

Iowa Fire Service & Emergency Response Council

Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2021

Fire Service Training Bureau

Council Members Present

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*

Deb Krebill - *IA Fire Chiefs Association*

Alicia Lidtke - *IA Firefighters Association*

Brian Platz – *IA Fire Chiefs 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*

Jeannie Guttenfelder – *State Fire Marshal Division*

Absent & Excused:

Justin Adams - *IA Fire Chiefs Association*; Thomas Craighton - *Emergency Medical Services*; Joe Mullen - *OSHA, Division of Labor, Ex-Officio member*

Guests:

Kim Fensterman - *Kirkwood Community College*

Call to Order:

Vice Chairperson Kling called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

Approval of Agenda:

Motion to approve Agenda by Ray Reynolds; second by Deb Krebill. Approved.

Approval of Minutes:

Meeting Minutes from February 5, 2021 not ready for approval. Motion to approve the Minutes at the next meeting by Ray Reynolds; seconded by Lonni Koch. Approved.

IFSERC Membership Update:

- Ellen Hagen completed her term and served with distinction for several years on the Council, providing advice and consultation for the FSTB and SFM. The IFSERC, FSTB, and SFM thank Ellen for her many years of dedicated service.
- Introduction of Chief Brian Platz as the newest member of the IFSERC Board, representing the Iowa Association of Professional Fire Chiefs.
- Pam Kenkel was successfully re-appointed to the IFSERC Board.

- Mike Bryant's appointment status still pending review and approval from the Governor.
- BC Kraemer stated the Governor's Office is looking for individuals to serve no more than 2 terms (max.) to keep State Boards and Commissions fresh and active.

Community College Report (Kim Fensterman):

- Community Colleges are back to pre-Covid protocols (normal capacity) again.
- Community College representatives would like to know if it is possible to open Volunteer Firefighter Training Fund (VFTF) for more training options.
 - BC Kraemer said that would require an increase in the VFTF which would require legislative action.
- Would like to see more transparency with how the VFTF is used because they were denied classes
 - BC Kraemer stated that the FSTB postponed classes to the next fiscal year to allow for cleaner budget transfer.
 - Kim will invite BC Kraemer to attend a Community College meeting to address the concerns about requesting training with the representatives.
- Kim questioned the contract requirement to provide curriculum to FSTB if IFSTA curriculum is used.
 - BC Kraemer stated that he needs to have the curriculum on file for all who receive training funds from the VFTF no matter from where the curriculum originated.

IaSFSI Report

Thomas Craighton was not present to give report.

SFM Update (SFM Dan Wood):

- State Fire Marshal Division budget was approved with no decreases.
- State Building Code Commissioner position still vacant. Re-posted position.
- Recently filled a Fire Inspector vacancy in NE Iowa.
- 18 fire deaths reported in 2021 thus far.

FSTB Update (Bureau Chief Kraemer):

- Been at the Camp Dodge location for one full year – everything going well.
- VFFTF was re-appropriated (\$825,520) as was the additional \$50,000.
- The Paul Ryan and Income Tax Check-Off Funds continue to rise and fall as firefighters purchase FF license plates and donate and as trainings are scheduled.
- FY 2021 VFFTF – spent every dollar to the point where the FSTB had to reschedule trainings into next fiscal year
- AFG Grants
 - Spent all of the 2018 AFG Grant
 - Expecting delivery soon of new IFAS prop (2-story, reconfigurable) paid for by the 2019 AFG Grant
 - 2020 AFG Grant application has been submitted
 - Requested new semi-trailer to haul props – need larger semi-tractor for increased towing capacity for larger props and current semi is getting ready to be retired.
 - Requested a new pumper-tanker for FSTB training grounds and D/O classes.
 - 2020 AFG Grant Award to be announced closer to September 2021.

- BC Kraemer updated the PDQ of the Special Programs Coordinator position. Will be posting and filling the position after fire school.
- In process of completing a new \$20,000 FEMA Grant application for advanced-level courses.
- 97th Annual State Fire School
 - Postponed to July due to Covid – FSTB determined to provide training, so refused to cancel
 - Registration numbers were low - around 180 participants at time of this meeting.
 - Social distancing and occupancy requirements at 50% were mandated by ISU, so made decision to have no vendors at all in order to be fair and equitable, and to reserve the limited occupancy for students.
 - Ames FD allowed the FSTB use of their training grounds for hands-on training.
 - Keynote speaker Chief Otto Drozd of Florida had to cancel due to Covid restrictions. A new speaker was found– National Fire Academy Superintendent, Eriks Gabliks.

