurring in the Fire Service)

(We are here because we are the Delaware Volunteer Fire Service)

(We are here because these issues have come to the attention of the Legislators, the Governor and other public officials)

(We are here to formulate a path forward)

What are the issues?

(The issues and complaints from the public, public officials and the fire service, throughout Delaware, about the fire service have been going on for years. It is only recently, in the last year or so, that they have grown to the point where we are today)

Issues

- Reckless Driving of Apparatus and other Fire Department Vehicles
- Firefighters in personal vehicles recklessly driving i.e.: Speeding, failing to stop at stop signs and red lights, passing on the shoulder, etc.
- Fire Apparatus passing other Fire Apparatus while responding to an alarm
- Unsafe wearing of PPE
- Wearing old and out of date PPE
- Modifying PPE to remove safety standards
- Wearing unclean and contaminated Gear
- Fire Companies jumping calls
- Fire Companies self-dispatching
- Fire Companies ignoring dispatch centers
- Firefighters causing unnecessary damage to homes and businesses
- Firefighters freelancing on the fire ground
- Firefighters refusing direct orders from officer in charge
- Firefighters not obeying orders from officers
- No respect for authority

What can the Commission do about issues like this?

(Nothing, which was a surprise to the Governor and some of the Legislators)

Who can handle these issues?

(At the present time, No one)

Can we afford to ignore these things that are happening?

(We are told the News Journal is sitting on a story)

(Do we wait until the story breaks or for something else to happen that inflames the public?)

(Or do we become pro-active and create some oversight?)

Would you want oversight from the Fire Commission, the Department of Homeland Security or do you want another state agency to have control of the fire service?

(That is something you need to think about as we go along with these slides)

What is the next step?

- We could decide today if the Delaware Fire Service wants legislation drawn up to allow our commission to develop regulations for the fire service, the same way they do for BLS?
- Let's go through the process first

How does the Commission handle BLS regulations?

- Currently the commission appoints a BLS committee, made up of EMTs from throughout the State
- The committee reviews the regulations and makes recommendations for changes to the commission
- The commission reviews the recommendations, publishes them and holds a public hearing
- After the public hearing, the commission votes on the regulations

What would be the time line after today?

1. The commission has their AG draw up legislation
2. We vote on that legislation at our March 8th Executive Meeting
3. The legislation is introduced and voted on in the General Assembly
4. The commission appoints a fire service committee from throughout the State
5. The commission reviews the recommendations from the committee
6. The commission holds a public hearing for public input
7. The commission voted on the regulations

Things to remember

- The commission is not going to tell you how to run your company
- This is a mechanism to solve problems and to offer oversight
- 4 of the 7 commissioners are our appointees. Today all 7 are members of the fire service
- This gives you a place to go with your concerns or issues, which you presently do not have

After the presentation, President Jones opened up the meeting for comments from the membership. Discussions lasted about 2 hours with most of the concerns being;

- Can the AG draft legislation and get it out to the companies for review before the March 8th meeting
- Most felt that some sort of oversight was needed
- Why are we in a “rush” to get this done now
- Senator Delcollo and Representative Williams made comments regarding the legislative process
- The sunset committee already has its agenda for this session.
- Will be hard to add to their agenda
- Members want to see something in writing, before voting to accept
- Take time to gather information, don’t rush
- How many complaints has the Commission actually received in the last 6 months?

Motion by Brian Shaw and second by Scott Bundek to give permission to the committee to draft legislation.

Amendment by Scott Bundek and second by Brian Shaw that the President of the DVFA will instruct the committee to work with the commission/AG to develop legislation and to report back and allow member companies 30 days to review.

Roll call vote was taken on the amendment (91 yes votes and 0 no votes) Since the vote was unanimous, ***a motion was made by Tom DiCristofaro and second by Walt Reynolds that in the essence of time, a voice vote be taken on the original motion. Motion carried.***

Motion with the amendment was taken by voice vote and passed unanimously.

COPY OF THE MOTION AND ADMENDMENT, IN WRITTEN FORM IS ATTACHED

ADJOURNMENT

It was regularly moved by Guy Hudson and second by Russell Hooper that the January 19, 2020 DVFA **Special Executive Meeting** be adjourned. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM

Benediction was given by Guy Hudson

Respectfully submitted,
Elmer B. Steele
Elmer B. Steele
Corporate Secretary

I hereby attest that this a true copy of the proceedings of the Delaware Volunteer Firefighter's Association **Special Executive Meeting** held on January 19, 2020.

Attest: Warren F. Jones
Executive Manager

Norman “Jay” Jones
President


1/19/2020


Motion

"Give Permission to Committee Draft
Legislation. to see what it is"

Amend:

" to Amend the President of DUSA with
Instructed Committee to work with Commission /
Ag to Develop Legislation to Report Back and
Allow Member Companies 30 day to Review


Leticia Lane


[unclear]