

Chairman– Meeting called to order

[Prayer followed by pledge of allegiance]

Roll called: Commissioner Cobb running late but arrived at some point during the meeting.

Attendees

Chairman Biggs

Commissioner Cobb

Commissioner Hendrick

Commissioner Kelly

Commissioner Sullivan

Commissioner Moore

Commissioner Scott

Commissioner Speck

Commissioner Windrow

Assistant Commissioner Farley

Director Elliott

Chairman - "I declare we have a forum. Thank you, Director. Next item on the agenda is our minutes from our July meeting. I'd ask for a motion to postpone them until the next meeting. We do not have the correct minutes in our packet, so"

Commissioner Farley – "I'll make a motion."

Commissioner Windrow – "Second."

Chairman – "I have a motion by Commissioner Farley, seconded by Commissioner Windrow to postpone the minutes from our July meeting. All those in favor signify by saying. Aye."

Multiple Speakers – "Aye."

Chairman – "None opposed, same side, they Ayes have it."

Chairman- “Alright. The next item on my list was to welcome Commissioner Cobb to our meeting but, he is a new Commissioner. He’s out of Clarksville, TN and he choose to drive home last night so he is now getting the experience of I24, Pleasant View traffic, Nashville traffic and the rest of the traffic [laughter] so, Welcome Commissioner Cobb.”

Chairman - “Assistant Commissioner Farley, any update from the Fire Marshall’s Office?”

Commissioner Farley – “That the state’s Fire Marshall’s Office team is working hard to answer any questions with the Fire Fighter Commission’s director of Staff on the EIP for volunteers. We’re doing our visits monthly. We’re getting a lot of good feedback from that. We’re working hard for that.”

Chairman – “Good. Any questions for Commissioner Farley and his office? Alright. Hear none. Director Sparks can you come up?”

Director Sparks – “Thank you Mr. Chairman. I just want to give you a few updates on the fire academy. We had 36 recruits graduate November 5th. We had about 300 people in attendance at the new conference center.”

“I wanted to take a minute to thank [background noise] Nicolson and Director Grandy for all their help. Their tremendous help to us in getting those students across the finish line. We have been getting in a really good number. We were able to get all of those but one for HMO. That’s a great number for us.”

“We have 35 registered for February 2022 right now and I’ve talked to some other folks here and just said for anybody that needs people in the class, please register those or put them on the wait list as soon as possible.”

“In September we completed another Airport Firefighter class. Their department here at Fort Campbell. We had some increase, a good increase, I think, in the pass rate of that test, at the end of it. When we started that program, we were about 50 or right around 50 percent. We were about 65 this time. Some of those added instructional staff at Fort Campbell actually helped to validate that test back before COVID. We were working on that process and then the next class, got delayed, and that put it out about a year or a little over that before they could have the next class, but we’re happy with that improvement.”

“As a part of our partnership with Tennessee River Weekend, we completed 21 classes. We had about 220 students or 2800 contact hours there, a couple of weekends ago.”

“And then the last thing I wanted to talk to you about is, Monday of this week Laurie [Shark] started as our new Codes Program Supervisor. Laurie spent over 7 years with the Fire Marshall’s office in the Codes division. She serves a Deputy Chief at Warrior’s Path Fire Department and has over 12 years of fire service experience. We are excited about Laurie heading up the Codes program at the Academy.”

“I’ll be happy to answer any questions if anybody has any about the Fire Academy.”

Chairman – Any Questions for Director Sparks for TFACA?

SC - “Dr. Sparks, that’s great news that we have Laurie coming on board. Does that mean now we’ll start seeing more classes on the Codes side to pop up now?”

Director Sparks – “Yes, sir.”

SC – “Excellent, excellent, that’s very good news.”

Director Sparks – “I think you’ll see more of her at regional meetings and this type of thing in the future.”

SC – “I’d like to say one thing. I know Laurie, I actually hired her when I worked for the state, you’ve got a good hire there.”

Director Sparks – “We think so, we’re excited. Thank you.”

[background noise]

[laughter]

[background noise]

Chairman – “[It looks like no one has any further] questions for the [background noise] Commission so we’ll move into the Communications Director Report. Let’s start with legal, Ms. Lee.”

Ms. Lee – As we discussed yesterday, we have a signed, agreed order from Mr. [Lefford] for admitting to submitting false certification documents. Instead of proceeding with a formal hearing, he’s agreed to not participating in a commission approved program for five years. We need to either discuss this or be willing to accept his signature and this will not impede any other state agency’s ability to take action on the facts, but it will end the action before you all. It will end the matter before the Commission, but it will not impact any other state agency or the authority’s ability to take action.”

Commissioner Windrow – “I make a motion that we accept the order.”

Commissioner Sullivan – “I second it.”

Chairman – “Motion on the floor by Commissioner Windrow to accept the order, seconded by Commissioner Sullivan. Any further discussion? I recon we do a rollcall?”

Roll Call:

Chairman – “Chairman Biggs?”

Chairman Biggs - “Yes.”

Chairman – “Commissioner Hendrick?”

Commissioner Henrick – “Yes.”

Chairman – “Commissioner Kelly?”

Commissioner Kelly – “Yes.”

Chairman – “Commissioner Sullivan?”

Commissioner Sullivan – “Yes.”

Chairman – “Commissioner Moore?”

Commissioner Moore – “Yes.”

Chairman – “Commissioner Scott?”

Commissioner Scott – “Yes”

Chairman – “Commissioner Speck?”

Commissioner Speck – “Yes”

Chairman – “Commissioner Windrow?”

Commissioner Windrow – “Yes.”

Chairman – “Motion carried. We’ll get it signed.”

Ms. Lee – “We’ll enter it for today.”

Multiple Speakers - “Thank You, ma’am. Thank you.”

Ms. Lee – “I have a second matter.”

Chairman – “Ok. Do you want to go with it.”

Ms. Lee – “A firefighter enrolled in the Firefighter I Live Burn Class conducted at TFACA June 9 through 10 of 2018. He did not complete that course. On July 19th of this year that firefighter contacted TFACA to verify his completion of the Live Burn Course. When he was informed that TFACA records showed that he did not complete the course, the firefighter emailed a certificate of completion for that course that he said had been mailed to him. On its face the certificate of completion did not appear to have been issued by TFACA so the matter was turned over to internal audit to investigate. The investigation confirmed that the certificate had been falsified. But the firefighter could not provide an explanation for the falsified certificate that he received and presented to the Academy. Legal is requesting authorization to proceed with a formal hearing and/or permission to settle, prohibiting the firefighter from participating in Commission approved programs for no longer than 5 years.”

SC – “Did his certificate make it to the testing phase or did it get caught before that?”

Ms. Lee – “It didn’t make it to the testing phase.”

SC – “It didn’t. Ok.”

SC – “Staff did their job.”

SC – “Good job staff.”

Chairman – “We’ve heard the request from legal. What’s the action of the Commission?”

Ms. Lee – “If I could just note that this is a little bit different, because it was just one certificate. From the previous matter it was multiple certificates. In the previous instance where you just accepted the agreed order, the firefighter admitted to falsifying those documents and to responsibility for that. In this instance the firefighter has not accepted any responsibility and his failure to complete the course was based on a medical reason. He had to withdraw from the class. It’s hard to imagine that a person

wouldn't know that they didn't complete the course. And that's the reason that I'm requesting the same penalty though the facts are a little bit different."

