

AMENDED Agenda
INDIANA BOARD OF FIREFIGHTING

PERSONNEL STANDARDS AND EDUCATION MEETING

April 14, 2014 1 pm
Plymouth FD
111Center St
Plymouth IN 46563
574-936-2156
John Grolich

- A Meeting called to order; 1:15 pm
- B. Roll Call

PRESENT

Grey Wyant
Rob Lund
Burke Jones
Chris Johnson
Eric Dreiman
Eric Gentry
James Greeson
John Smith
Joe Romero

ABSENT

Tom Hanify

- C. Approval of February minutes as submitted. Rob Lund made a motion to approve. Burke Jones seconded. Motion passed.

Chris Johnson requested to make a few comments. He was notified that he had to complete the ethics training. I had just completed this and asked if it fulfilled the requirements. I was told no. I would have to do this again. This is a simple little test but annoying that I had to do the same thing again. I had to

complete this within 6 weeks of being a board member and then again because this had to be done every 2 years. This reminded me that if we don't use common sense in the application of safety, and if time limits expire on trivial, bureaucratic issues, this could be a time consuming issue. We need to make sure the system does not get in the way of common sense.

Chairman Wyant asked new Board member Joe Romero to introduce himself and tell us a little about himself.

Joe Romero is the new Division Director for planning and assessment. In March I assumed oversight in training as well. I worked in emergency manage for 10 years and in military for 8 years.

Chairman Wyant requested that if you want to speak, come up to the podium, identify yourself and you are limited to 2 minutes.

D Variance requests:

1. Tobias Frost requested a variance for Fire Officer III and Fire Officer IV. He has met the prerequisites, included his transcripts for Bachelor in Fire and Safety Engineering Technology, submitted completed skills for Fire Officer III and IV, and completed the variance request packet with a total point value of 60.

Staff recommends approval base on information that was submitted. Education; completion of the variance request packet; skills check off sheets and letter of recommendation from the Fire Chief.

Burke Jones made a motion to approve. Chris Johnson seconded. Motion passed.

2. Capt Steffen Schrock, Goshen FD, requested an extension on behalf of Shane Mckerchie, a second 1 year extension for Firefighter I/II. He started paramedic school at the same time he started his firefighter I/II. He has completed the mandatory. He will complete the paramedic school in May, but has not been able to complete the firefighter I/II as of yet.

Staff recommends approval for the 6 months allowed under IC 36-8-10.5-7.5.

Discussion:

Eric Dreiman stated that he did not understand why the delay. If he just completed paramedic school last year, and he has found time to complete rope classes, I would like a more detailed explanation as to why he does not have it

done. Greg Wyant stated that he had the same concern. He completed Rope technician class before he had firefighter 2 causes me some concern. Chris Johnson voiced the same concern and all would like a more detailed account of why this has not been done. He received Basic Firefighter in 2009 and 5 years later he still does not have Firefighter 2. Chairman Wyant stated that if they granted this, this time, he would probably not be so lenient next time.

Burke Jones made a motion to table pending more information Eric Gentry seconded. Motion passed.

3. Travis Theurer requested a variance for Instructor I. He has been a Firefighter II since Nov. 2012 and he is a state licensed teacher.

Staff recommends approval pending his passing the Instructor reciprocity test.

Greg Wyant spoke about the different type of teachers license vs. teachers certification. The Board has been working a long time to get a definition for DOE on this issue. We did find that they are the same, just different language. Eric Gentry made a motion to approve. Eric Dreiman seconded. Motion passed.

4. Robert Gemmecke requested a variance for the written exam of Firefighter ½. Robert test in May 2013 and passed the practical skills but is unable to pass the written exam. (Documentation enclosed) Robert is asking to be certified based on practical skills only.

Staff recommends denial based on the documentation submitted.

Eric Dreiman made a motion to deny based on the information submitted and the skills are over a year old. Eric Gentry seconded. Motion passed. The request is denied. Greg Wyant stated that the individual is not asking for assistance in taking the test, he just wants certification based on the skills. A lot more information is required before we can even contemplate this.

5. William Weaver is asking for a variance. He held an instructor I, expiring in 2010 but went active military from 2009 to 2013. He expired during that time. He is asking for an extension in order to get his hours.

Staff recommends approval pending his DD214.

Eric Dreiman made a motion to table pending his DD214. Eric Gentry seconded. Motion passed.

