

# Iowa Fire Service & Emergency Response Council

## Council Meeting Minutes

July 17, 2019

10:00am - 2:00pm

Fire Service Training Bureau

### **Council Members Present**

Justin Adams, Chair - IA Association of Professional Chiefs

Jeff Kling, Vice Chair - Public member

Deb Krebill - IA Fire Chiefs Association

Alicia Lidtke - IA Firefighters Association

Mike Bryant - IA Association of Professional Firefighters

Ellen Hagen - IA Fire Chiefs Association

Pam Kenkel - Public member

Lonni Koch - 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

Steve DeJoode - Former Interim Bureau Chief

Jim Kenkel - FSTB Special Programs Manager

Gary Howard - FSTB Certification/Accreditation Program Manager

Dawn Beisner - Information Specialist

**Absent:** Thomas Craighton - Emergency Medical Services; Joe Mullen - Division of Labor, Iowa Workforce Development, Ex-Officio member

**Call to Order:** Chairman Adams called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM.

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve agenda by Jeff Kling; second by Ellen Hagen. Approved.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve agenda by Jeff Kling; second by Ellen Hagen. Approved.

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

Waiting for E-7 Rollout to have the Community College Coordinator meeting. There has been a huge turnover of Program Coordinators due to budget cuts, attrition, etc.

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

Looking forward to the Annual Instructors Conference Dec 6-7 at Prairie Meadows. FSTB will pay for speaker, will handle education part, and work with Thomas on the brochure/registration. Partnering to improve and create a culture of quality instructors. Craighton wanted Council to know that there has been a 25% turnover of EMA Coordinators. He would encourage everyone to meet with their new county EMA coordinators.

**SFM Update (SFM Dan Wood)**

Fire Deaths:

- 25 fire deaths thus far. Last year at this time there were 39, so it has improved.

Staffing update:

- Two new inspectors in Fire Prevention. Two will be out on medical leave. One retirement in Building Code.

The Building Code position will not be filled, so that the FSTB can safely replace the two open positions (Fire Service Technical Assistant and Accounting Technician 3) due to retirements at the FSTB.

Fireworks update:

- There were 612 licenses for fireworks (down from 891 last year). SFM able to inspect 400 of those.
- Two companies, TNT and Bellina, have 2/3 of the licenses.

- Lots of illegal sales of commercial grade fireworks. These fireworks were confiscated and the respective locations were shut down. One death in Cedar County due to an illegal firework. SFMO is still trying to find the source of the illegal firework.

- 2019 Fireworks Grants

Received 14 requests = \$588,533.27

Discussion about need to educate people, talk to groups, community, etc. about this grant.

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

Follow-up action items for IFSERC from April 17, 2019:

- Admin Fees

-Russ Grossman itemized what he does in support of the FSTB partners (registration, recording attendance, prepare certificates, prop delivery, transcribing, etc). Determined 6% admin fee would be justifiable.

-Proposal made by Kraemer to the Council to begin charging training funds an administration fee of 6% for courses FSTB partners perform.

-Ray Reynolds questioned what percentage goes to the contractors. Kraemer suggested it would be approximately 1/3rd, and that the goal is to invest in our own instructors - would like to build on our capacity to provide more advanced, specialized training that would be taught by our own instructors. Potential train-the-trainers.

-Motion by Ray Reynolds to approve FSTB increasing the admin fee by 6% effective September 1, 2019. Seconded by Lonnie Koch. All approved. Motion carries.

- Certification Fees

-Iowa's \$50 fee per certification is on low end, compared to other states. This fee has not changed in over 30 years.

- FSTB Staffing Update

-Interviewing for Fire Service Technical Assistant position.

-Will begin selecting candidates for Accounting Tech 3 position

- FY20 Budget Update

-State Appropriation - \$815,345.00

-Volunteer Firefighter Training Fund - \$825,520.00

-Additional Appropriation to the VFFTF for FSTB 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

-Fire Equipment Revolving Loan Fund - \$683,509.00

- 2017 AFG Grant

- Purchased two pick-up trucks (F-250/F-350)

- Purchased six 24' trailers (certification testing, training, disaster response)

- Purchased first due engine equipment for the trailers

- Mobile vehicle fire prop bid is out

- Computer-Based Testing

- First beta-test completed in June at Missouri Valley, Iowa test site

- Working on periphery of testing (registration, reporting, storage of records, etc.)

- 2018 AFG Grant

- Still waiting to hear results

- FSTB Certification Reciprocity Fees

- Currently charge \$50.00 per certification, brought into Iowa.