SC – "I want to make sure that we're.... He submitted this paperwork. Then he came back and claimed that he wasn't able to complete it because of the injury?"

Ms. Lee – "No, TFACA records show that he withdrew from the class in 2018 because of an injury, so he couldn't complete it. When he asked for proof of completion from TFACA they said, 'Our records show that you didn't complete it.' Then he provided a certificate that he said had been mailed to him."

SC – "Which they have, in turn, verified as a false certificate."

Ms. Lee – "Right."

SC – "When did he submit this for request, 2021?"

Ms. Lee – "Yes, sir."

SC – "July of this year?"

Ms. Lee – "Yes, sir."

SC – "The certificate that he submitted had my signature on it and I [wasn't in this] position at that time. His signature on it, as the Executive Director, which at that time, he was the Fire Program Director."

SC – "What's the date? Is the date 2018?"

SC – "Yes"

SC – "OK"

Meeting Chairman – "I heard a motion by Commissioner Scott to proceed with the investigation with the penalties suggested by legal."

Commissioner Hendricks – "Second."

Meeting Chairman – "Seconded by Commissioner Hendricks."

Rollcall:

Chairman – "Chairman Biggs?"

Chairman Biggs - "Yes."

Chairman – "Commissioner Hendrick?"

Commissioner Henrick – "Yes."

Chairman – "Commissioner Kelly?"

Commissioner Kelly – "Yes."

Chairman – "Commissioner Sullivan?"

Commissioner Sullivan – "Yes."

Chairman – “Commissioner Moore?”

Commissioner Moore – “Yes.”

Chairman – “Commissioner Scott?”

Commissioner Scott – “Yes”

Chairman – “Commissioner Speck?”

Commissioner Speck – “Yes”

Chairman – “Commissioner Windrow?”

Commissioner Windrow – “Yes.”

Chairman – “Motion Carried.

Ms. Lee – “My final point or issue and then I will stop talking. There was a question yesterday about law enforcement and how many times they can take the test. I confirmed with the Executive Director the basic recruits for law enforcement take a test for each subject at the end of their basic training. They’re allowed to retake, if they fail that test, they’re allowed to retake it once, but it’s not like a separate post-test. Like they used to be able to challenge the test.”

SC – “So your overall test, your saying, is what they’re allowed to take twice, basically.”

SC – “The weekly test...”

Ms. Lee – “Well, at the end of the...”

SC – “Each segment...”

Ms. Lee – “Yes.”

SC – “Ok.”

Ms. Lee – “So they don’t challenge the tests...”

SC – “So, they’ve changed it to a segmented thing rather than an end test.”

Ms. Lee – “Yes.”

SC – “Ok, thank you ma’am. I appreciate you finding out.”

SC – “And you can go back, I think, and retake that week or that segment, one time.”

SC – “One time.”

SC – “Yeah.”

Ms. Lee – “Yeah.”

SC – “Even after you fail it twice.”

SC – “Thank you ma’am. I did that last night with our training officers [Unintelligible] [laughter]. Thank y’all for what you do.

Chairman – “Anything Else. Any questions for legal? Regional Coordinator Nicolson”

Coordinator Nicolson – “Good Morning.”

Multiple Speakers – “Good Morning sir. Good Morning.”

Coordinator Nicolson – “So it’s been a busy year for reciprocity thus far. Year to date, we have issued 560 certifications through reciprocity. That’s processing 238 separate applications for reciprocity.”

“We still continue to see a large number of requests coming in from the International Association of Firefighters, that are teaching classes within our jurisdiction. Especially for Hazardous Materials Operations. They’re also teaching classes for Confined Space and Hazardous Materials Technician for certain agencies. We have seen an uptick in that. It was primarily Memphis, but Murfreesboro has had some Technical Rescue classes taught by the IAFF and the Nashville Fire Academy is now using IAFF to teach their Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations. This is their first year doing that. So, we process those in bulk, but still quite taxing to do that. But they have a good success rate with it and we are happy to work with those agencies.”

“Since it has come to light that there have been some certification certificates not issued to us but have come through the pipeline and have been previously discussed, we have gone through an additional verification process. We are developing contacts with each issuing organization. For those that have IFSAC certifications, I am contacting, directly, the state that issues those certifications and have to wait on a reply for that before we can work through the reciprocity process. ProBoard has a fairly good online search app, as do some of our primary customers. The Alabama Fire College has an online search app. With the help of Director Grandy in Fred McKay we are developing more contacts. It’s kind of an all-hands-on deck approach to get these things verified. That we are verifying and documenting the verification during the reciprocity process.”

SC – “Why don’t you mention the [unintelligible] mention that so that they understand the complications of...”

Coordinator Nicolson – “We had an issue with a certification that had an IFSAC and ProBoard seal on there from the state of Virginia. That did not show up on a ProBoard search. So, by contacting Virginia.... Virginia is accredited by IFSAC and ProBoard but not everybody gets IFSAC or ProBoard. It kind of....”

SC – “They did not view that... that candidate did not have an IFSAC or ProBoard certificate. The way the certificate kind of read was that Virginia is an IFSAC and ProBoard state but there were other steps that that candidate would have to have done to get it done. And I think that your solution was to send them back to Virginia and say that “You need to do this in Virginia.”

Coordinator Nicolson - “So they can go back to their issuing agency and convert to IFSAC or ProBoard, but it was kind of confusing that the certificate had both the IFSAC and ProBoard seal but that they themselves had not gone through the process to be IFSAC or ProBoard certified. We’re trying to jump through all the hoops that we can to make sure that they’re certifications are validated before we issue reciprocity.”

“With that being said, we are still caught up. We don’t have many pending. We’re working diligently to get that done in addition to the others. That’s about 15 percent of my job duties, so far, to deal with reciprocity, but we’re trying to make sure that we don’t cheapen our certifications by offering reciprocity to those that are not IFSAC or ProBoard.”

Chairman – “Any questions for Coordinator Nicolson?”

SC – “The only comment I’ve got is there was one reciprocity that [unintelligible]

Chairman – “Yes sir.”

SC – “in other words...”

Chairman – “Yes sir.”

Multiple Speakers – “Thank you. Thank you. Thank you, Brian.”

