

# Iowa Fire Service & Emergency Response Council

## Meeting Minutes January 15, 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*

Thomas Craighton - *Emergency Medical Services*

Ellen Hagen - *IA Fire Chiefs Association*

Pam Kenkel - *Public member*

Lonni Koch - *IA Firefighters Association*

Scott Kovarna - *IA Association of Professional Firefighters*

Deb Krebill - *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*

Jim Kenkel - *FSTB Special Programs Manager*

Russ Grossman - *FSTB Field Programs Manager*

Jean Haberichter - *FSTB Accountant*

Dawn Beisner - *FSTB Information Specialist*

### **Absent:**

Alicia Lidtke - *IA Firefighters Association; Division of Labor*; Joe Mullen - *Iowa Workforce Development, Ex-Officio member*

### **Guests:**

Kim Fensterman - *Kirkwood Community College*

### **Call to Order:**

Chairman Adams called the meeting to order at 10:09 AM.

### **Welcome New Member (Scott Kovarna - representative of IAPFF)**

Scott Kovarna is the Deputy Fire Marshal of the Sioux City Fire Department, representing western Iowa.

### **Approval of Agenda:**

Motion to approve Agenda by Thomas Craighton; second by Lonnie Koch. Approved.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Motion to approve Minutes by Ray Reynolds; second by Pam Kenkel. Approved.

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

Community College partners will meet in March. They have rolled-out IFSTA Essentials 7 and are using it exclusively. She has been working with the community college partners on scheduling - starting with HazMat first followed by FFI & II, providing links to written and practical exams schedules. She is seeing great improvement - with a 73% success rate thanks to Gary Howard and John Kraemer. John Kraemer attributed the success to the offering of written and practical skills at different times, presenting HazMat as a pre-requisite, and the IFSTA E7 content is more organized and flows better, allowing for greater success.

### **laSFSI Report (John Kraemer reported for laSFSI President, Thomas Craighton):**

Instructor Conference in December went well at Prairie Meadows- membership wanted it away from FSTB. The 2020 Conference will be held at the FFA Enrichment Center at DMAACC in Ankeny, and will invite representatives from IFSTA and Jones & Bartlett. They are looking at changes to the website, including the design/layout and payment options.

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

#### **Arson & Explosives Bureau (2019)**

- 83 explosives related investigations
- 31 accidental fires
- 36 incendiary fires
- 60 undetermined fires
- 22 fire still under investigation
- 19 Explosive K9 deployments
- One explosive K9 added in Cedar Rapids

#### **Fire Prevention Bureau (2019)**

- 1518 state inspections
- 1716 federal inspections

#### **Building Code Bureau (2019)**

- 673 plans reviewed
- \$1.14 billion in construction costs
- 105 federal inspections
- 1080 state inspections
- One retirement, can't replace that position.

#### **Electrical Bureau (2019)**

- 22,446 inspections
- 14,981 licenses
- Legislative questions about carbon monoxide rule - want to put into law.

#### **Fireworks update**

- Have paid out some grant money to grant recipients
- Working LXR on education/safety focused media campaign to educate public on what they are buying - to include billboards, TV, radio.

- Re-introducing bills that will allow cities to establish their own rules, write their own citations, etc.

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

### **Follow-up action items for IFSERC from January 15, 2020**

- Will invite the DPS Commissioner to a Council meeting. Would encourage member to invite their Association Presidents to the meetings as well.
- Fireworks grant criteria - work through applications.
- Review E-7 roll-out
- Search for new facilities

### **Staff Update**

- Two positions filled - Mark Neff as FSTB Fire Service Technical Assistant; Jean Haberichter as FSTB Accountant. Lucky to have both positions filled.

### **Budget**

- No operating budget - most everything comes out of Volunteer Firefighter Training Fund money. This is an appropriation so no guarantee of funding.
- \$20,000 NFA Grant (FY20) used for advanced level classes is no longer available. Need to encourage legislators to appropriate state funds for this purpose.
- Facilities update - Ray Reynolds suggested that the Council would develop a letter that could be submitted to ISU inquiring why renovations aren't being made, justification for rent increase, etc. Would like to build a foundation of public documents to serve as justification. Believes that council is obligated to respond. Lengthy discussion ensued.