Old Business:

- Statewide recruitment program in high schools
 - BC Kraemer and Chairman Adams met with OSHA IFSERC member, Joe Mullen, from Iowa Workforce Development about developing a work internship program with high schools but OSHA laws are very strict on such things, such as the use of power tools, etc.
 - Each city would need to be aware of insurance issues. It would be possible, but limited, based on current law.
- The updated and electronic version of the Firefighter Equipment Revolving Loan Fund Application is now available on the IFSERC web page of the FSTB website.
- The Legislative Administrative Rules Review Committee met and approved the amendments to FSTB Administrative Rules, one of which was to allow the FSTB to revoke a firefighter’s certification for felony level convictions.

New Business:

- **FSTB Operational Budget**

BC Kraemer proposed scheduling a workshop with IFSERC board members to discuss a FSTB Operational Budget and to come up with a political strategy.

- Need experts to offer advice on political environment, what’s involved in “the ask,” and crafting the right message to get out to stakeholders to move forward
- Discuss options: 1) Separate operational budget 2) Continue to keep charging administrative fees from the VFFTF and other training funds.
- Need to consider what we might win or lose with each option – i.e. have them decrease VFFTF
- BC Kraemer and SFM Wood need to take on role of facilitators.

Motion

Motion by Reynolds to create a sub-committee to work with SFM Wood and BC Kraemer to determine pros,

cons, and strategy for proceeding with big ask for FSTB operating budget. Seconded by Deb Krebill and Brian Platz. Motion carries.

- **Revolving Loan Sub-committee**

Need to appoint two new members to the Firefighter Equipment Revolving Loan Application Review sub-committee, since Ellen Hagen is off of the Board and Mike Bryant's status is not known.

- Brian Platz and Lonni Koch volunteered to be members of the sub-committee.

Motion

Motion by BC Kraemer that new amended sub-committee be composed of Ray Reynolds, Pam Kenkel, Brian Platz, and Lonni Koch. Seconded by Jeff Kling. Motion carries.

Action Item

BC Kraemer will get applications, rules and packets to new members.

- **2021 Fireworks Grant**

- Ray Reynolds suggested a breakdown of the grants into three categories 1) Education 2) PPE, and 3) Laundry items.
- SFM Wood confirmed that there is enough money to cover all of the requests.
- Krebill suggested limiting what is awarded in order to protect the fund in the future.
- Kovarna abstained from vote on Sioux City FD request; Reynolds abstained from vote on Nevada FD request.
- SFM Wood stated that legislators made it clear that education requests be fulfilled first
- Kovarna and Platz questioned the high dollar PPE requests from Johnston-Grimes Metropolitan FD and Lockridge FD and suggested awarding each half of their request.
- Alicia Lidtke expressed concern about setting up an expectation that any grant will be approved. Krebill agreed that the awards should be limited, and that the three category breakdown would support that.

Motion

Motion by Ray Reynolds that we approve all education asks for \$116,720.75, all Laundry asks for \$91,676 and all PPE asks (including ballistic vests and helmets) with Johnston-Grimes Metro FD and Lockridge FD each receiving \$25,000 instead of original asks. Seconded by Scott Kovarna. Motion carries.

- Koch suggested that SFM Wood provide a recommendation for requests that fire departments could make, similar to his recommendation for washer/extractors.
- Discussion ensued about whether or not to approve outstanding requests.
- Decision was made to include the three requests for thermal imaging cameras and nozzles to the approved requests for a total of \$456,365.58.

Motion

Motion by Scott Kovarna to proceed with the \$456,365.58 approved requests. Seconded by Deb Krebill.

Motion carries.

- **Continue or discontinue ZOOM meetings**

- BC Kraemer recommended that meetings return to pre-Covid policy of meeting in-person, but if Zoom meetings are continued, that everyone be in front of their own computer – no hybrid of zoom and in-person.

Motion

-Motion made by Jeff Kling to have in-person meetings and no longer hold Zoom meetings. Seconded by Ray Reynolds.

-Split decision after comments made by Kovarna and Platz that they will do what they can to be present, but they would like to continue to have the option of Zoom in case an emergency prevented them from attending.

-Membership voted (Krebill abstained) to continue with both in-person and Zoom meetings.

- **Local Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services Grant Program (“Fireworks Grant”)**

A total of 63 grant applications were received from across the state and reviewed by the Council. This was the most received in the history of this grant opportunity. The Legislature allowed the State Fire Marshal to open up the grant opportunity more for agencies to purchase equipment that has a fireworks nexus. The State Fire Marshal also requested and received permission to allow agencies to apply for the purchase of firefighter turnout gear washers/extractors. Priority to award grant requests were given to those agencies requesting educational materials for fireworks safety, in keeping with the original intent of the law and grant rules.

-In total, 55 grant requests were honored.

-8 grant requests were denied

Adjournment:

Motion

Vice Chairperson Kling called for a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Scott Kovarna. Motion Carried, and

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 pm.