Chairman – “Director, so if you will in... I think I included it in your packet... what’s called the Commission In Service Report from November 11 of 2021. Because [unintelligible] Miranda couldn’t be here today, I asked him just to give us a breakdown on the educational [unintelligible]. As you can see, as of that printing, as of this email, 116 career programs are ready to go and 135 programs on the volunteer side are ready to go. When they go to peer review, if they find deficiencies in peer review, if it’s an easy correction, that usually happens that day. If it’s a more difficult correction, it might get stretched out because he has to email them back and, as I spoke to you yesterday, that now we’re dependent on that entity to correct their documents and send them back or to add submissions and send them back through the portal. Overall, if you look at the numbers, you can see that East Tennessee, if you look down there, the Fire Department... peer review at the Knoxville Fire Department, 109 programs, 83 programs in Middle, and 58 programs in West. We [owe] kudos to our East Tennessee cohort that are working hard to get this done. As it relates to EIP, you know the legislation was finalized this week and we’ll be going to that permanent rule. We are still getting departments contacting us. I have a question that came in over the past day that I have to get to legal about how there is a department that is not a 501C3 and they are not a municipality. They’re not even sure, but they mentioned the word that might be private. We’ve got to figure out where they fit in this. I would assume they’re recognized but I haven’t talked to Greg yet. [laughter] I think what we are going to end up seeing is, in January, many volunteer fire departments will submit. Some of those, may submit that did not submit programs for next year. When that happens, we will have to contact them about the submission. Are they going to submit for next year? If they are, that could mean in that February meeting that there might be some more wavers to consider. Again, to consider, you don’t...”

SC – “Is that fire department providing a service for a municipality or county government?”

Chairman – “No. It’s like I said, it’s so new that I haven’t had a chance to talk to legal about it.”

SC – “There’s several of them.”

Chairman – “But that’s what’s happening is, they want to claim the money next year and I sent them an email and asked them if they had been to Commission 101. ‘No.’ Step one. You didn’t do step one and you want to claim the money in January, and I’ve got a feeling that January 1st through March 1st were going to see more of those kinds of events where people are submitting who haven’t attended a

Commission 101 and who have not submitted a program for next year. Now that number might be 50, it might be 10, it might be 6, I don't know. As far as EIP, like I said, we have great volunteer departments who want to make it, and want to do it right. I think we should encourage them and help them to the best of our ability. Just know that there are some departments out there that we are going to have to help a little more, and a little more, and a little more."

SC – "There are some departments out there that we do not have in the education outreach section, that email address. So, there are some departments out there that still don't know anything about this.

Meeting Chairman – "[Everett], I think that Jeff and I have been to a couple of fire chief orientations and at fire chief orientation the last two times, the question was asked was, 'Do you know about the volunteer educational incentive. And we've had a least one or two departments every time to ask what was going on. And again, I think that between all of the efforts that we have done to publicize that there is a volunteer educational incentive have been pretty robust. [EMMAS] and onlines and I know that our friend at MTASS sends out those notifications."

SC – "What happens if... When a fire department will register with us and then that chief, or whoever, we email may die, or they quit, or whatever and that's where it ends and we don't get any more information. And sometimes when we send it out, it bounces back so there are some out there that still don't know.

Meeting Chairman – "Any question for Director on EIP [unintelligible]? IFSAC/ProBoard?"

IFSAC/ProBoard Speaker – "You heard Fred's Coordinator Case report yesterday. Fire Department Instructor I and II have met the ProBoard process so that we are now recognized for those two in the ProBoard. I would simply say this, Fred was very kind yesterday when he talked about the IFSAC meeting because at the IFSAC meeting, if we had reaccreted the year that we were scheduled to reaccrete we would not have had to do the testing methodology changes. But because we got pushed back a year due to COVID we fell in under and we are actually one of the first groups that have fallen under having to meet all these new testing methodology questions. Process wise its very similar to what we have been doing now, it's really more of a paperwork burden and a burden to make sure that we're doing things equitably and fairly across the state. In other words, if you took a Fire Fighter I Ladder Practical in Lawrenceburg or Knoxville, the grading rubric should be exactly the same."

"When we went to the IFSAC meeting, the IFSAC had not mentioned anyone of these new testing methodologies that come out of the NFPA standard. Well, there was a meeting at the IFSAC that talked about testing methodologies and what NFPA is... the change in how we look at how we measure people. I think that it's going to happen in the near future. The one thing is, is that because we're already doing it for ProBoard maybe we can just use the same documents for our IFSAC, but it's coming along. There are going to be some changes in how evaluations are documented. I would say that... rather than change... it not like a wholesale change to the process, it's more about a change about how we document it, how we rate it and document it. Fred will continue working on that."

"We are hoping that we get approval to go to ProBoard in January and make that visit. We have two accreditation site visits. We submitted our initial application for reaccreditation to ProBoard late last week/early this week. They'll review it, they'll get back to us and say we need this, or we need that. From the State Fire Marshall office side, we will also at that point be getting invoices for the

reaccreditation costs and things like that. We have the one in May and the one IFSAC in July. Two reaccreditation site visits within about three months of one another and when we were at the IFSAC Conference, just discussing with some of our other state partners they went, 'You did what to yourself?' You typically don't do two site visits within three months of each other, they typically, you try to stagger the year, so you have a full year for one and a full year for the other. Which we had until the ProBoard automatically moved us back one year."

"That being said Fred is doing his best to keep up with standard changes, test item bank management, and all those other things that are required to ensure that we get our reaccreditation without too many corrections at the end. Typically, at the site visit... during the site visit, if they find an issue that needs to be addressed, staff or I will rewrite policy or look at what we will need to do to meet their request. We may have to have rule changes associated with those site visits. They like to have them done before they leave the site and..."

Multiple Speakers – "Yeah. [laughter] Yeah, Ok [laughter]." [sarcasm implied]

IFSAC/ProBoard Speaker – "we just know we can't do that. We just know we can't do that because of the way our systems developed. I'll simply say this, I went to Kansas, Kansas runs their certification program through a community college base. It is in state statute that this university will handle it, but they run everything in policy and procedure, whereas we are a little bit more in rule and state statute so we know that it takes a little more time for us to make changes. We are going to explain that to our site visit team, that, hey look if it's an easy change, test bank management something like that we can do that, but if I've got to change a rule or add something that we don't currently have in rule that they are comfortable with..."

SC – "One year."

SC – "Minimum."

SC – "Minimum, to change a rule."

IFSAC/ProBoard Speaker – "No we'll have to go to emergency rule because they may not reaccredit us..."

SC – "It won't qualify for emergency rule."

SC – "They type the guidelines to make it very difficult..."

IFSAC/ProBoard Speaker – "If it puts us at risk for losing accreditation for not doing them in a timely manner?"

SC – "The general assembly [inaudible] risk management then it doesn't create an emergency."

IFSAC/ProBoard Speaker – "Ok."

SC – "After COVID there was a [inaudible] there were lots of emergency rules that were flying through and in order to limit the number of emergency rules, because they do become effective immediately, they tightened the criteria. So basically, if it's legislation that passed the session before, if it's federal requirement and you risk federal funding or the life safety issue."

SC - "If you and Chief Windrow remember it, during the meetings we had that day, how [inaudible] she explained it, why we did the [reversal] rule versus and simultaneously we did... that's the reason why she had to do that. Reversal rules are very delicate."

Chairman - "...update on the... [inaudible] information on the West Tennessee Coordinator?"

SC - "[inaudible] It just closed."

SC - "It just closed. It just closed."

SC - "The third time just closed. I don't even have an email from HR yet about who made the list."

SC - "OK."

Chairman - " [inaudible] old business. Rule changes... [inaudible] discussion on that?"

SC - "I'll just echo what we said yesterday, that I'm writing the EIP rules, and we'll file for a rule to anticipate [inaudible] about February then Kim's working on the other rules and we'll anticipate having another rule making hearing at the end of April or July."

SC - "[inaudible] in February?"

