

MINUTES

**INDIANA BOARD OF FIREFIGHTING
PERSONNEL STANDARDS AND EDUCATION MEETING**

**December 2, 2013 6pm EDT
PIKE TWP FIRE DEPARTMENT
4881 W 71ST
INDIANAPOLIS IN 46268
317-647-5860**

A MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:00PM

Greg Wyant issued a thank you to Pike Twp for hosting the meeting.

B. ROLL CALL

Present

Greg Wyant
James Greeson
Burke Jones
Tom Hanify
Rob Lund
John Buckman for Arvin Copeland
John Smith

C. Approval of October minutes as submitted.

Burke Jones made a motion to approve as submitted. James Greeson seconded.
Motion passed.

D. CERTIFICATIONS REPORT, No report at this time.

E VARIANCE REQUESTS

1. Chad Poling requested a variance for Instructor II/III. Chad has had an Indiana teacher's license and has submitted transcripts from his undergraduate degree. He does not have a current teacher's license.

Staff recommends denial, based on lacking a current teacher's license.

John Buckman made a motion to deny. Tom Hanify seconded. Motion passed.

2. Jeff Berning from Anthis Career Center requested a variance for his 17/18 year olds to take testing for Mandatory, Firefighter ½; HazMat Awareness and Operations.

Deketron Baker; Cortney Brooks; Joseph Brown; Austin Fletcher; Jerrod Fox; Dylan Karn; Kyle Killion; Tyler Kolbe; Tyler Komarck; Eric Lahr; Lauryn Liechty; Jessie Neal; Christian Pacheco; Austin Tilley; Damian Cribb; Alison Edwards; Sarah Fahl; Katherine Flores; Dominic Garrett; Matthew Gillett; Pete Hoy; Eion Keller; Bret LaMere; Andrew Lytle; Ashley May; Angel Mcadow; Zane Mullins; David Reed; Ricardo Roque; Colton Sprinkle; and Sydney Timm.

Tom Hanify made a motion to approve the request providing testing is done in prerequisite order. Rob Lund seconded. Motion passed. It is the students responsible to notify the office on their 18th birthday.

3. Ben Sieverding from Southeastern Career Center requested a variance for his 17 years old to test for Hazmat Awareness, Operations, Firefighter ½ and Mandatory.

Zach Ruhe; Tyler Grapevine; Kelsae Fox; Nick Popp; Dakota Anderson; Zach Lacroix; Cody Arbuckle; and Carl Capps.

Rob Lund made a motion to approve the request providing testing is done in prerequisite order. Tom Hanify seconded. Motion passed. It is the students responsible to notify the office on their 18th birthday.

4. Jayme Washel from Hoosier Hills Career Center requested a variance for his 17 year olds to allow testing for Mandatory, Firefighter ½, Hazmat Awareness and Operations, Technical Rescue Awareness.

Lucas Brock; Mary Chambers; Maxwell Ellis; Dylan Graves; Dustin Hale; Tyler Hickey; Jacob Lacey; Melinda Monix; Otis Shaw; Taylor Smith;

Jacob Brown; Aleigha Galindo; Cheyenne Clayton; Koelman Gleen; Joseph Goens; Jeffrey Hunt; Savannah Marion; and Angel Sherrard.

Burke Jones made a motion to approve the request providing testing is done in prerequisite order. Tom Hanify seconded. Motion passed. It is the students responsible to notify the office on their 18th birthday. This is based on the student being 17 years old at the time of testing.

5. James Redd requested a variance for Fire Officer III, Fire Officer IV, based on his Associate of Technical Studies Degree in Fire Science and his Bachelor of Science Degree. He is also requesting Rope Rescue Operations; Hazmat Technician based on a course through IFD in 1996; Trench Rescue Operations and Technician.

James has HazMat Awareness and Operations; Fire Officer I and Fire Officer II; he does not have the prerequisite for Rope Rescue Operations, Trench Rescue Operations or Technician.

Staff recommends denial based on lack of continued education.

John Smith made a motion to deny. Burke Jones seconded. Due to lack of continued education and failure to meet prerequisites there was not enough information submitted.

6. Jason Wiesenauer's request for reinstatement for Instructor I was tabled at the October meeting pending information on continued education hours. He has submitted the agenda from the seminar that he wants credit.

Staff recommends denial based on information submitted. The class attended does not meet the required continued education hours.

John Burke made a motion to approve staff recommendation. Rob Lund seconded.

7. John Snethen requested a variance for Fire Officer III. John passed the written/practical exam. He thought he met the prerequisite because the rules do not specify that you must have been an Instructor II/III. Board rule states compliance with the NFPA 1021 standard which requires Instructor II. It is also stated in the prerequisite check sheet available on line.

Tom Hanify made a motion to approve pending his meeting the prerequisites within 180 days. Rob Lund seconded. Motion passed.

8. Dean Teagardin requested a variance for the Fire Officer II. He has been in the fire service for 28 years and Lt. for over 15 years. He has an Associate's Degree in Building construction from Purdue.

Rob Lund made a motion to deny. Burke Jones seconded. Motion passed.