- Propose to charge \$50/certification, but implement a cap of \$200.00

Motion by Jeff Kling to implement a \$200.00 cap on certification reciprocity (Thus, if a candidate has 4 certifications to bring to Iowa, they will be charged \$200.00. If they bring 3 certifications, they will be charged \$150.00. If they have 6 certifications to bring to Iowa, they will be charged \$200.00. Seconded by Ray Reynolds. All approved. Motion carries.

- FSTB Certification Pass/Fail rates for FF1 and HazMat

-John Kraemer believes FSTB can do better and proposes a three-pronged approach to assess the problem:

-Review and improve curriculum and instructor tools (roll-out new E-7 Instructor packets)

-Review and validate certification exams (E-7 review and validation of test banks)

-Increase classroom expectations for instructors and students (expectation of student to show commitment, increase expectation of instructor)

- Essentials 7 Roll-out

-Scheduling regional meetings with FSTB field staff

-E7 roll-out will include FF1 and 2, and HazMat Ops and Awareness (moving from NFPA to 1072)

-Due to new information required, FF1 training was increased to 160 hours (from 125) for FF1 and HazMat Awareness/Ops.

- Practical Exam Skills Sheets are now online to assist instructors and students with preparing for the practical exams, and to show students what evaluators are looking for when testing.

- Bureau Chief Kraemer expressed need to get word out about the need for a new facility. Chairman Adams suggested that Council members will go back to their associations and communicate needs of the FSTB.

**Old Business:**

- Computer-based testing:

-Successful beta testing on June 12 (tested HazMat and FF1)

Wish list:

-Set up to auto-advance to next question

-Set up to go back and review/change, etc.

- Ability to flag unanswered questions and move on
- Set up so cannot submit until answered all questions
- Set up to see results as soon as submit button is hit.

Mike Bryant suggested that it would be nice to log in and see what questions were missed. Could benefit the student and could provide feedback to the instructor.

### **New Business:**

-Fireworks Grant Application Review

-Current total = \$588,533.27

-Received 14 applications for a total of \$313, 114.00.

-Motion #1 by Mike Bryant to fully fund fireworks related requests. Determined only #3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, and 14 be considered. Seconded by Ray Reynolds. All approved. Motion carries.

-Motion #2 by Jeff Kling to fully fund #13. Seconded by Mike Bryant. Ray Reynold abstained. All approved. Motion carries.

### **Line by line votes:**

#2 Redfield Fire & EMS - Motion by Mike Bryant to deny Redfield due to lack of clarity to fireworks on application. Seconded by Ellen Hagen. All approved. Motion carries.

#7 Forest City Firefighters Association - Motion by Lonnie Koch to deny Forest City due to lack of clarity to fireworks. Seconded by Ray Reynolds. All approved. Motion carries.

#8 Chariton Volunteer Fire Department - Motion by Lonnie Koch to approve Chariton request. Seconded by Ray Reynolds. 6 Ayes / 2 Nays / 1 abstain. Approved. Motion carries.

#9 Belle Plaine Area Ambulance - Motion by Mike Bryant to approve Belle Plain request. Seconded by Ray Reynolds. 6 Ayes / 2 Nays / 1 abstain. Approved. Motion carries.

#12 Tama EMS - Motion by Mike Bryant to approve Tama request. Seconded by Ray Reynolds. 4 ayes / 4 nays / 1 abstain. Denied for lack of support. Motion by Ellen Hagen to fund one ventilator for Tama. Seconded by Ray Reynolds. 5 ayes / 3 nays / 1 ab- stain. Approved. Motion carries.

#15 Knoxville Fire Department - Motion by Mike Bryant to approve Knoxville request. Seconded by Lonnie Koch. 6 Ayes / 2 Nays / 1 abstain. Approved. Motion carries.

Mike Bryant requested that we revisit criteria for future applications. Ray Reynolds put together Tier 1-3 criteria for Fireworks Grant selection. Put on agenda for next meeting.

**Other Business:**

Mike Bryant suggests support for funding of FSTB needs. Suggested talking to Minnesota about how they get funds and how to move forward.

**Action Items:**

-Invite Commissioner of Public Safety to meetings

-Invite Legislators to meetings

-Mike Bryant suggested that Council members meet with legislators at their fundraisers and political events.

-Re-send Fireworks Grant criteria to Council members

**Next Meeting:** October 16, 2019. (Cancelled) / December Meeting (Cancelled). January 15, 2020 is the next meeting.

Chairman Adams called for a motion to adjourn. Motion by Ellen Hagen. Seconded by Pam Kenkel. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:47 pm.