

MINUTES

INDIANA BOARD OF FIREFIGHTING PERSONNEL STANDARDS AND EDUCATION

**DECEMBER 7, 2009 6PM
GREENSBURG LEARNING CENTER
422 E CENTRAL AVE
GREENSBURG IN 47240
812-663-8671**

A. BOARD CALLED TO ORDER at 6:05 pm

B. ROLL CALL

Present

James Greeson
Thomas Hanify
Jack Kerney Sr
James Bennett
Candice Ashby

Absent

Jerry Nulliner
Ab Crosby
Jeff Hayes

C. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM October 27, 2009

Tom Hanify made a motion to approve as printed. James Greeson seconded. Motion passed.

D. VARIANCES

1. Jeremiah Monroe requested reinstatement of his Instructor I, II/III. His Instructor I expired in April of 2009 and his Instructor II/III expired June of 2009. He did not receive a reminder letter for recertification.

Staff recommends approval at this time.

Tom Hanify made a motion to approve for recertification. James Bennett seconded. Motion passed.

2. Rick Pohlman requested variances for:
Fire Officer Strategy and Tactics based on National Fire Academy courses and training, NIMS and classes issued through IDHS. He also has 10 years of experience as Battalion Chief/shift commander Fire Officer II,III and IV based on Assoc. of Science Degree in Fire Science and Bachelor degree in Public Admin. He has attended classes through the National Fire Academy.
Driver Operator Pumper, he developed the program used by many fire departments today, and teaches courses in hydraulics.
Mr. Pohlman has included in his packet, certification, proof of training, copies of his Degrees, and other pertinent training records for the board to review.

Staff recommends approval. We believe he has exceeded the state requirements for the mentioned certifications.

Tom Hanify made a motion to approve all requests. James Greeson seconded. Motion passed.

E. APPEAL REQUESTS

1. Letter from Joe Settles, 09-4754. He was listed as Proctor but had no knowledge of the test.

This involved a Technical Rescue Awareness class held at Green Twp. FD. The situation was that Joe Settles was asked to proctor the test by Anthony Slusher, the instructor. When the time came for testing, Mr. Settles was told that he was not needed. Mr. Stetcher was going to proctor the test. Mr. Stetcher proctored the test and Mr. Slusher volunteered to ship the completed test back to the state. Six months later the fire chief found the tests in a locker at the fire dept. Mr. Settles had nothing to do with any of this. Mr. Stetcher was issued a letter of reprimand. He was responsible for returning the tests to the state and he failed to do so. Mr. Slusher's instructor certification has been suspended for 180 days. He misrepresented on numerous occasions, that he had mailed the tests back to the state for processing.

Tom Hanify made a motion to send Mr. Settles a letter of appreciation. James Greeson seconded. Motion passed.

F. STATE FIRE MARSHAL REPORT- JAMES GREESON

Just want to remind everyone about the holiday safety rules. Don't leave candles burning; don't overload extension cords, cooking etc. Use common sense. Next year we are reinstating the Fire Chiefs orientation program. We will be discussing the Firefighter Training System, County Council, OSHA regulations, inspections, what to look for, and if there is anything you would like to have discussed, let us know. This meeting will be from 8AM to 5PM. We are going to be doing 3 of these orientations. North, South, and Central Indiana.

We have had 6 arson investigations this month, one of which was a meth lab so we are busy out there.

G. IDHS TRAINING DIRECTOR, James Bennett

This is my second meeting and I have been reading the 655 IAC rules. State wide we have the EMA workshops coming up, December 15-17.

H. IDHS TRAINING BRANCH CHIEF, JOHN BUCKMAN.

1. Presentation on Firefighter I/II practicals, Dave Probo

We would like to propose a "beta test" on the practicals for Firefighter ½. We have selected 2 locations so far, that we are going to be testing this program. We select a small selection of practicals to be tested on. The students have completed 100% of the practicals during the course but the testing will be on a small critical portion of skills to actually test them on. There are certain skills that are required to be completed. SCBA is one that is required to be tested. There are multiple skills to raising a ladder. The skill will pick one of the ways to raise a ladder. This is very similar to the EMS skill test. Repetitiveness is the key to learning. You repeat the skills over and over. This is accomplished during the class.

Challenging a test is another option. You would have to go to a specified location in order to show competency in all skills. You would then be tested on the selected skill test.

Tom Hanify made a motion to approve the "beta test" on the practical skills under this program. James Greeson seconded. The motion passed.

The Board requested a number of locations that this will be done and a time frame for completion. The fiscal impact needs to be included in this report.

John Buckman:

We do about 5 audits every week. We have been looking at the Fire Officer 3 certifications. We audited 5 of the 29 certifications that have been issued this year. We wanted to see if people were actually doing the practicals. The skills on this should be equal to a term paper in a Bachelor Degree program. This is not an easy class to do.

We have been told in the past that Fire Officer IV did not have practicals. This was not true. We are developing the practicals for this certification. They should be in place by January 1st. This is the highest certification that a person can get. I estimate that it will take 40 hours to write the paper that is required for this. Audits are working well, and we are pretty successful in getting the information in to us.

Prerequisite issue: we will be issuing a paper that the student is going to have to sign, affirming that he has met the prerequisite. This is to try to resolve the prerequisite issue. Jack Kerney made the comment that this issue should be the student's responsibility not the instructor.

I. IDHS CERTIFICATION CHIEF, Rick Archer

Certifications issued in the last 6 weeks are 1773. This includes IFSAC and the eight week waiting period has been reduced to 2 weeks. We are initiating a new phone system. This is an automated system that will guide you to the person you need to talk with. Next meeting I will have the total for 2009 compared to 2008.

J. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS

1. Administrative Cause 08-03, Michael Flatt
Nonfinal order of dismissal.

Tom Hanify made a motion to affirm the Administrative Law Judge's proposal. Candice Ashby seconded. Motion passed.

K. OLD BUSINESS

1. NFPA proposed changes, Dave Probo
This will be discussed in depth at the Dec. 14th meeting.
2. Wildland Firefighter I/II repeal certifications, Steve Walters
No report at this time.

L. NEW BUSINESS

1. Elections
Chair
Vice Chair
Secretary

Tom Hanify made a motion to elect:
Jack Kerney Sr. Chairperson
Jerry Nulliner vice chair
Jeff Hayes, secretary

Motion seconded by Candice Ashby. Motion passed.

2. Proposed Meeting dates and locations 2010

Proposed dates

February 8

April 12

June 17 – IVFA, Terre Haute

August 9

October 4

December 6

Proposed Locations

Kokomo evening meeting

Seymour , evening meeting

Union Hall, morning meeting

Brownsburg, morning meeting

Greenwood, morning meeting

M. MEETING ADJOURNED 7:10

NEXT MEETING:

February 8, 2010 10AM
Brownsburg Fire Territory
470E Northfield Dr
Brownsburg IN 46112
317-852-1190