

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

**September 17, 2012 6pm**  
**Dick Johnson Twp VFD**  
**12970 N County Rd 400 W**  
**Brazil IN 47834**  
**812-4489-8687**  
**Kevin Orme, Chief**

**A MEETING CALLED TO ORDER at 6:15 pm**

**B. ROLL CALL**

Present

Jeff Hayes  
Jack Kerney Sr.  
James Greeson  
Mike Garvey  
Greg Wyant  
Tom Hanify

Absent

Candice Ashby  
Burke Jones

**C. Approval of June 14, 2012 Minutes as submitted.**

Jack Kerney made a motion to approve, Greg Wyant seconded. Motion passed.

**D VARIANCE REQUESTS**

1. Dustin Dillard requested a variance for Fire Officer 1 and Fire Officer II. He has a Bachelor of Science in Applied Science (2010), and he has met the prerequisites required for this certification.

Staff recommends approval based on documents submitted.

Greg Wyant made a motion to approved staff recommendation, Tom Hanify seconded. Motion passed.

2. Jeffrey Moore requested a variance for Driver Operator Mobile Water Supply. He currently holds the Driver Operator Pumper and Aerial. Jeff has been affiliated with Fire Dept. that relies totally on Mobile Water Supply through the years and he has had 13 years of experience while working on the Kirkland Fire Dept and he feels that he is qualified for this certification.

Tom Hanify made a motion to table. The board would like to see the skills that were completed for mobile water supply.

3. Kenneth Pfof requested a variance for Instructor I, II/III. He currently holds a law enforcement instructor certification and he has been a Firefighter I/II since 2008.

Staff recommends approval pending his passing the reciprocity test.

Tom Hanify made a motion to approve staff recommendation for Instructor I. Ken would then submit 30 hours of teaching and apply for a variance for Instructor II/III. Mike Garvey seconded. Motion passed.

4. David Cushwa requested a variance for Instructor I, and II/III. He has been an Indiana Instructor but allowed his certifications to lapse. Instructor I expired 05-15-08 and Instructor II/III expired 04-07-12. He would like them reinstated. He has submitted documentation showing that his hours are complete.

Staff recommends denial.

Jack Kerney made a motion to deny James Greeson seconded. Motion passed.

5. Robert Allen requested a variance for Driver Operator Mobile Water Supply. He currently holds a Driver Operator Pumper and has completed the skills required for Mobile Water Supply.

Staff recommends approval based on documentation submitted.

Jack Kerney made a motion to approve. Mike Garvey seconded. Motion passed.

6. Todd Kabisch requested a variance for Inspector I/II. He completed the skills April 11, 2011 and took the written test Oct. 20, 2011. This was 2 weeks after the expiration of the skills. He is asking for the skills to count towards his certification.

Staff recommends denial. The Board rules clearly state that skills are good for 180 day.

Tom Hanify made a motion to deny the request. Greg Wyant seconded. Motion passed.

7. David Allison requested a variance for Instructor II/III. David expired in January 2012. David states that he hand carried the recertification paperwork into the office in 2010. We have not located these records in the office. He does not know who he handed them to.

Jack Kerney made a motion to able this request at this time. He asks that David appear at the December board meeting with documentation of completed hours and explain what happened. Tom Hanify seconded the motion. Motion passed

8. Jonathan Kempler requested variances for Safety Officer and Fire Officer Strategy and Tactics. He has attended the NFA for Incident Safety Officer in 2003, he holds a Bachelor of Science from Columbia Southern Univ in Occupational Safety and Health Fire Science.

Staff recommends denial. The information submitted for Fire Officer Strategy and Tactics is the curriculum for the old strategy and tactics program. It does not meet the requirements today.

Jack Kerney made a motion to deny. Tom Hanify seconded. Motion passed. It takes 2 parts to complete a Safety Officer and Health and Safety and Safety Officer. NFA does not teach the Health and Safety portion of this class.

9. Charles Redman requested a variance for Safety Officer. He completed the NFA Incident Safety Officer in 2012. He stated that no skills were completed during this course but they had a 200 question test they had to pass.

Staff recommends denial. He has no Health and Safety records and no skills were completed.

Jack Kerney made a motion to approve staff recommendation. Greg Wyant seconded. Motion passed.

10. Brian Beach requested variances for Fire Officer III and Fire Officer IV based on Associate of Applied Science in Public Safety from Ivy Tech in 2011.