SC - "Not in the [inaudible] legislative session."

SC - "True."

SC - "And we'll also need to allow a little bit of time to see what happens with EIP. I think February will probably be too soon. We'll have a better idea in April if we need to..."

SC - "The first week of April?"

SC - "We'll have a better idea in April, we'll absolutely have a better idea in July, but that might be to late. We'll just have to monitor and the next [inaudible] has to be filed 52 days before."

Chairman - Any other questions on rule change?

SC - "I will add... I apologize... It also addresses the next item. I spoke with the contracting attorneys, yesterday, about going to one test per certification. They have been talking with CPO, Central Procurement Office, [inaudible] your state. At this point they think that if we do it, we will have to justify why we are using one test bank and book. They're fairly confident with the information that we have... that we can do that. We may also have to have a rule change in order to justify it. Just please keep that in mind with timing. If CPO, Central Procurement Office, legal says we have to do a rule change before you can move to one test, I'll do that as quickly as possible, but that might be a hoop that we have to jump through. And I've asked them to contact CPO central for that answer."

SC - "So should we hold up on..."

SC - "I don't think we hold up, but just know that we have to have that answer before I can really move forward, but if you hold up and don't make a decision until the next commission meeting then that just puts you further behind."

SC – “It actually probably won’t hurt anything, looking at the dates.”

SC – “Cause the [inaudible] is the 22 and there’s not much on that one.

SC – “My concern. This isn’t in rule today. Why would we put it in rule?”

SC – “Today you don’t use one test bank.”

SC – “We don’t say ‘we don’t’ though. We don’t prohibit... and we’re still going to leave... Yeah, we only use one test bank today, it just may come from a different book. We’re just trying to save the volunteer departments. This will be your sales pitch on the EIP, is we are trying to save them from having to buy duplicate sets of books and us.”

SC – “We can understand that, and we’re all on the same page with it but, there’s a process through CPO that has to be done. It’s just like a while ago, when we were talking about the rules, it takes a year, there’re processes that...it’s just that, welcome to state government.”

SC – “But then there’s no rule today.”

SC – “There’s no rule today. I think really what the problem is, it’s not really a Commission problem, immediately. It’s a TFACA problem with the books. The contractual books. We kind of have to back it in. If they are going to teach from just one book, then it’s a sole source contract for that book. But they think... what they have learned so far is that as long as they open it up, and this is, I’m getting way out of my comfort zone. The publishers... if there is more than one publisher for a textbook then it can be bid competitively. Does that make sense? If you use one test? Jones and Bartlett and...”

SC – “In other words, if we’re going on record to say that we’re only going to purchase [IFSTA] Driver Operator that’s where central procurement is then looking at, ok, now you are specifying your sole source. I think that’s the problem.”

SC – “That’s the problem.”

SC – Devil’s advocate... The bigger problem is we’re letting one training academy drive the whole boat. Because Metro Nashville won’t have this problem. Knoxville doesn’t have this problem. Brentwood doesn’t have this problem.

SC – But the state has certain guidelines that we have to go by and even though Metro Nashville, or Chattanooga, or whoever...

SC – But then we’re letting one agency drive what decision we make here. Because you’re the only one who has to go through CPO.

SC – “TFACA... The statute says that you all have to approve what TFACA does.”

SC – “We still can.”

SC – “It’s just whether... If you set a separate rule...”

SC – “And we’re not buying from, because we’re bouncing around in ours. We’re buying from IFSTA and Jones and Bartlett. We’re not excluding anybody...”

SC – “And that’s what... As long as they both provide the textbook. And that I don’t know. Right.”

SC – “I don’t know. I haven’t dug that deep. Yet.”

SC - “What do you mean as long as they both provide the textbook?”

SC – “If there is only one publisher that publishes, like, ICC publishes those codes. If we say, and again I am way out of my depth, if we say I’m offering this test and the book that we’re buying for the test is the ICC, that’s a sole source. And I don’t know, I haven’t dug down deep to find out if one publisher publishes two versions of the same book.

SC – “Here’s something and I’m with David on this. We’re not purchasing textbooks.”

SC – “TFACA is.”

SC – “I get that, but we’re not, I mean we’re voting to say our test is based off of these books.”

SC – “You can buy them or not buy them. We’re not telling them they can’t buy whichever. We’re just telling them which, where the test is coming from.”

SC – “Just like with the Wildland Fire Fighter the NWCG. Whoever produces their book, we don’t control that. That’s what they teach out of.”

SC – “Yes, that’s true and there is more than one academy. I take that point. I think the problem is because the TFACA and the Commission are maybe a little bit more closely tied than other academies based on the statute. I certainly don’t want to put TFACA in the position of not maybe not teaching to standards.

SC – “I don’t think they are going to have that ma’am because they’re following the NFPA standards. So regardless what textbook they’re using they’re following the standards set by the...”

SC – “So Lee, let me ask you this. Worst case scenario, if they pass it, if central procurement says we’ve got an issue we just tell the students you’re going to have to buy the book on your own. I’m asking if that is a solution?”

SC – “I think, Probably, but then you’ve got the volunteer....”

SC – “Let’s look at the unintended consequence. If we get into purchasing, then they may have to bid this and they may any Joe’s publishing house cause they’re low bid. They’ll meet the standard, but if we go down this road there’s unintended, there’s always shrapnel.”

SC – “They’ve already had to do that for their textbooks. We have a textbook contract with...”

SC – “And see what’s interesting is Tennessee Firemen’s through the procurement process was awarded the bid, so in other words, Tennessee Firemen’s buys from Jones and Bartlett and from IFSTA and turns around and sells to us at a cheaper price than what Jones and Bartlett or IFSTA bid. It’s interesting how that played out this year, but it doesn’t mean next year it will. What Lee is talking about, to go through the bid process, we have to say we want Jones and Bartlett Fire Fighter I and II Awareness and Operations we had to say. But on Driver Operator and Areal we wanted IFSTA, I think Plans Review is IFSTA. We’re not exclusive. We truly look at curriculums and say in this curriculum we like this best. I going to wonder, yes, for them to keep moving forward would an acceptable option just to be, we’re having to work through the procurement process, but the class is moving forward and the students for this will just have to purchase their books on their own.”

SC – “I would rather... If you all want to make a recommendation or ask to proceed with your plan, let’s do that. If we have to answer these questions for TFACA. If we find out that there’s going to be a problem, we’ll obviously bring it back to the commission. I don’t want to wait because that’s just going to delay the process.

SC – “So the books you’re selling at the bookstore, I mean [inaudible] bought a bunch, is the check to Commerce and Insurance or to Tennessee Fireman’s.”

SC – “We buy them from Tennessee Fireman’s.”

SC – “And put them in the bookstore.”

SC – “And put them in the bookstore. But there again that went through a procurement process of open bid and it shocked us that somehow Tennessee Fireman’s provided us a cheaper price to purchase the IFSTA manual and Driver Operator Ariel versus... That was an entirely different division that put that out for bid and that’s how they were awarded.”