### ***Motion:***

Motion by Ray Reynolds to step up as Council to compose a letter to the Board of Regents inquiring as to why there is an increase with no improvements and only 30 day notice, and requesting justification for the increase. Seconded by Jeff Kling. Further discussion ensued after which time Justin Adams proposed a Friendly Amendment to first submit the document to ISU President Cain and request a response within 30 days or it would be forwarded to the Board of Regents. Seconded by Jeff Kling. Motion Carries.

### ***Action Items***

- Ray Reynolds said he would draft a letter and submit it for review before sending it out.
- Justin Adams suggested that a meeting be scheduled in February inviting Presidents of the Associations to have a legislative workshop to discuss operation budget and establish intermediate and long-term goals.

### **Budget Update**

- State Appropriation - \$868,224
- Volunteer Firefighter Training Fund - \$825,520.00
- Additional Appropriation to the VFFTF for operations - \$50,000
- Paul Ryan Firefighter Memorial Safety Fund - \$57,205.00
- Volunteer Firefighter Income Tax Check-Off Fund - \$137,543.00

- NFA Grant - \$0 for FY2020
- Fire Equipment Revolving Loan Fund - \$317,310

### **Fire Equipment Revolving Loan Fund**

- Very active - majority of applications have gone toward purchase of apparatus.
- Fire departments have done a good job of paying back the loans.

### **Action Item**

Justin Adams wondered if it would be possible to create an online Revolving Loan Fund Application. BC Kraemer suggested that it be added to the Agenda as a workshop item where the application packet could be refined and made more current.

### **2017 AFG Grant**

- Two pickup trucks
- Six customized trailers equipped with tools and props, to be set in regional locations
- The 6 new Mobile Tactical Equipment Units (trailers) will facilitate regional practical skills testing.
- Mobile car fire prop was delivered - waiting for trailer to be customized

### **2018 AFG Grant Requests**

- New SCBA/RIT trailer
- Mobile FireVent prop
- Side-mount pump panel simulators for D/O classes x 2

### **2019 AFG Grant Requests**

- 60 computer tablets
- New IFAS Trailer

### **Computer-Based Testing**

- Good feedback on this process.
- Only limitation is the number of tablets.
- Will provide better metrics for areas for both students and instructors to improve upon.

### **2019 Reports**

#### **Field Programs**

- Total classes delivered = 837
- Total students reached by FSTB classes = 12,976
- PRI classes = 149
- Community College classes = 93
- NECAS classes = 47
- Customized Fire Training = 39
- Mobile Training Prop Deployments (2019)
  - Interior Fire Attack Simulator = 49
  - Mobile Training Tower Trailer = 17
  - MOBAT = 12

- Forcible Entry = 11
- Confined Space Trailer = 10
- Liquid Propane Emergency Prop = 8
- Tanker Rollover Prop = 7
- Vehicle Extrication Trailer = 5

### **Certification Program**

- Total certifications awarded = 752
- Total written exams administered = 2,621
- Total practical exams administered = 1,287
- Total re-take exams administered = 826
- Currently working to re-acquire ProBoard accreditation by end of 2020

### **Special Programs Conference/Class Attendees**

- 2019 Annual State Fire School = 566 (Blizzard of 2019)
- Fire Investigation Course = 34
- Pro Chiefs Workshop = 84
- Iowa Fire Chiefs Association Workshop = 68
- Annual HazMat Symposium = 68
- IaSFSI Conference = 49
- NFPA 921/1033 Courtroom Testimony Workshop = 78
- Instructor I (6 classes) - 80
- Fire Officer I class = 10
- NFA Direct Delivery Classes (6 classes) = 136

