

Iowa Fire Service & Emergency Response Council

Meeting Minutes March 14, 2024 Fire Service Training Bureau

Council Members Present via Zoom:

Jim Clark - *IA Professional Fire Chiefs*

Ellen Hagen – *IA Firefighters Association*

Jeff Kling – *Public Member*

Pam Kenkel – *Public Member*

Lonni Koch – *IA Firefighters Association*

Cody Nicely-Green – *IA Professional Firefighters NOMINEE (joined at item V)*

Brian Platz – *IA Fire Chiefs Association*

Ray Reynolds Vice Chairperson – *IA Professional Fire Chiefs*

Jamie Xayavong - *IA Fire Chiefs Association (joined at item V)*

State Fire Marshal and FSTB Staff Present via Zoom:

Dan Wood – *State Fire Marshal*

Jess Dunn – *FSTB Bureau Chief*

Absent (Excused):

Adam Lathrop – *Ex-Officio/Iowa Division of Labor*

Carl Ginapp – *IA Emergency Medical Services Association NOMINEE*

Guests:

None

Call to Order:

Vice-Chair, Ray Reynolds, called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM. Roll call taken (see above)

Approval of Agenda:

Motion

Lonni Koch made a motion to approve the March 14, 2024 agenda, seconded by Ellen Hagen. Approved 8-0.

Approval of Minutes:

Jess Dunn had emailed the 12-14-2023 draft minutes to the council members for review. One correction was received on a spelling error. An email vote was conducted and the minutes of the 12-14-2023 meeting were approved on 1-26-2024 with a vote of 8-0. No further discussion.

Council Member Term Updates (FSTB Bureau Chief Jess Dunn):

- a. Two bills still down at the capital. One senate (SF2385) and one house bill (HF2574). Each are different. The house bill would not change this board. The senate file would change the representation of this board and reduce the number of seats. An overview of each bill was explained.
- b. Cody Nicely-Green – IA Professional Firefighters nominee. Currently sitting at the Governor’s office waiting for appointment.
- c. Carl Ginapp – IEMSA nominee. The nomination is at the Governor’s office awaiting appointment.

Discussion was held on the value of this board. In addition, with the resignation of Scott Kovarna, it was agreed to hold on the election of a new Chair until the completion of the legislative session and which board reorganization bill passes. Cody Nicely-Green did a brief introduction of himself.

Community College Update (Kim Fensterman):

Kim was unable to attend. She did supply an update via email to all council members from the community college standpoint. There were no questions or discussion from the council.

State Fire Marshal Update (SFM Dan Wood):

66 cases this year so far this year. 3 agents currently in some type of training. (arson/bomb/etc.) SFM Wood is asking each council member to take back to their respective organization they are staff limited right now and please be patient. SFM Wood reviewed the response policy of the SFM office. Staff is 10 agents, but really 7 right now with the 3 in training.

Dan Wood continues to work with DIAL on the transition of the SFM bureaus that have moved to DIAL on July 1, 2023 (Electrical, Building Code, and Inspections). Dan still spends a couple days a week out at DIAL. Six of the ten new DIAL inspectors are former SFM employees.

New SFM website should be up around April 14 or 15. State mandated update to all Iowa Government to make the websites ADA compliant.

Fire Service Training Bureau Update (Bureau Chief Jess Dunn):

Jess Dunn – Fire training tower is about 20% complete. Groundwork starting in May. Some delay in materials from a supplier. Now estimated occupancy is December 2024.

99th State Fire School Jan 27 & 28, 2024. We ended up with 372 students attending. Great school with great speakers. Received very favorable feedback. Planning for 100th is already underway.

Legislative committee kicked off in December with all the fire/EMS service associations represented. Have held six meetings so far.

Accounting Tech 3 position has been filled. Hailie Mathews started on February 19th. She is currently training and learning fast.

Linda Adams retired on February 29th. So I am now down one employee again. We will not be able to fill that position right away.

Two driving simulators arrived in late January. In late February, staff from FAAAC came to the FSTB to train the fulltime staff on operation and maintenance of the simulators. We hope to do a pilot class at FSTB in a few months.

We wrote an AFG application for a new learning management system (LMS) for the bureau. If this were to be awarded, our testing platform would change. Therefore, we are holding off on the hard deadline of electronic only testing on January 1, 2025.

Field programs – Calendar year 2023 we totaled 79 mobile props movements. In 2023 – 671 courses ordered by field programs with a total of 11,182 students. This equates to 110,396 contact hours. Continue to be very supportable of regional fire schools via funding and props.

Special programs – 5 scheduled NFA classes this FY24. More being added for FY25. Lots of demand for FO1&2 classes. We are scheduling them as funding allows. Investigator class this May. More demand than spots. Being selective on students accepted.

Certification/Accreditation – CY 2023 – 2,893 exams with 1,845 passing. HMA passing rate up over the year. FF1 passing rate is 57% for the year. Stats for all levels were shown.

A couple of questions were asked on passing rates verses instructional delivery.

FSTB has received a few questions again on the driving law for FD vehicles and personal vehicles. We will maintain our standard response approved by our DPS legal council.

Old Business:

Feds are updating 29CFR1910.156. 608 pages. In comment phase right now. Jess and Jeff gave an overview of the changes. It is incorporating NFPA standards by reference. Significant impact to volunteer departments. Jess will reach out to IOSHA to make sure they are on top of it.

New Business:

Ray discussed fatalities of people on oxygen and tracking the statistics. NERIS implementation and Iowa's plan. SFM Wood is slowly working through the preliminary information.

Other Business – Subcommittee Work:

Fireworks Grants: This committee will be working on awarding fireworks grants again this fall. DIAL has the inspection and licensing control, but we will handle the grant money distribution.

Budget - Possibly FY26.

Public Comments:

None.

Action Items:

None

Adjournment:

Motion

Chief Platz called for a motion to adjourn at 10:48. Second by Ellen Hagen. Passed 9-0

Next meeting will be June 13th, 2024 at 10:00 am