SC – “Just to kind of have feedback on what you just said [inaudible] as a selling point. That’s why this committee was put together or formed, was to try to streamline this for everybody, not just the career departments. We realize and have re-looked at this once we approved the EIP for the volunteers. We’re trying to keep them from having to spend a whole lot of money and streamline this so that you can say that ‘This is the book for this one, and this is....’ We’re not telling them that they... if they want to use Jones and Bartlett for Fire Fighter I and that’s what we’re going to test out of... You can go buy IFSTA if you like. Good luck on the test. [laughter] I mean, I’m not being ugly, but that’s... We’re streamlining the program to try to save money all around, is what we’re trying...”

SC – “Right. I don’t think that... Because that’s a very legitimate argument, especially as we’re moving into more volunteers and moving into the program. I don’t want to hold you all up on making that recommendation.

SC – “Ok.”

SC – “I do want to make you all aware that, that might be a problem for TFACA and it might be that they can’t get a contract to mirror the tests. So, it just going to maybe look a little bit funny that the State Fire Marshall’s... or the Tennessee Fire Codes Academy doesn’t teach from the test that the commission approved.”

SC – “I’m old enough, I bought them straight from Tennessee. They didn’t sell them before.”

SC – “Right.”

SC – “That’s an option too. To go back in the profit business, selling books.”

SC – “Yeah, I mean...”

SC – “Cause he sends out a syllabus and says, ‘This is the book.’ For some classes they don’t have the book, you have to buy it anyways before you go.”

SC – “There are some classes that we’re actually doing for volunteers that we’re buying the book for them. And giving them the book. That’s a program that we put in place, that I’m working more towards doing more of that.

SC – “All the more reason that I don’t want you to spend your money haphazardly.”

SC – “Right.”

SC – “We agree.”

SC – “Yes, sir. I understand.”

SC – “With everything we’re talking about here. It’s just the...”

SC – “The process.”

SC – “The process that we have to go through.”

SC – “I’m not... I don’t work with contracts. We have a separate group of attorneys to do that. I’ll continue to ask them the questions, to push them to get an answer. But, if you all want to do this... and it sounds like you’ve been talking about doing it for a while. I don’t know that you want to delay. Because we can get those answers to you by the next Commission Meeting. If we keep the ball rolling. But that is obviously your charge and if you all want to put it off until we get an answer.”

Chairman – “Thank you ma’am. We’ll next item on the agenda... I think we’ve pretty much beat it [laughter] pretty good but.

SC – “The textbook committee?”

Chairman – “Yeah. What’s the pleasure of the commission about further discussion? Would you like to take action or wait until February? Which we can...”

SC – “Take action.”

Chairman – “We can.”

SC – “How does everybody feel if we should make a motion to do this and accept what was presented in the packets that you all received. Now, we understand that the dates that have question marks or whatever, I think Fred is going to work to get those updated...”

SC – “Absolutely.”

SC – “Barring any response that we may get back from legal in reference to this. Does everybody seem to be...”

Commissioner Kelly – “I make a motion that we move forward.”

Commissioner Sullivan – “I second it.”

SC – “Thank you Jim.”

Chairman – “Motion made by Commissioner Kelly, seconded by Commissioner Sullivan. Do we move forward contingent on... of our legal opinion as outlined by Fred McKay in the handout that you got? For the tests... Everybody’s heard the motion. No further discussion? All those in favor signal by saying Aye.”

Multiple Speakers – “Aye.”

Chairman – “No opposed, same side. Ok, the Aye’s have it. Alright, we’ll move into new business.
[Terry] do you want to come forward.”

SC – Hello distinguished guests.

Meeting Chairman – “Welcome back. It’s been a long time.”

[Background talking]

Chairman – “Next item on the agenda is [inaudible]

[Background talking/inaudible, laughter]

SC – “A lot of new faces.”

Ms. Terry – “There is a lot.”

Chairman – “This is Ms. Terry with Tennessee Fire Training Online. And will take items A1 through 5.”

Ms. Terry – “I just wanted to make myself available if anybody had any questions. Two of the courses, the [Dusk] awareness and the [NIMS] class are going to be basic in service courses in line with the other service courses. The certificate courses are... I held off as long as I could because I had a lot of requests for these classes. That’s the only reason that I put them together. I had some heartache on the Investigator class, trying to figure out how to do it and make it a valid class. I pride myself on making sure that the classes are relevant and valid, that I am putting out. This is kind of what we came up with. Do you have any questions?”

SC – “I do on the investigator class.”

Ms. Terry – “Yes, sir?”

SC – “Over the last years I took one of those online investigator classes and it was very difficult. I believe that Brian tried to help me with this, or it may have been Steve, when he was Coordinator, to get the Practical. And basically, it couldn’t be done, and I lost that amount of time and they gave me my money back. Can you enlighten us how you are going to meet those JPRs for the Practical, because that is my biggest concern”?

Ms. Terry – “In the syllabus, I have spelled out that the Agency and the Independent are required to contact a licensed or certified investigator in order to get these Practicals done. They can either set it up themselves or follow along, shadowing. I do give extra time for the JPRs versus the course to get them done. But it’s not something that I would be able to set up for them. I do have one individual that states that they have the personnel. They are in Chattanooga. They would be shadowing one of our Investigator’s to actually get the class done. That would be the only thing set up between the agency and the individuals. To have that in place, before they get the class started. If it’s a situation that they can’t get the Practicals done, then, I’d be doing the same thing giving them a refund. Because the only thing I can do is the online cognancy portion.”

SC – “About how many hours are the 64 hands on? 20 give or take?”

SC – “It’s more than that.”

Ms. Terry – “It’s more, yeah.”

SC – “More?”

Ms. Terry – “It’s a little more than that. It takes a lot of practical work.”

SC – “That one’s a little harder. Like you said, to pull off. I’m sure some people are doing it, but tougher...”

Ms. Terry – “For the Investigator?”

SC – “For the Investigator or even for the 64 because of the basics. You’ve got to find a department that will let you do those basic skill sets.”

Ms. Terry – “Right. And anybody that asks me about it... When they go to the page that has where they actually enroll in the class, it has the information spelled out for them.”

SC – “You’ve got to do this.”

Ms. Terry – “And, of course, I’m available if they have any questions and I let them know that this is only the cognitive part. You have to be in contact with a Fire Department that is able to do the practical portion of it.”

SC – “Can you explain the checks and balances within place to make sure that happens, so that we’re not having... because it seems like... and you were in here a little bit earlier. We’re having some issues with some people falsifying things.”

Ms. Terry – “Each certificate and APR that is issued from the website has an individual code on it and has an amount issuing QR code where you can just kind of picture it. But from our website, you don’t even have to log in, you put that QR code in and it pulls up the data base of who the... what the certificate is, who it was issued to and the date it was issued. And that’s kind of how, they found one of those [laughter]...”

SC – “In her... What she’s speaking of is once they’ve earned the certificate. Were you asking, ‘How are you going to ensure that what she signs off on is documented as valid?’”

SC – “That’s correct.”

Ms. Terry – “In order for me to issue a JPR, I have to have the skill sheets from that individual and I contact the training officer or whoever signed it off and have to have their certificate information on the skill sign off sheet. Once I get that in, I contact Cheryl, ‘Hey who is this dude?’ She says, ‘Yeah, they’re good.’ and then I’ll sign it.”