Staff recommends approval for Fire Officer III, and denial for Fire Officer IV. The skills completed meet the requirements for Fire Officer III, but no skills were submitted the meet the objectives for Fire Officer IV.

James Greeson made a motion to approve Fire Officer III but deny Fire Officer IV. The documents submitted meet the Fire Officer III requirements. Greg Wyant seconded the motion. Motion passed.

11. Andrew Becher requested a variance to be allowed to take the written exam at the age of 17. He states that he is aware that he must contact IDHS when he turns 18 for certification to be issued.

Staff recommends approval.

Tom Hanify made a motion to approve. Mike Garvey seconded. Motion passed

12. Kylie Ball requested a variance to be allowed to take the written exam at the age of 17. She is aware that she must contact IDHS when she turns 18 for certification to be issued.

Staff recommends approval.

Tom Hanify made a motion to approve. Mike Garvey seconded. Motion passed.

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|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 13. Erick Alba       | 14. Thomy Davis    | 15. Forrest Grahl    |
| 16. Josh Hahn        | 17. Brock Herman   | 18. Eric Marquez     |
| 19. Jessie Price     | 20. Austin Qualls  | 21. Ubaldo Salamanca |
| 22. Alvin Sanders    | 23. Brett Smith    | 24. Zachary Croy     |
| 25. Dalton Farrer    | 26. Scott Kauffman | 27. Tyler Koeppel    |
| 28. Brandon Kosloski | 29. Skyler Lambert | 30. Jared Langham    |
| 31. Adalena McCauley | 32. John Sigler    | 33. Danden Solomon   |
| 34. Jalen Thompson   |                    |                      |

Are asking for variances to be able to take the written/practical skills for Mandatory, Firefighter I/II; Hazardous Material Awareness and Operations at the age of 17. They understand that it is their responsibility to notify the certifications branch of IDHS when they turn 18 years of age.

Staff recommends approval.

Greg Wyant made a motion to approve. Jack Kerney seconded the motion. Motion passed.

35. Chad Carey requested a variance for Fire Office III and Fire Officer IV. He has an Associate's Degree in Applied Science, and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Fire Science.

Staff recommends approval. He has met the prerequisites for this certification.

Tom Hanify made a motion to approve. Jack Kerney seconded. Motion passed.

36. Clayton Dillard is requesting a variance for Driver Operator Pumper. He has an Associates of Applied Science in Public Safety from Ivy Tech in Bloomington and has submitted completed skills.

Staff recommends denial. We have a written test in place and the skills are more than 1 year old.

James Greeson made a motion to approve staff recommendation. Jack Kerney seconded. Motion passed.

**E. REQUEST FOR RECIPROCITY.**

1. Brad Weaver requested reciprocity for Safety Officer. He holds a ProBoard certification for Incident Safety Officer and would like state certification for Safety Officer. Both are from the NFPA 1521, 2008 edition.

Tom Hanify made a motion to table this request. Mr. Weaver needs to show the health and safety portion of this certification. James Greeson seconded. Motion passed.

**F. REQUEST FOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL**

No request at this time.

**G. STATE FIRE MARSHAL, JAMES GREESON**

We are having some cooler temperatures and I want to congratulate not only firefighters but the citizens of Indiana for their cooperation in the burn bans, fireworks issues, the event planners.

I would like to remind everyone that fire prevention week is coming up. Oct 7 thru the 15<sup>th</sup>.

I have received a phone call from Jeff Carter, OSHA representative, and he asked if firefighters have to follow OSHA rules for confined space training. Yes, you must follow OSHA rules on this training.

Fallen Firefighters memorial service will be held this Friday at 11 am and look forward to seeing you there.

**H. HOMELAND SECURITY CHIEF OF STAFF MIKE GARVEY.**

The 23<sup>rd</sup> thru the 28<sup>th</sup> there is a training exercise at MUCT. District 7, 8, 9 and 10 will be participating and get recognized by the state as valid district response teams. Feel free to come on down and watch the teams respond and training. Most of our staff will be out next week for this event.

## **I CERTIFICATIONS REPORT, Barbara Goble**

1. Certifications issued staff issued over 2200 certifications
2. Firefighter II tests. There was an issue with the Firefighter 2 test only. There was an issue with the LXR testing only. The problem was found and corrected and out of 72 people that failed prior to discovering the issue, there were 56 people that had actually passed this exam. Letters and certifications have been issued to all of them. I repeat, this was the LXR testing only, and they have been regraded and corrected.