9. Beverly Lipe requested a variance for Instructor I. She has been a firefighter for 5 months and is requesting the 1 year waiting period be waived. She has assisted other instructors at her Fire dept. to organize firefighter classes. Beverly has been an active member of the fire dept for over 5 years and is requesting to waive the 1 year requirement for firefighter in order to be able to take the instructor I testing for certification purposes. Her Fire Dept needs certified instructors and she believes her time in assisting the current instructors gives her experience in this area.

Staff recommends denial based on lack of time in the fire service

Rob Lund made a motion to deny. John Smith seconded. Motion passed. Ms. Lipe needs more experience in the fire service as before becoming an instructor.

10. Joseph Krebsbach requested a variance for Fire Officer II. He has Fire Officer I and Instructor I. He held the Instructor II/III but has let this expire. Joseph has an Assoc Degree in Applied Fire Science, and a Bachelor of Science, Fire and Safety Technology, and Master of Business Administration. He joined IFD in 1979 and has been promoted, and he has been Director of Executive services which include but is not limited to the Finance office. He currently is shift Battalion Chief.

Staff recommends approval based on documentation submitted.

Burke Jones made a motion to approve. Tom Hanify seconded. Motion passed.

11. Lt. Ed Cripe requested a variance for Instructor I. He states he mailed his recertification paperwork in via regular mail on Oct 10, 2012. This office has no record of receiving this paperwork. Lt. Cripe recently noticed that his instructor I was expired.

Staff recommends denial based on untimely renewal.

Rob Lund made a motion to approve staff recommendation. John Buckman seconded. Motion passed.

12. IFD requested a variance for prerequisite requirements for Fire Officer I for 31 firefighters. They do not have the Fire Officer Strategy and Tactics nor Instructor I at this time. The students are:

Herbert Hurt; Ronald Dicks; Eric Fouce; Tony Goff; Michael Fagan; Thurman Jones; Mark Rihm; Mike Horton; Gary Harp; Vernon Brown Tom Stevens; Delbert White; Rick Longerich; Gregg Harris; Thomas Albrecht; David Brandon; Eric Rossok; Lawrence Tucker; Ann Comparet-Helms; Bonnie Hensley; Jeff Shatto; Noel Cecil; Ken McCourt; Wayne Smith; Russ Futrell; John Walker

Staff recommends approval based upon the successful completion of all prerequisites within 180 days of completing the Fire Officer I testing. They will not be eligible for additional certifications that require Fire Officer I as a prerequisite until all conditions have been completed.

John Smith made a motion to approve. Tom Hanify seconded. Motion passed.

F. REQUEST FOR RECIPROCITY.

No requests at this time.

G. REQUEST FOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL

1. Jerry Martin is appealing the Boards denial of his variance request for Fire Officer II and Fire Officer III.

Tom Hanify made a motion to send this to Judge Bippus. Greg Wyant seconded. Motion passed.

H. STATE FIRE MARSHAL, JAMES GREESON

I hope everyone had a nice and safe weekend with family.

Starting January 15 through Feb 28th, the Homeland Security Fire Safety Grant will be open for applications. Anyone that wants to apply for this grant needs to get it done. It is up to \$4000 and is available once a year. You must be NIMS compliant. It is to be used for purchasing equipment.

We are coming into the holiday's and I am asking all of you to be cognitive of fire safety. During the winter months, people are using heaters and such and right now we are at 75 fire deaths in the State of Indiana. This is the most we have had since 2006. At the current rate, we will surpass this. I encourage fire depts. to work in your neighbor hoods and teach people about fire safety and the proper use of space heaters, wood burning stoves, cleaning fire places and such. Also included in these are Christmas decorations and lights. Make sure people are using common sense and following manufacturer's directions.

I. DIRECTOR OF TRAINING, ARVIN COPELAND.

II. No report at this time.

J. STATE FIRE TRAINING DIRECTOR REPORT, David Probo will give this report.

1) Book committee report for Firefighter 1/2. The committee has come to an agreement and Charlie Fadale from Fishers will give this report.

Fire Engineering has been the book selected. There was an issue about the cost of the instructor packet. Fire Engineering was going to charge us per person for the packet. They have now relented and the districts will purchase 1 license and share it with anyone in the district. They will also supply videos and there are some mistakes in these videos but we thought this would be the best opportunity for instructors teaching the standard.

Jeff Hayes stated that he did not believe the career centers were involved in this discussion, but Jeff Berning was involved in the last conference call.

Larry Southard asked about the cost.

The cost to the districts will be:

\$518.00 for an instructor packet and \$52 per book.

If a fire dept wants to stay with the IFSTA book, then the book would run around \$95 per book minus 10% discount. Now, Fire Engineering is the cheaper option. Everyone on the conference call voted to go with Fire Engineering books. Just for the record, this office did not vote.

This will be paid out of the district funds and is to be shared with everyone. This can be downloaded to individual computers and will be shared with anyone that asks for it.

There are a few differences between Fire Engineering and IFSTA.