SC – “So she’s verifying that the investigator that signs off on these?...”

Ms. Terry – “She lets me know whether they’re...”

SC – “is able to sign off on it is what I’m asking.”

Ms. Terry – “Yes. Whether they are qualified. Yes.”

SC – “When I was thinking though this. Even, any 64 class that’s taught anywhere in the state, we won’t catch... The only time we verify is when they get to the Fire Fighter I practical.”

SC – “When they test for them.”

SC - “When they draw a card, we’ll know if they actually can perform the... We will never know until they get to that... until we get down the road. Even today, even... I mean we teach one every month in [Williamson] county [inaudible]... yes... or they don’t finish [inaudible]. Nobody verifies incomplete [laughter].

Chairman – “[inaudible] of the commission. Do you want to take them one at a time?”

SC – “Before we do. [inaudible] [Shott], I do what to say... First of all, thank you for putting this together. As you heard earlier, we have a lot of volunteer departments for this EIP that’s coming on board. The 64 hour one mainly is going to help [inaudible]. I cannot...”

Ms. Terry – “That’s one that has been requested, so hey we’re going to do it. Now, I can say that I do offer the department pages where they instruct themselves using... and they have access to the certificates and everything after they get it. And that’s going to help to some departments but one of the requested classes was 64 hour and I have put it out there that they could do it as a hybrid class, but they have to go through ACADIS and get it approved as a hybrid class before taking it. I think I have only one or two doing it on their own and it’s simply because their training officers don’t have the technical savvy to do it that way. So, they were like, can you just get it approved and then we do it and I’m like, I’ll get it together [laughter]...”

SC – “So I guess my question to you is you have outlined these things, since we don’t have the syllabuses for each of these, you’ve outlined these in your syllabus so that they know beyond a shadow of a doubt, this is the steps...”

Ms. Terry – Yes, It is coordinated to the TFACA, yes...”

SC – “And at any point if they miss one of those steps it’s going to be null and void. They understand that correct?”

M.s Terry – “Uh..hu.”

SC – “Are you having many people... I see you’ve got Fire Inspector II, is your Fire Inspector I... is it...?”

Ms. Terry – “Yes. I think I probably got 35 to 40 people in it right now and have issued approximately 40 to 50 [certificates].

SC – “Just curios and totally irrelevant, but are you keeping up with your pass rate of the State Commission test?”

Ms. Terry – “I don’t have access to that.”

SC – “I don’t know if you just reported back, or...”

Ms. Terry – “I get back.”

SC – “You get back the good ones?”

Ms. Terry – “Yeah. ‘Thanks, I passed it.’ [inaudible] Other than that there’s really no way for me to have access to it.”

SC – “What’s your [inaudible]?”

Ms. Terry – “I wish, that would be nice. Because I don’t even think that when they come through t take their test....”

SC – “We can do feedback reports, I think. Who was it, Jason, was talking about the Airport earlier? I think we sent the Airport, the folks up at Fort Campbell a feedback report about what chapters they needed to emphasize.

Ms. Terry – “That would be nice.”

SC – “But your folks, since we can’t identify...”

SC – “We should be able to through their certificate that they...”

Ms. Terry – “Um..hum.”

SC – “Yes.”

SC – “ACADIS is not query friendly for those kinds of things.”

Meeting Chairman – “Let’s take these in order.”

SC – “I was just going to add, if we have a standalone student decide that, ‘I don’t want to test for the class. I’ll go over here, then we don’t get their grades either, but Director Grande. If we’re lucky enough that 20 students graduate on Friday and then that Friday afternoon take the test, then we usually get a printout 18 of them pass, but if they’re taking them one by one then we don’t have a way to track that.”

SC – “It’s one of the things that we would like to do. Is like, I think it was for your HMO, I think Keith got a chapter report saying you probably need to cover these two items within the chapter a little more. It’s something we can do, but because yours is already online, its already there. There’s not much you can do to tell a student, ‘You need to do better, on this or better on that.’ Our new software may have some of that capability to provide individual student feedback but its just a struggle to get those kinds of new feedback reports ready.

SC – “I was just curious.”

Ms. Terry – “Because, one thing I try to do in my classes is to have enough activities to engage all types of learners. Because, as adult learners, even if we don’t want to learn, if you see something enough it’s going to stick. Because they have to go through crosswords and word matches and worksheets and just multiple things within a chapter by the time that they get to the test. They get two chances on each chapter and I have not seen where they are taking it four or five times. If they don’t pass it the first time, they get it that second time. And it’s based on... it’s not the same test. Its kind of like the Commission testing. I have a test bank. It pulls a certain number of tests from a certain number of questions.”

SC – “In everything in all this online testing and with this online stuff are you making sure that when that student logs into [inaudible] that they can’t go directly to the end of course exam...”

Ms. Terry – “No.”

SC – “and they can’t just go bang, bang, bang...”

Ms. Terry – “No. Everything builds.”

SC – “Is it a timed event, in other words, they can’t move that next slide until 30 seconds or a minute?...”

Ms. Terry – “Yes.”

SC – “Before they can go to the next slide and things like that?”

Ms. Terry – “Yes. In the beginning they were not like that. It was like a page that they would have to read. Now getting a little better and learning a little more about the software, it is moving, like, this slide stays there in the time that it takes them to read it. So, they’ll read through it, 30 seconds, boom, and you can’t move on.”

SC – “Right, so like your Combustible Dust Awareness, it’s valid for x number of hours. We want to make sure that they are not finishing it in 15 minutes. And getting...”

Ms. Terry – “No one would be able to finish that, yeah.”

ChairMAN – “Alright, we will take these individually.”

SC – “I would like to say, Thank you, for coming and talking to us. I think it’s very important. Folks are bringing training to the commission that they come to answer these questions and thank you. Thank you all.

SC – “In second to that I want to say thank you for your assistance to Cheryl and I with our [agreed order] from legal.

Ms. Terry – “I don’t think I’ve heard y’all talking about it.

SC – “The agreed order...”

Ms. Terry – “I think I remember the name.”

SC – “The young man that you had emailed, that you had send to us. He’s no longer...”

Ms. Terry – “Banned for life on my site.”

[laughter]

SC – “Thank you for helping us.”

Ms. Terry – “No problem”

Cheryl – “And the codes she has, they do work.”

Chairman – “Fire Inspector One, Consider Certification through IFSAC and ProBoard. Fire Inspector II, I’m sorry, I think I said One. What’s the pleasure of the Commission?”

Commissioner Windrow - "Motion to approve."

Meeting Chairman - "Motion by Commissioner Windrow to approve."

Commissioner Kelley - "Second"

Meeting Chairman - "Seconded by Commissioner Kelley. All those in favor signify by saying 'Aye.'

Multiple Speakers - "Aye."

Meeting Chairman - "None opposed, same side, the Ayes have it. Number two, 64 Hour Basic Fire Fighting Course. "

Commissioner Hendrick - "Motion to Approve"

Commissioner Scott - "Second"

Meeting Chairman - Motion to approve by Commissioner Hendrick, seconded by Commissioner Scott. All those in favor signify by saying Aye. None opposed, same side, the Ayes have it."

