

BOARD OF FIREFIGHTING PERSONNEL STANDARDS AND EDUCATION

ELECTRONIC MEETING through Cisco Webex
August 10, 2020 6:00 PM – Meeting Minutes

A. Call to order 6:00 PM – Meeting called to Order

Board Members Present

Eric Dreiman (Chair); Eric Gentry (Vice Chair); Tom Hanify; Joel Thacker (State Fire Marshal); John Smith; M. Burke Jones; Rob Lund

NOTE: Due to the Board Members attending electronically all votes were conducted by roll call vote.

Staff Members Present

Wade Walling; Elizabeth Westfall; Phil Mellencamp; Regine Johnson; Eric Funkhouser; Jim Campbell; Zach Westfall; Kristi Shute; Elliot Anderson

B. Prior Meeting Minutes

1. Confirmation of June 17 approval of May 4, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Motion to confirm minutes *1st by Tom Hanify, 2nd by Eric Gentry*; all voting members voted to approve the May meeting minutes. *Motion carries.*

2. Consideration and approval of June 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve minutes *1st by M. Burke Jones, 2nd by Rob Lund*; all voting members voted to approve the May meeting minutes. *Motion carries.*

C. Variances

1. Fire Officer IV Variance - 655 IAC 1-2.1-11 - Anthony Knight, 7604-4267 - 64 points – Department Granted
2. Fire Officer III Variance - 655 IAC 1-2.1-10 - Robert McClara, 3329-8907 - 66 points – Department Granted
3. Fire Officer III Variance - 655 IAC 1-2.1-10 - James Turner, 2461-1285 - 96 points – Department Granted
4. Fire Officer IV Variance - 655 IAC 1-2.1-11 - James Turner, 2461-1285 - 96 points – Department Granted

Elliott Anderson: In July 2019, IC 22-14-2-7(c)(8) was repealed and replaced by IC 22-14-2-7.5, under which IDHS staff is now authorized to determine variance requests to any rules the Board has adopted. The Board remains the ultimate authority for appeals of variance determinations by IDHS staff.

D. State Fire Marshal Report – Joel Thacker
COVID-19

- Reminder that when training is being conducted the health and safety of all individuals is important. Please do not allow individuals that are ill to attend class or training.
- COVID fatigue is affecting many people in our community. It is important to keep wearing masks, sanitizing, and social distancing. Having good mental health is important right now also. The Indiana State Department of Health has resources available if you are feeling overwhelmed.
- Indiana COVID-19 Dashboard is featured on the Indiana State Department of Health's website. You can use this dashboard to check the number of positive cases to date. <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/2393.htm>

E. Report from Academy Director – Wade Walling
Curriculum Update – IFSTA Firefighter testing can begin August 20, 2020.

F. Old Business

1. Fire Officer Strategy and Tactics - Adoption of new curriculum - IFSTA Structural Firefighting: Initial Response Strategy and Tactics, 2nd Edition - Elizabeth Westfall.

Motion to approve 1st M. Burke Jones, 2nd Eric Gentry; all voting members voted to approve. Motion carries.

2. Update on the 655 IAC rule re-write - Elliot Anderson.
Emergency Rule: Changes that took effect in January 2020 have been posted to the Indiana Department of Homeland Security website.
3. Update on Mark Olsen's request to approve position specific teams for qualifications and certifications for Incident Management Team, National Qualification System, and NIMS Typing Response Teams – Wade Walling – These certifications will need to be added to the IAC 655 rule. More research will need to be conducted so at this time we will have to wait until the current IAC 655 rule rewrite is complete.
4. Update on how other states process reciprocity requests
Regine Johnson – Five states reciprocity request processes were reviewed. The Fire Academy will review its current reciprocity request process. We will treat each request on a case-by-case basis.

G. New Business

1. Board member and IDHS staff vacancies

Elliot Anderson – Contact has been made with the Governor’s Office regarding the three (3) vacant positions on the Fire Board. A list of candidates has been submitted and we are hoping that appointments will be made before the next Board meeting.

Temporary fulfillment of the Board Secretary – Rob Lund was nominated.

Motion to approve 1st M. Burke Jones, 2nd Eric Gentry; all voting members voted to approve. Motion carries.

H. Open discussion, comments, questions?

1. Firefighter Committee – recommends increasing the training hours from seventy-nine (79) hours to one hundred and three (103) hours. Challenges will have a random practical skill assigned.
2. Vehicle Beta course update – Six Rope Rescue Operations skills are needed. Some discussion about if this course needs to be modified to include the Rope Rescue portion. (Tabled until November meeting)
3. Coaching challenges – Coaches would like to be notified of changes to approved courses. Penalties for not complying with coaching requests. Suggestions were made of not recognizing or voiding practical skills.

Motion to adjourn by Eric Gentry, 2nd John Smith, and all members voted to approve. Meeting is adjourned.

Next meeting: November 16, 2020

Approved: _____

Eric Dreiman, Chair

Date: _____