6. Seth Goodson requested a variance for Fire Officer Strategy and Tactics. He completed the Blue Card program and feels that the program surpasses the state requirement for Fire Officer Strategy and Tactics.

Staff recommends denial. June 2012 the Board denied these. The Board asked the Blue Card representative to attend a Board meeting and explain what was involved and how it met our requirements. No representative attended. This was kept on the agenda for 6 months and no representative appeared in front of the Board. John Buckman requested a meeting with Blue Card representative for Tuesday March 15th, 2014 and had no response.

Comment from the audience:

Rob Lund: Personally, I feel there is more to strategy and tactics than Blue Card. This is more for when you arrive on the scene and take control.

John Buckman: Blue Card is basically designed for the first 15 minutes. Blue Card is in addition to strategy and tactics, not instead of.

Eric Gentry made a motion to deny. Chris Johnson seconded. Motion passed.

7. Daniel Siek requested a variance for the following students to be allowed to take written/practical testing at the age of 17. Jario Noriega; Kayla Sherman and Dylon Loveall.

Staff recommends approval with the understanding that students must be 17 years of age at the time of testing.

Chris Johnson made a motion to approve pending they take them in order and they are 17 at the time of testing. . Burke Jones seconded. Motion passed.

8. Bernard Beier Jr. requested a variance for Hazmat Technician. He took the test in Dec 2013, but did not have the prerequisites. He has now completed the Hazmat operations level, and would like the technician level to be credited. (Bernard filed an appeal to the Judge originally on this issue.)

Staff recommends that Mr. Beier retake the written exam. Skills will be valid until June 1, 2014.

John Smith made a motion to deny the request. Burke Jones seconded. Motion passed.

9. Robert Dickerson requested a variance for Hazardous Material Operations and Firefighter I/II. (8 binders of material have been submitted asking for various certifications; Robert asked for these certifications previously, January 2014, and was denied, he appealed, Board sent him to administrative review, he has come back and is asking again for variances with more documentation. He is asking for Technical Rescue Awareness; Confined Space rescue Operations and Technician; Firefighter I/II; Rope Rescue Operations and Technician; Structural Collapse Rescue Operations and Technician; Swift Water Rescue Operations and Technician; Trench Rescue Operations and Technician; Vehicle Rescue Operations and Technician and Wilderness Rescue Operations and Technician.

Staff recommends denial. The Hazmat operations did not meet the standard and a record of only 1 skill was completed. There are 13 total skills in Hazmat Operations.

After a lengthy discussion on the amount of training that has been done in all categories, the Board decided that skills during the B.E.R.T. program will count but written exams must be passed. Chief Dickerson submitted 8 binders of training that he has completed over the last years to validate his request.

Chairman, Greg Wyant is concerned that if someone else comes up and asks for a variance with 25 lbs of paperwork, showing training, then we opened this door. There is also the issue, that Board members know Chief Dickerson, and then the next person, they do not know, how do they vote? As a lead instructor or a lead evaluator, Chief Dickerson would have no training to the current standards.

Lt Frost stated that everyone in his dept from 1984 thru 2000 can request variance for hazmat ops based on this request. They can provide 30 years of documented training.

Jim Campbell stated that he believes that the skills should be counted based on the documentation but he should have to pass the written exams. If you accept B.E.R.T. then Pike Twp has 100 guys ready to go with variances on it.

Plymouth FD stated that their firefighters have to be state certified.

John Grolich, he was told that you would be certified once you complete a class. What I was not told was that you had to have other certifications before you get this.

Greg Wyant stated that he thinks we should waive the practicals, based on documentation submitted, but he needs to pass all the written exams.

Eric Gentry made a motion to waive all practical skills based on documentation submitted, and work history, pending his passing the written exams. All tests must be taken in prerequisite order. Greg Wyant seconded. Motion passed.

E. State Fire Marshal report, James Greeson

Fire works season and festival season is here. With retail sales, once the fee is paid and the permit issued, we will follow up with an inspection. Any specific issues let us know. Any questions on tents, stages, outdoor equipment, call us and we will be glad to get with you on these. We recently revived a grant from State Farm for \$10000.00. We will be getting 10-15 smoke alarms to stations around the state for distribution. Contact Pam Bright in the Fire Marshal's office for more information on this.