SC - "Do you... I should have asked for this earlier, sorry. One of the problems in Tennessee is internet access. I guess people aren't signing up that... Grundy county, Scott county, Fentress county... I mean, if they don't have..."

SC - "It's online, it would be kind of hard."

SC - "Cause, the other thing is, those would be the same departments that would have trouble getting practicals."

SC - "Correct."

SC - "Although you could probably con Jamestown into it in Fentress county, but maybe not. I guess you see the correlation though?"

Ms. Terry - "People are realizing that if they have the cell phone service... I've had people to do entire classes on their cell phone."

SC - "Ow, that would hurt my eyes."

[background noise]

Ms. Terry - "Yeah. I've made my website mobile friendly; they sit there on their cell phone. Those are the ones that want to get it done."

SC - "On their own time."

SC - "I'm out."

[laughter]

SC - "I'm out too."

SC - "I don't have enough glass magnification."

SC - "I don't have enough screen."

Ms. Terry – “As they try to get more internet access...”

SC – “Are there still places without internet?”

SC – “Yeah.”

Multiple Speakers – “Yes, Uh..hu, Yes.”

SC – “Governor Lee will tell you that. Sorry to interrupt your vote, but...”

SC – “Your fine.”

Chairman – “All right, we were down to three. Item three, Fire Investigator [inaudible].”

SC – “Can I make a little discussion on that real quick? I wasn’t for this until you came in and talked to us. I appreciate that. I would like to make a motion. I hope I can do this, but I would like to have some progress back on how this class is going.”

SC – “We can have her bring back something after the first class. She’ll do that she’s done that before on some other...”

SC – “Ok.”

SC – “We [inaudible]. How about that?”

SC – “I’d like that. Cause I’d like to see how it works.”

Ms. Terry – “Ok.”

SC – “I want to second what the Commissioner has said. I was kind of against this, because I just finished class with TFACA. The in-person class and I don’t want to cause undue stress on the TFACA facility when they’re having to schedule to get an I and AAI or Investigator to check up on their JPRs and their Practicals, because that was actually brought to my attention while I was down there. Like now I’m going to have to start scheduling these classes and I don’t have the manpower or the money to do that. So that’s why, when I made the comment about being in your syllabus, that needs to be drawn out to these individuals that... TFACA is not going to put on extra courses to provide your JPR check link because its not physically possible.”

Ms. Terry – “I’m trying to make it as clear as possible that I am not related to TFACA because I get emails all the time. I am like, I am not TFACA, I’m sorry.

SC – “But we all know... We’re firemen and we don’t listen very well sometimes [laughter]...”

Ms. Terry – “I was a training instructor for seven years with Chattanooga... [inaudible]. From my understanding the people that are actually wanting the Investigator class, already have the sub to do their Practicals. They just don’t have the time or the money to make the time and go to TFACA to do an in-person class because of their smaller department size. Or one person’s actually a volunteer and he works a job and that sort of thing. It’s not guaranteed that this class is even going to be successful...”

SC - ...and that’s what I was wanting to know...

Ms. Terry - ...but I did want it to be available. If it works, it works, if it doesn’t....

SC - "We've had, we did approve another agency to do this online and it failed, it didn't work. I think your suggestion of let's do it one time, do a pilot, then come back and give us feedback and we'll consider it then for a permanent.

Ms. Terry - "And so far, the ones that are asking about it. I've asked them, 'How are you going to get your [inaudible] done?'

SC - "Yeah."

Ms. Terry - "How are you [inaudible]."

SC - "That's the biggest thing we're worried about. We don't want to set a student up, then give them... Say, the commission's approved it, then it gets to the end of the course, but he can't take our test. We just don't want to start that."

Ms. Terry - "Right."

SC - "Correct?"

SC - "So I think that I agree, I have concerns of the like of what we've talked about earlier today. It's not about the course or the coursework, it's that you are setting your trust in that student, and their... when they go out and get that JPR form signed off."

Ms. Terry - "Right."

SC - "We have had lots of your students and when they do their Practicals, we control the majority of those Practicals Evaluations. I'm concerned, given that we've already had some falsified documentation and other stuff, I'm worried that this is a big window because you're not going to know. Who is going to confirm that, that person is an IAAI Instructor or certified person that signs that document?"

Ms. Terry - "IAAI, they do have a list of their certified instructors. That you can say, 'Hey, is this person certified?'"

SC - "Right, Right."

Ms. Terry - "If that's what they say that they are."

SC - "Right, and we all know that there should be in that test station stating it on that document and all that. But I don't really want, I don't really feel like it's our responsibility to monitor or vet that process. All of that documentation, it should probably have your signature on it saying, 'I checked this. I understand that this has all been done correctly.'"

Ms. Terry - "So if I send them the JPR, I do that. Because there are some... they send the information to me. But I think, what you are talking about, if they don't send it to me and they send it directly to ACADIS?"

SC - "Well, Right. Because you give them the forms, 'Here are the forms, go get them signed by whomever.' And I don't like the fact that because... You're going to get that person from Virginia or from Montana or from somewhere, who's going to... Now I'm trying to make sure do I... Can I go to an IAAI register and look and see if their registered, but it doesn't tell me the skills and the abilities of that person who is doing that assessment? Do you understand what I mean? It says that they met that

requirement at that point in time, but what if they're only doing two investigations a year? It can be difficult. That's my concern, is given the fact that we've had so many false documentations, I just got to have confidence that you're going to be the one that vets the evaluators, that vets all the investigators, that vets all the documentation, and that that..."

Ms. Terry – "I think I did put in this class, that the evaluator does have to send me their [inaudible]."

SC – "If it comes back to her then she can send it to us. That's how [inaudible]."

SC – "Yeah. Again, you know, this Fire Investigator was looked at once before and just made the decision that it was very difficult to get all those JPRs done, to make all those wildfire investigations and do all of those things. I read the proposal, and my only concern is, I've got no idea in some cases other than that name is on a register somewhere."

SC – "Would that be doable? Bring it back through you after the JPRs are done and you send [inaudible] to us?"

Ms. Terry – "Yeah."

Brian – "I know you've already voted on the Fire Inspector I, but I have that same question about who's signing off on the Practicals for the Fire Inspector."

Ms. Terry – "Again, they're local inspectors."

SC – "Brian, we do those locally. Yeah, we do a Practical for that."

SC – "She does the course, and we do the practical and the written."

SC – "We do the Practical test and grade it for that."

Brian – "She said something about that the local is doing it, too?"

Ms. Terry – "The skills sign off?"

Brian – "Yeah."

Ms. Terry – "They do have to get that done local and that's one of the things that, if they send it back through me and I send them the JPR. They have to spell out who the person is, and their credentials for signing off on their skill sheets. Then I will send the JPR. That doesn't always happen. Sometimes they will do the class and then they will do their own JPR from their department to ACADIS and therefore I am just doing the cognitive part."

Brian – "Ok."

SC – "A good example. I see Clarksville doing a lot online. They're just far enough away, but they are big enough, because they have like 10 people in inspections..."

[inaudible]

SC – "... Ok, I'm sorry. It's the right size department that's far enough away from TFACA that they might use this site a deal. Because they do have internal inspectors."

Multiple Speakers – "Right. Um-Hm. Yes."

