

BOARD OF FIREFIGHTING PERSONNEL STANDARDS AND EDUCATION

ELECTRONIC MEETING through Cisco Webex

Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2020 6:00 PM

- A. Call to order and determination of quorum - 6:00 PM

Board Members Present

Eric Dreiman (Chair); Eric Gentry (Vice Chair); Rob Lund (Secretary); Joel Thacker (State Fire Marshal); M. Burke Jones; John Smith; Tim Smith; Amy Biggs; Pedro Caceres; Clayton Kinder

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

Board Members Absent

Tom Hanify

Staff Members Present

Alyssa Schroeder; Donna Saine, Elliot Anderson; Kristi Shute; Zach Westfall; Doug Curry; Regine Johnson; Elizabeth Westfall

- B. Introduction of new Board members

1. Pedro Caceres, Battalion Chief, Wayne Township Fire Department
2. Amy Biggs, Director, Whitley County Emergency Management; Captain, Fort Wayne Fire Department
3. Tim Smith, Fire Chief, Vincennes Township Fire District
4. Clayton Kinder, Section Chief, IDHS Fire and Explosion Investigation Section

- C. Consideration and approval of August 10, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Motion to confirm minutes *1st by Rob Lund, 2nd by M. Burke Jones* - new members abstained, all other voting members voted to approve the August meeting minutes.

Motion carries

D. Variance

1. Under 18 testing and skills variance requests – Granted
2. Fire Officer IV Variance Request - Robert McClara 3329-8907 66 points - Granted
3. Fire Officer III Variance Request – Christian Stephens 7131-9524 64 points - Granted
4. Fire Officer III Variance Request – John Peach 4418-8128 72 points – Granted

E. State Fire Marshal Report – Joel Thacker

- Remembrance of the Line of Duty Deaths of Matt Bennett and Scott Gordon.
- Reminder to continue to reach out to friends and family as COVID-19 fatigue has set in.
- Continued travel around the state to meet with public service personnel.
- Building and expanding online training.

F. Academy Director – Elizabeth Westfall, proxy for Wade Walling

- Academy monthly bugle announced open positions available with the Fire and Public Safety Academy.
- Live Fire training final skills cannot be simulated. A simulated demonstration can be conducted but students must conduct “Live” fire skills to meet the NFPA 1001 standard.
- AFG – purchased a Class-A Burn Trailer and will be purchasing a Driving Simulator Trailer next.
- Online training – IFSTA offers Resource One as an option to conduct courses online.

Question/Answer:

- John Smith – Clarification on chapters that count just for Mandatory in the new IFSTA book?
Answer: Patrick Fisher has completed and published the new Lead Evaluator and Lead Instructor planning templates.
- Jim Campbell – When will the updated LMS courses be available?
Answer: The Acadis Administrator controls the release of content. We will post an announcement when it has been updated.
- Rob Lund – How does Live Fire affect the NFPA 1403? Is it covered in NFPA 1403?
Answer: There is a statement in the Mandatory Lead Instructor and Lead Evaluator Planning Template that states This program does not meet the NFPA

1403. Not all required elements are covered in the Mandatory curriculum. Instructors are encouraged to review the NPFA 1403 standard prior to any fire evolutions.

- Rob Lund – Do you need to have two separate Evaluators for Firefighter1/2 skills? One to teach the skill and the other to evaluate the skill?

Answer: In staying with IFSAC policy we can create a portfolio/task book where we do not have to do random final skills day. There needs to be a clear demarcation of where training stops, and testing starts. To be more cost efficient this is what we came up with. This can be announced in the Training bulletin.

G. Old Business –

1. Rule re-write and policy/procedure revisions updates – Elliot Anderson
 - Draft of the administrative rules re-write maybe available as early as the January meeting for the Board’s consideration.
 - In preparation for the IFSAC certification process we may be bringing back some old policies/procedures for revision.

H. New Business –

1. Renew COVID-19 extension for training, skills, and testing. (current extension ends December 2020) Extension granted to July 1, 2021.
Motion to approve 1st M. Burke Jones, 2nd John Smith; all voting members voted to approve. Motion carries.
2. Proposal for a new course for the Learning Management System (LMS) – Tracy Smith and Tracey Bryant. IDHS staff will contact Tracey Bryant.
3. Best Practices legislation (IC 36-8-10.511) Alyssa Schroeder
Senate Bill 258 – This bill was passed in 2020 legislation. Deadline for adoption is July 1, 2021. A Best Practices fund has been setup and can accept donations. Updates will be shared in the following months.
4. Legal representation by Office of the Attorney General – Elliot Anderson
A Deputy Attorney General will be designated to provided legal representation for board meetings in 2021.
5. Fire Officer III updates – IFSTA 3rd edition book is not available or is hard to find. The state has adopted IFSTAs’ 4th edition for the curriculum. IDHS staff will work on a solution.
6. Nominations and Appointments for 2021 term
Eric Dreiman for Chairman, Eric Gentry for Vice Chair, and Rob Lund for Secretary
Motion to approve 1st John Smith, 2nd M. Burke Jones; all voting members voted to approve. Motion carries.

I. Open discussion, comments, questions?

John Smith – When will the civilian board positions be filled?

Elliot Anderson – We have been working with the Governor’s office to fill all positions.

J. Adjournment

Next meeting: January 11, 2021