The one minute requirement for donning SCBA has been dropped and calling a mayday now has written/practical testing requirements. Also, inspections have moved from a private dwelling to an occupied location. You are not going to knock on someone's door and want to inspect their house. So, that changed. With these corrections, you can still teach from the old IFSTA books.

Several individuals that were on the committee spoke about the belief that Fire Engineering was a better book, both in material, and appearance. This just seems to be a better book overall. Essentials 5 and 6 will still work. If you have these books, you can still pass the tests. There are no major differences in the books.

The reason for getting new books is that the old Essentials books are no longer available. New books would be required regardless. Rob Lund made a motion to approve the Fire engineering books. Burke Jones seconded. Motion passed. John Buckman abstained from voting.

The committee consisted of:

Charlie Fadale- career

Dale Saucier – combination/career center

Jeff Berning-Career Center

John Smith – volunteer

Scott Schnell- volunteer

Jay Gorndt- career

Scott Chasteen- combination

John Grolich-Volunteer

K. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS, JUDGE BIPPUS

No report at this time.

L. OLD BUSINESS

1) 655 IAC rule rewrite

James Greeson spoke about starting the rule rewrite about 1 year ago. Then the Governor put money in place for the Fire Academy. Director Hill suggested that instead of doing the rule rewrite now, and then next year changing rules again to accommodate the rules for the Fire Academy, that we hold off and do them all at the same time.

There is an exception to this. The Instructor II/III split. We are going ahead with this one. Too many people are not interested in instructor III. We are going to update and separate this certification. This way if you want instructor II, you are not required to do instructor III skills. You will end up with just the instructor II certification. Tom Hanify made a motion to approve this change. Burke Jones seconded. Motion passed to change this one rule at this time.

All other areas are on hold.

A white paper is due to the Governor by the end of the year on the academy summit. At that time, we will have a clearer vision of what rule changes are going to be required for the fire academy.

Are we going to be able to update the standards under this ruling? Greg Wyant asked legal on how we can do this. Discussion:

Do away with NFPA standards and use state curriculum. This is what EMS does, and they can change almost at will. If the Board did this, they can change the curriculum to accommodate any new NFPA standards. We have no idea how IFSAC would accommodate this option. Another way is not to adopt the whole standard. The Board can adopt portions of the standard and then again, they can update as needed. Mara Snyder suggested that the Fire Alliance worked on changing legislation to help with this issue. Then the Board would have the authority to change standards as new ones are issued without going through the rule change procedure. Tom Hanify asked if they could meet with police training officers and see how they do rule changes.

Again, the EMS commission is able to change rules immediately. ILEA does not adopt standards. They use an approved curriculum that does not require a rule change. This board at this time does not approve curriculum. Indiana does not have a national standard for EMS. They accept National Registry, but this is not the only exam nor is it the only curriculum.

The Fire Board can stop adopting NFPA standards and start approving curriculum. This would give them the authority to change as needed. Tom Hanify stated that for the Board to get a rule change takes more than 18 months. You can have 2 legislative

sessions in less time than that. Legislation is more effective than the Fire Board under this time line.

John Buckman spoke about the FF ½ alternative scoring program. There is a meeting tomorrow on this and I will be getting back to you on this. We have a meeting about a recognition program designed to recognize depts. that continued to do training. It is called the Continued Education Recognition Program. This is for depts. that continue training. This will be issued through the Fire Marshal office. The template is still being worked out.

Quality control program: we stopped doing after course audits and started doing pre coaching. We have a group coming together to discuss more about this.

Larry curl asked how the system is going to work on the continued training is going to work. John explained that this has not been created yet. We are looking at the middle of 2014 and then it has to be beta tested. Tom Hanify spoke about this continued training. It's something that shows that even though you were certified 30 years ago, you continue to train all the time. This is simply documenting this training and submitting it as a fire dept. You do this all the time. This recognizes your dept for it. Chief Decker, IFD, stated that you have to do this for EMS to maintain your certification so he does not understand why the firefighter does not want the same thing. This program recognizes the 70% of your dept does ongoing training. A member of a VFD stated that his people are required to complete 12 hours of training annually. If the members do not do this, they can be fired from the VFD. Larry curl stated that the problem with this before is that nothing has ever been put in writing, so that everyone can look at. Every time we ask to see this document, we are told that it is still being worked on.

M. NEW BUSINESS

Larry Curl, Indiana Volunteer Firefighter Association, asked about the legality of having Arvin Copeland on the board, and assigns a designee. What authority states they can do this? IC 22-12-3 gives the Fire Marshal and the Director of Training the authority to assign a designee if they are unable to attend this meeting. Larry southward asked if the designee had to meet the same requirements that the original position holder have to. Mara Snyder stated that no, they do not have to met the same requirements. Larry Curl stated that he just wanted to be sure of the legality of this, and not get 6 months down the road and find out that the last 6 months were illegal meetings and have to start over.

N. MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:45pm

NEXT MEETING:

Jan 13, 2014 6pm
Greensburg Learning Center
422 E Central Ave.
Greensburg IN 47240
812-663-8671