### **Certification Pass/Fail rates**

- Have seen significant improvement after E7 roll-out
- Good preliminary data coming in
- FF1 now has a 76% pass rate because of new tools, goals, and expectations. Small numbers, but growing.
- FSTB has included a field on the Certification Exam Registration form to include the name of the class instructor, to help better track and calculate pass/fail rates of classes taught by FSTB instructors vs. in-house instructors vs. those challenging the exams.
- The FSTB has no oversight authority over any fire department in-house instructors. The FSTB wants ALL instructors to succeed and is willing to share resources to any fire service instructor in Iowa.
- FSTB staff scheduling meetings with instructors, community colleges and fire departments to share new procedures and materials

#### Trident Approach

- Review and improve curriculum and instructor tools/packages with E-7 roll-out
- Increase classroom expectations for instructors and students
- Review and validate certification exams

***Reminder: The FSTB is always looking for good, quality instructors***

## **E-7 Roll-out**

- IFSTA removed some content and added new and expanded content for FF1 and FF2, which required increasing number of teaching hours to 20 for HazMat Awareness/Ops, 160 hours for FF1, and 80 for FF2. These are estimates, and as more classes are taught, the FSTB will obtain a better grasp of the number of hours actually needed to successfully cover the required content.

## **New Facilities**

Encourage everyone to go back to organizations to educate them, and encourage them to be a strong voice and advocate for the needs of the FSTB.

## **Annual State Fire School**

Excited about the many new changes that have been implemented - opening ceremony, great speakers and new classes. More EMS offerings - formal hours offered for a number of classes. Hoping for a great turnout.

**Note: Justin Adams congratulated BC John Kraemer for holding true to everything that he promised to achieve at the time of his interview.**

## **New Business:**

### **Fireworks grant application review criteria**

- Review of "Local Fire Protection & Emergency Medical Service Grant Guidelines" criteria developed by Ray Reynolds.
- Presentation and discussion ensued.

### ***Motion:***

Motion by Thomas Craighton to adopt the Guidelines. Seconded by Mike Bryant. Motion Carries.

### ***Action item:***

- Justin Adams requested that the guidelines be posted on the IFSERC web page along with the application.

### **Age requirements for FF training/high school programs**

- Justin Adams had proposed the issue of age requirements for firefighter training high school programs (particularly participating in hands-on training like the interior fire attack simulator) and requested that BC Kraemer would look into it. BC Kraemer brought the question to DPS legal services and was told that from a risk management standpoint, the FSTB will NOT be able to allow minors to participate because of liability concerns.

### **Continued competency for firefighters (NFPA research/technical work group)**

- NFPA research foundation did study looking at what it should be.
- Looked at instituting minimum 24 hour annual continuing education up to recertification every 3-5 years for firefighters.
- The fire service needs to pay attention to this research and stay current, because the FSTB follows NFPA Standards.

- BC Kraemer encouraged everyone to stay current and voice their comments on the NFPA website.

### **Fire District Legislation (Iowa Code 357b)**

- BC Kraemer and SFM Wood have done research on creating fire districts which could address the issue of lack of new recruits by allowing the sharing of resources, staffing, etc.
- Working on drafting language for legislation to adjust tax levy and to allow those that can, and want to, be allowed to do it.

### **Other Business:**

- BC Kraemer updated the Code for FSTB, administrative rules. Nothing substantial changed.
- Ray Reynolds is working with Mike Couvou on code language to get cities and fire departments protected against liability when they donate used equipment. Would like to help EMS, law enforcement, and Fire to give used equipment away, and is trying to get the word out about it. Jeff Kling suggested to include private companies in that language as well.

### **Adjournment:**

Next meeting - Workshop with Presidents of the Associations on March 4, 2020. (Cancelled)

### ***Motion***

Chairman Adams called for a motion to adjourn. Motion by Thomas Craighton. Seconded by Scott Kovarna. Motion Carried, and meeting was adjourned at 2:17 pm.

NOTE: ON March 15, 2020 the State of Iowa began being impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Meetings scheduled through July 2020 were postponed following CDC guidelines and adhering to Iowa Governor Reynold's Public Health Disaster Proclamations.