

# Iowa Fire Service & Emergency Response Council

## Meeting Minutes November 12, 2020 Fire Service Training Bureau

### **Council Members Present**

Justin Adams, Chair - *IA Association of Professional Chiefs*

Jeff Kling, Vice Chair - *Public member*

Mike Bryant - *IA Association of Professional Firefighters*

Pam Kenkel - *Public member*

Lonni Koch - *IA Firefighters Association*

Scott Kovarna - *IA Association of Professional Firefighters*

Alicia Lidtke - *IA Firefighters Association*

Ray Reynolds - *IA Association of Professional Fire Chiefs*

### **State Fire Marshal and FSTB Staff Present**

Dan Wood - *State Fire Marshal*

John Kraemer - *FSTB Bureau Chief*

### **Absent (Excused):**

Deb Krebill - *IA Fire Chiefs Association*; Thomas Craighton - *Emergency Medical Services*; Ellen Hagen - *IA Fire Chiefs Association*; Joe Mullen - *OSHA, Division of Labor, Ex-Officio member*

### **Guests:**

Kim Fensterman - *Kirkwood Community College*

Jim Kenkel

### **Call to Order:**

Chairman Adams called the meeting to order at 10:13 AM.

### **Approval of Agenda:**

Motion to approve Agenda by Lonnie Koch; second by Pam Kenkel. Approved.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Motion to approve Minutes by Jeff Kling; second by Scott Kovarna. Approved.

### **Community College Report (Kim Fensterman):**

- Community college coordinators haven't met since last year due to COVID pandemic.
- Community colleges are following CDC guidelines in dealing with COVID.
- Some CC's working remotely - Kirkwood will alternate who is present and not present on campus - all classes are a go.
- Community colleges dealing with COVID doing FF1 training via Zoom with labs at the end.
- 2020 was not a good year for hosting regional fire schools - hope to have CITA back in March 2021.
- Hawkeye CC not doing anything right now - not sure if they still have a fire science program.

- Kevin Miller from NW Iowa says he wants more transparency from the FSTB when it comes to requesting training. No other concerns were brought up from other community colleges. Suggested that she and Bureau Chief Kraemer meet with him to discuss. Other CCs are happy.
- Community colleges are pleased with the pass rates.

Question to Kim from Justin Adams - Does Kirkwood work with local high schools regarding recruitment - FF1 offering? Kim responded that yes, their High School Academy Program is quite extensive. She will discuss it more when subject comes up on the agenda.

### **laSFSI Report**

Thomas Craighton not present to give report.

### **SFM Update (SFM Dan Wood):**

- 33 fire deaths - down from 43 at this time last year.
- 1 vacancy in Arson & Explosives Bureau.
- Fire Prevention Bureau having budget issues because of not doing CMS inspections, and has 1 vacancy due to retirement.
- Building Code Bureau is down 2 inspectors, leaving 1 inspector - cost savings, and are adopting new 2020 Codes.
- Electrical Bureau seeing high numbers of electrical inspections and permits, and moving to adopt current code editions.

### **FSTB Update (Bureau Chief Kraemer):**

- 2020 has been a hectic year.
- Successful move to Camp Dodge - Grand Opening on August 12, 2020
- Still learning new processes and how to use resources at Camp Dodge, but good transition. National Guard is pleased.
- Propane storage system - A fixed structure would require going through the Iowa National Guard process, which can be lengthy and expensive, so decided to purchase a mobile propane bobtail for increased versatility.
- Moving into Phase 2 - building infrastructure for training grounds. Plan to use grants and create a workgroup of IFSERC members and other stakeholders to determine training facility options.
- Already seeing savings moving from ISU to Camp Dodge – for example: monthly lease was \$9,000 per month, now \$3,300/mo; electric/gas was \$1,000/mo., now \$300; phones were \$1900 now \$180.
- FF1 Exams – pass/fail percentages are much better. Would like to see more FF2 certifications; Improved pass/fail ratios for HAZMAT Awareness & Ops.
- On October 1, 2020, started using Essentials 7 Edition ONLY - and no longer testing from E6 manual.
- New pump panel simulators
  - Manufacturer provided in-service training at FSTB.
  - Offered train-the-trainer to TS1s.
  - Used in a class at Johnston and was well-received.
- Expecting delivery of the new SCBA / RIT trailer within the month.

- 2019 AFG Grant of \$400,000 for new interior fire attack simulator as a supplement to serve as a stand-by to the old one. Working with the state on the bid process.
- Provided in-service training for FSTB TS1s - had 36 active staff present for first offering. They received review of props as well as proper procedures for written and practical exams and instruction on tablet use. All TS1s are required to go through instruction to teach and use FSTB training props.
- With the increase in COVID cases, TS1s have been reminded to reach out to fire departments to see if anyone wants to modify training, re-schedule, etc.
- Moving toward regional test site locations on January 1, 2021 - locations are required to have internal space for written exams as well as space for practical skills and bandwidth for computer-based testing.
- SFM Wood and BC Kraemer toured half of the emergency response training facilities - Fort Dodge, Sioux City, Mason City, and Emmetsburg. Learned about problems they have faced and lack of use. Will complete site visits when weather improves and develop a report to include photos for the IFSERC.