## **J. STATE FIRE TRAINING DIRECTOR REPORT, JOHN BUCKMAN**

I do audits on tests and the results. We noticed that nobody was getting questions right even when they had pictures. As a result of this, if 50% of people fail a test, it now gets looked at.

We know that right now certifications issued is down from previous years.

Jim Schneider, who worked for us for several years, passed away yesterday. He fought illness for a long time and please keep his wife in your prayers.

We broke down the test and in some cases in the Hazmat awareness there are questions that only 16% are getting correct. We have looked and the questions are good questions. In most occasions, the questions deal with the ERG book and this shows that the students do not understand how to use this book.

For the Firefighter ½ test, in most cases, the answers are in the book, but they are not getting the answers right on the tests.

We do not approve these questions; these are approved by a committee.

Jeff Hayes asked about the online, open book testing for Hazmat Awareness. It looks like this is not an option with scores like this.

1. Blue Card skills accepted for FOST skills.
  - Representative from Blue Card.

No representative was present at this time. When they want to appear, this will be back on the agenda.

2. Fire Officer II skills, Dave Probo

These skills have been revised to the 2009 edition. This has been beta tested 3 times and we are asking for the board to approve these.

There were no volunteer dept involved. The chairman asked if any volunteers want to volunteer to help on this. Any one that wants to help, please contact Dave Probo.

Hazmat Ops skills, Dave Probo

We changed the book but the skills remained the same. Once again, we set this up like the Firefighter ½, all skills are to be done in class and then tested on final 4 skills. These have been beta tested in 3 dept. and everyone seems to like these. I am asking the board to approve these skills.

Mike Garvey made a motion to approve these skills, James Greeson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Jeff Hayes asked about the committee that approved changing the book from IFSTA to Jones and Bartlett and why was the board not notified of this. The problem with this is that not everyone can purchase new books with no notice. Many times books have already been purchased with the current budget and they cannot just buy new books. At times it takes a year before they can purchase new books with a new budget.

Dave Probo stated that they gave at least 90 days notice that this was going to happen. Colleges and career schools purchase books for next year, this year. They do not have the budget to keep up with book changes. They purchase books in March or April for the following years. Jeff has volunteered to be on the committee that will validate the IFSTA bank for those that cannot purchase the Jones and Bartlett at this time.

Arson Investigation, Brandon Wood

A committee was put together from both volunteer and career, and certified in arson investigation. We looked at separating this into 3 categories. The first level would be first responder investigator and the second level is what we have now as an investigator. We cut this from 7 books to 1 book, Jones and Bartlett Investigator. The final level would be the professional level. Investigator 3 would require a background check on each student. There would be a two year recertification for this.

Candace Ashby stated that they would have to grandfather the current certification into the new certification.

Brandon stated that the whole point right now is to get the final skills approved by the Board.

These skills have been used in a class and we had an 81% pass rate.

Jack Kerney made a motion to table this, remove reference NFPA 921 and resubmit for approval. Jeff Hayes seconded this motion. Motion passed. This will be brought up at the December meeting. Candice Ashby requested to be a member of the committee.

Driver Operator Mobile Water Supply, Brandon Wood

A committee was put together using both paid and volunteer members that put the skills together. We are asking the Board to allow us to beta test the skills. Fishers FD, Jeff Combs from District 8, and three other dept will assist with the beta testing. The students will be certified providing they pass the written exam.

James Greeson made a motion to approve the beta testing of 5 locations and a report will be given at the Dec. meeting. Greg Wyant seconded. Motion passed.

There is another section to this that is not for certification, it is a training section for anyone that wants training on mobile water supply. If anyone is interested, contact [BrWood@dhs.in.gov](mailto:BrWood@dhs.in.gov)

## **K. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS, JUDGE BIPPUS**

1. Administrative Cause No. 11-02. Jason Kilsby was denied Technical rescue due to not having certification for Hazardous Material Awareness.

This issue was tabled at the June meeting.

Jason completed the Technical Rescue Awareness at Ivy Tech in April.

Judge Bippus stated that this is a done deal. Nothing more needs to be done.

## **L. OLD BUSINESS**

1. Instructor updated same time as Instructor II/III
  - Different hours required for Instructor I; 24 vs. 18

- How far back would you go to update?

Greg Wyant stated that if you are a 2/3 then a 1 should be automatic. The way I read the rule is that you had to have instructor I for initial instructor 2/3 but this should not be for recertification purposes.