The P25 upgrade in the radio system. The state has set aside \$35 million to assist with the upgrade. This does not mean that all radios have to be replaced but they all have to be touched and programmed. If you have any questions, get hold of IPSC and they will contact you and answer questions.

F Director of training report, Joe Romero

All Hazards Mgmt training by the end of the year, and we will be sending people around the country again this year.

G. Fire Training report; John Buckman

Instructor cheat sheet cards are available. We have been passing them out for 45 days. These are small cards spelling out what an instructor I can do and what an Instructor II/III can do. We are handing them out everywhere we go. We have another card getting ready to print with different information on it. How to register tests, who to contact with questions on training, etc.

We continue to work on the white paper for the fire academy. We have an extension until June when we meet with the Governor. We need to explain what we cannot do in the white paper. We will be asking a board member to sit on this committee. We are also looking at a governance model. Fire Engineering has had 5 train to trainer classes during FDIC. Fire Engineering will be doing 6, 1 day train to trainer around the state. Also, teaching hands on during these classes.

Jim Campbell is here and the purpose of the committee was to increase quality control and the consistency in which we deliver. We have a task force put together and a process. We have 6 people going out to do site visits. We have had 13 visits scheduled and 12 were cancelled when they were notified that we were coming. They did make the visit yesterday. Jim Campbell spoke on this issue. The site visits were randomly selected. Sent an e-mail to another, within 6 hours, the class was cancelled, instructor stated that he did not know there were skills involved in an instructor I class.

Chris Johnson asked if the Board had any teeth in this type of situation. If the class is cancelled, they did not violate anything. Greg Wyant asked about not announcing that anyone would be there. This is not about punishment. This is about quality. Mara Snyder stated that the board needs to determine what they want from these inspections. Jim Campbell stated that we are still in a data gathering stage. Sanctions are a little premature at this point. Once the agency becomes aware of non compliance, then staff needs guidance on what to do at that time.

Burke Jones asked if a letter could get sent to all instructors explaining the purpose of this program. John Buckman stated that we could do that providing we have a valid e-mail. Marshal Greeson stated that this should include that this program comes from the fire summit.

H. Administrative proceedings, Judge Bippus

1. Cause 14-01, Jerry Martin
2. Cause 14-02, Bernard Beier
3. Cause 14-03, Bryan Fuller

No action at this time.

I. Request for reciprocity.

No requests at this time.

J. Request for administrative appeal.

1. Tobey Archer is requesting an administrative review of his denial of his Instructor I certification. He states that the instructor, Steve Yelich, had outdated information that he was teaching from.

Burke Jones made a motion to send to Judge Bippus. John Smith seconded. Motion passed.

K. Old business

L. New business

1. Evaluator skills sign sheets. How do they need to be signed?

Legal counsel stated that a signature with a line is not a good way to go. Stamp would be good. All the rule states is that it will be signed in ink. Next to each skill should be the evaluator's signature in ink and dated. The option of having this done on line creates another issue. Some areas in southern Indiana are still dead spots. Robert Dickerson stated he has used a stamp and he has drawn a line down the list.

Greg Wyant stated that you cannot just sign the top and draw a line down through the balance of them on that page. Any other way should be fine. Stamped; sign sideways and cover all lines; staff will come up with a couple of forms and see what is going to work best. Mara Snyder stated that this is a liability issue, with documented training. The first thing a lawyer is going to ask for is the training records. These records need to be clear, concise and legible. A stamp is a valid signature.

2. Military leave and expiration dates.

Lt. David Calvin requested to take testing out of order because he is being deployed. He will be gone for 4-5 months and skills will expire during that time. He wants to be allowed to take the FF ½ now and then Hazmat ops when he comes back or he would like an extension on the time frame for the Firefighter ½ skills.

This will be on the June 21st agenda to discuss and we will come up with something at that time.

John Smith made a motion to approve him taking the Firefighter ½ now, will hold it until he returns and completes the Hazmat Operations. This is contingent on staff receiving a copy of his DD214. Rob Lund seconded. Motion passed.

3. ADA, oral testing, reasonable accommodation;

Mara Snyder stated that ADA does apply to testing. Greg Wyant stated that June 21st, will be a Saturday meeting, no public comments will be allowed, this is for the new

board members and will be dealing with issues such as these. The future of the Board will also be discussed.

M Meeting adjourned: 3:45pm

NEXT MEETING:

May 19, 2014; 6pm

Brownsburg FD

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Brownsburg IN 46112

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