### **FSTB Short-Term Initiatives**

- Regional training center visits.
- Obtain propane bobtail.
- Fire Inspector I course offerings.
- Complete ProBoard self-assessment by end of December - hoping to have site visit scheduled in first quarter of 2021.
- Update Iowa Administrative Code.
- Annual State Fire School.
  - February 27 & 28, 2021, pending COVID restrictions.
  - 2 full days - opening ceremonies and all day Sunday, many new classes, no lunch provided.
  - Scheman allowing us to cancel 7 days prior to the event, but goal is to reschedule rather than cancel.
  - Conference is too large to go virtual.
  - 2022 fire school will include hands-on training at the Hanson Center at ISU.
- Re-branding of FSTB - help shed negative past history. Time is right due to move to new location and improved services. Need a new logo, and possibly a new name. Similar business strategy used by stores and restaurants that close or have a negative history.
  - Jeff Kling requested to have Council input on those decisions. BC Kraemer said that the Bureau needs to continue progressing and moving in a new direction and said he would bring decisions that the FSTB staff, SFM Wood, and DPS leadership have made to the Council for review.

### **Old Business**

#### **Revolving Loan Fund**

- Awarded 2 new loans selected by sub-committee members Ellen Hagen, Ray Reynolds, and Mike Bryant
  - Claremont Fire Department received \$150,000 for new engine
  - Dyersville Farmers Community Fire Department received \$50,000 for new apparatus
- Justin Adams suggested that everyone spread the word to their associations and local fire departments about the loan availability.
- BC Kraemer suggested that the application be updated and made into an online form.

### ***Action item***

BC Kraemer will coordinate meeting with FSTB staff and subcommittee members to complete and update the application, and will bring to next meeting for review.

### **New Business**

#### **IFSERC member update**

- The ISFERC member term of service is up soon for Mike Bryant, representing the Professional Fire Chiefs Association. Mike Bryant stated that he had in interest in re-applying but hasn't received anything. BC Kraemer said that the Governor's Office should be reaching out to the Professional Firefighters Association, but that he can find the application on the Iowa Boards and Commissions website and send to Mr. Bryant.

### ***Action item***

BC Kraemer will email Mike Bryant the link to the website where he can find the application.

#### **Length of Service Award Program - John and Cyndi Pederson**

John and Cyndi Pederson of Pederson Consulting shared with the ISFERC information about a proposed bill by the IFA creating a "Length of Service Award Program" in an effort to help with recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters. The ISFERC thought this was a good idea and would help in the drafting of rules for eligibility, vesting, and distribution of awards for such a program. A third part financial institution was going to be responsible for administering this program and any allocated funds, along with the IFA.

- BC Kraemer said that this program would have to be independent of the FSTB, and suggested a partnership between the ISFERC, possibly Lincoln Financial (third-party institution), and the IFA.
- SFM Wood stated that the SFM office would back the initiative, but don't have the staff to provide administrative support.

#### **Statewide recruitment program in high schools - Justin Adams**

Justin Adams expressed an interest in a statewide recruitment program in high schools like an apprenticeship / Explorer program, which would offer FF1, HazMat, and EMT their senior year so they would be able to be hired after graduation. It would involve firefighter training and certification through the FSTB, but concerned that insurance and age of the students might be an issue.

- Kim Fensterman suggested looking into amending the Administrative Rules to address the age requirement. She suggested piloting a program.

### ***Action items***

- BC Kraemer expressed concern about liability for the FSTB and will email ex-officio member, John Mullen, of the Iowa Labor Commission for input.
- Kim will reach out to the Community College partners to see what they think and report back to BC Kraemer.

***Motion***

Scott Kovarna made a motion for IFSERC to move forward on research and investigate amending the code to allow for 17 year olds to engage in subsequent training and certification utilizing FSTB and other assets. Seconded by Pam Kenkel. Motion carries.

## **Creating operational budget for the FSTB - John Kraemer**

BC Kraemer stated that the FSTB has no operational budget and has been functioning for 20 years with a decrease in funds, positions and resources. It relies on the assessment of administrative fees charged to the Volunteer Firefighter Training Fund and other funds to pay for utilities and instructors.

- Options: 1) add money to the existing training fund, or 2) look at separate funding source
- BC Kraemer would prefer a separate fund strictly for operations.
- Ray Reynolds suggested that the Council, SFM and FSTB craft a message and then let the Associations all know what the message is so the message is consistent, and then take it up through DPS to be sure it is a good ask.
- SFM Wood suggested that a subcommittee be created to prepare something for the next legislative session, to include the asks (what, how much, and why) and good arguments to justify the asks.

## ***Motion***

Motion proposed by Mike Bryant that FSTB proceed with actions to have their own operating budget and to proceed in crafting a message in support of justification in pursuing such. Seconded by Ray Reynolds. Motion carries.

## **Firefighter Day on the Hill - January 14, 2021**

- IFA and Iowa Professional Firefighters Association partnered to organize the event.
- Includes breakfast and meet and greet, and a chili cook-off.
- Let John and Cyndi Pederson know if interested in participating.

## **Adjournment:**

Will work to schedule next meeting in February 2021.

## ***Motion***

Chairman Adams called for a motion to adjourn. Motion by Jeff Kling. Seconded by Scott Kovarna. Motion carried, and meeting was adjourned at 12:27 PM.