Jack Kerney made a motion that staff update your instructor I at the same time you update the Instructor II/III. Mike Garvey seconded the motion.

## 2. Board rule rewrite- Dave Probo

The Professional Firefighter Union, the IVFA was there. The representatives from those organizations are responsible for letting their membership know the changes. Jack Kerney stated that this is the first time he had seen this and he was not going to make any decisions without looking this over.

The huge change in the rules is that the Board will approve curriculum. We need the Board input on reciprocity. What does the Board want to see? Give us a guide line here.

The Board has asked Dave Probo to post these on the web page. The Board is requesting a meeting prior to the December meeting to discuss the rule rewrite. There is simply not enough time to get into this today.

The big changes are:

Board approved curriculum. Staff will develop and the Board will approve.

Reciprocity item, IFSAC we take, ProBoard we take regardless of age. You can have an IFSAC certification that is 20 years old and we would accept it today. The rule change would be that it must be within 2 year period.

There is no challenge exam in the state of Indiana; there is nothing in the rules that allow this. This would mean that no one can challenge or test out. Tom Hanify states that you are not challenging the test, you are taking the test.

We are adding rule language to allow on-line testing. Current rule states that you must return paper test within 7 days. Under electronic testing, we will delete the test id on day 7.

Lead Evaluator is instructor 2; we are separating the Instructor II/III.

You must have a train to trainer for every certification you will be evaluating. This is an IFSAC requirement.

An Instructor I will be allowed to be lead evaluator for Mandatory but not Firefighter I/II.

Firefighter I and firefighter II will be expiring certifications. They would be required to report 24 hours of training every 2 years. This needs looked at for the details and impact.

You will renew this just like you do EMS or Instructor. What we are submitting here is just ideas.

If anyone has ideas or comments send them to Barb Goble, [bgoble@dhs.in.gov](mailto:bgoble@dhs.in.gov) and she will compile the comments for the Board.

We are separating instructor II/III. An instructor III is really a training officer certification. This allows everyone to do the Instructor II skills. Those that hold Instructor II/III at this time will keep it. Instructor III does not need to be renewed. An instructor II will be able to do what they do now.

The last item: modularize Firefighter I/II. You will take module A, B C D. there will be an exam for each module. When you get all 4 modules, you will get certified as firefighter I/II. Skills testing will be done at the end of module B. This allows you to break up the written exam.

If you do not pass the A module, you can go on in class for module B, but will not be able to test until you pass module A.

This does NOT take away for anyone that wants to do the current program. This is just for those departments that have issues with the current program.

John Buckman stated that the Board needs another meeting so they can discuss these changes. The meeting will deal only with rule changes. Also, John wants 2 Board members to work with on the book issues. Candace Ashby volunteered to be on the committee.

### 3. Requirements for Board meetings

- Room for 11 members comfortably sitting with tables in a horseshoe form
- Electric and computer hook up availability
- Table for 3 staff members with electric and computer hook up

- Dry and temperature controlled
- Table for webinar setup

4. LSA Doc #11-730 effective date Sept 01, 2012,

If a properly completed report of continuing education is submitted within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days after the expiration of the Instructor I or Instructor II/III certification, together with the required documentation to show that the applicant has completed all required continuing education within the required years prior to the expiration of the certification, and a fifty dollar (\$50) reapplication fee, the certification will be reinstated on the date that the board staff determines that the required report, documentation, and reapplication fee have been properly submitted.

When does the 120 days start? 655 IAC 1-2.1-19, on recertification states, "the report shall be received by the Board not later than thirty (30) days after the expiration of the three year period". Does the 120 days start on day 31 or does it start on day 1?

Mike Garvey made a motion that this would become effective on day 31. Tom Hanify seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**M. NEW BUSINESS**

John Buckman stated that Barb Goble will be out on medical for the next 3 weeks. Let's all hope that the surgeon does the right thing.

James Greeson stated that we have attended a lot of locations and attendance has been good.

The second thing is that last Friday, Tom Hanify was awarded presidents awarded, the white helmet, and I want everyone to recognize this.

**N. MEETING ADJOURNED 9:30 pm**

**NEXT MEETING:**

**December 3, 2012 6PM  
Police/Council Chambers Office  
270 W 15<sup>th</sup> St  
Rushville IN 46173  
Charles Jenkins  
765-932-3065**