SC – “I know NFPA, when you get your Firefighter Certification...”

SC – “...they do the same thing.”

SC – “...they do it the same way. Once you take your test, then you have to... I guess they still do that. It’s been years...”

SC – “Yep.”

Brian – “Can you still sign off in house?”

SC – “Yeah you can.”

SC – “Then you have to get those JPRs and skills checked off.”

Brian – “That’s right. Ten inspections I think it is.”

SC – “Yep.”

SC – “I think that’s right.”

SC – “That’s right.”

SC – “And you give the test in house, the written test.”

SC – “Yes.”

SC – “You just have a proctor that the [FDA] will allow.”

SC – “Yep.”

SC – “Which as long as you pay that 300 though they’ll let anybody proctor.”

[laughter]

Chairman – “Alright. Any further discussion on Fire Investigator request? What’s the pleasure of the commission?”

SC – “Do we have a motion or not?”

Meeting Chairman – “No motion.”

SC – “I make a motion that we proceed forward as a pilot program and she comes back and gives us an update. I don’t know if one person would be a...”

SC – “big enough sample size.”

SC – “Yeah.”

SC – “Would probably need five.”

SC – “How about if we go about 35.”

SC – “Shoot.”

Ms. Terry – “I don’t... I can’t even guarantee that 35 people would sign up for the class. I mean, that’s... because it’s just...”

SC – “What do you think would be a... How many people have you had interest in this for that course?”

SC – “Three right now?”

Ms. Terry – “I can say, three yes.” [laughter]

SC – “When are you planning for it to go online?”

Ms. Terry – “Say it again?”

SC – “When do you plan for it to go online?”

Ms. Terry – “It would go online, January 1st. In which I’m going to reach back out to those three that I know are interested and say, ‘Hey, the Commission said this, so you want to move forward?’ And I think if we are going to do it as a pilot, maybe just have, I can put it out to everybody and say, ‘Hey this is going to be available, limited spots, you know, you’ve got to have x, y, and z in place’...”

SC – “Six months, maybe a month [inaudible].”

Ms. Terry – “...before you can sign up.’ And that sort of thing.”

SC – “Come back to us [inaudible].”

SC – “If that many people take it, is it worth it for you to continue to offer it?”

Ms. Terry – “Yes.”

SC – “I couldn’t hear you.”

SC – “What was the question?”

Ms. Terry – “I don’t actually run the website for profit, per say. But I’m looking to make Tennessee Firefighters... to try give them what they need to move forward.”

SC – “I was wondering, if only 3 people take advantage of the course. Is it worth, continuing to offer?”

SC – “Oh, yeah.”

[inaudible]

Ms. Terry – “If I get one person that needs it and I’m making it easier for them to get it. Then yeah, I think so.”

SC – “If [inaudible] our January meeting she might have 7 [inaudible]. I say we do a 6-month pilot rather than a person pilot.”

SC – “Ok. I can agree with that.”

Ms. Terry – “And I would say...”

SC – “Because we’ll meet in July.”

Ms. Terry – “That would kind of depend on where they are with their JPRs.”

SC – “They may not be done by then.”

SC – “They may not be.”

Ms. Terry – “I need to reach out and say, ‘Hey do you have your evaluator set up. How are you going to do [inaudible]?’

SC – “Cause you’re probably giving them a year.

SC – “In your syllabus, ma’am, what is your timeframe for their JPR completions?”

SC – “I think it said two years.”

Ms. Terry – “I think it would be two years, on that, for the JPR and a year on the class.”

SC – “So nobody’s going to be done by July.”

Ms. Terry – “So truthfully...”

SC – “Not likely.”

Ms. Terry – “If you would like, we can push this back. Let me reach out to these three people that are requesting it.”

SC – “We’re meeting again in February.”

SC – “So I have a question for the testing side of the isle. If we’re finished in a year, we’re in two years to do their JPRs, won’t they fall outside that testing window for the Fire Fighting Commission test?

SC – “The Practicals are good for one year or the written test is good for one year. They would have to have their Practicals before they could take the test.”

Ms. Terry – “Mm-hm”

SC – “I think they have one year after they complete their Practicals to take the test.”

Ms. Terry – “Mm-hm”

SC – “And this thing, if we really think about it, the other one’s self-regulated, so it went out of business after their first attempt. So it really wasn’t an issue.

SC – “It was a non-event?”

SC – “A non-event.”

SC – “Well, I think we pulled it.

SC – “Ok.”

SC – “What about a year?”

SC – “Didn’t we go back and pull it? Do y’all remember, Jeff? Who was here, an oldtimer?”

Jeff – I don't remember what we did with that one."

SC – "I don't remember."

Jeff – "I mean, it kind of took care of itself."

SC – "It did."

Multiple Speakers "One year? One year. Let's do a year."

Chairman - "Report back next December of 2022. December 23rd of 2022?"

Ms. Terry – And if I can, I'll get back earlier."

SC – "Yeah, that would be great."

Ms. Terry – "Just to kind of let you know how many people are signed up."

Chairman – "So if they are not registered before December 31, of 2022, we're saying that it's done. Everybody clear with that, with the motion. Mr. Sullivan made the motion for..."

SC – "I have a question. Was that part, having her report back the JPRs, was that part of the motion?"

SC – "She'll do that, right?"

Ms. Terry – "Mm-hm."

SC – "She's going... They're going to send a... everything will come back to her [inaudible]."

SC – "Yeah, Cause it's pretty small."

Chairman – "Commissioner Sullivan made a motion to improve the Fire Investigator Request as a pilot good for 1 year, to December 31, 2022. Is there a second?"

Commissioner Windrow – "Second."

Meeting Chairman – "Second by Commissioner Windrow. All those in favor signify by saying Aye."

Multiple Speakers – "Aye."

Chairman – "Any opposed? The Aye's have it. Alright, [NIMS] Course, ICS Course? Does anybody object to doing the Combustible Dust Awareness with that since there both the same?"

Multiple Speakers – They are one. They are both the same. They are the same course.

Commissioner Hendrick - "Motion to Approve"

Chairman – "Motion to Approve by Commissioner Hendrick to Approve NIMS/ICS Course and Combustible Dust Awareness."

Commissioner Sullivan – "I Second."

Chairman – "Second by Commissioner Sullivan. All those in favor signify by saying Aye."

Multiple Speakers – "Aye."

Chairman – “Any opposed same sign. Thank you, Terry, we appreciate you coming.”

Multiple Speakers – “Thank you. Thank you.”

Commissioner Windrow – “Chairman, I know we could finish in a minute but if we don’t [inaudible] coffee is getting to their eyeballs [laughter].”

Meeting Chairman – “Motion by Commissioner Windrow for a 10-minute recess.”

“Second”

Chairman – “Seconded by Commissioner Hendrick, all those in favor signify by saying Aye.”

Multiple Speakers – “Aye” [laughter]

[background noise]

[10-minute recess]

Chairman – “Let’s get started back. Next on the Agenda is the Tennessee Fire Codes and Academy request. Director Clark?”

Director Clark – “Thank you Mr. Chairman, I have 3 courses, I believe, that are in your packets. All those are 4 hour in service courses that are delivered by our instructors. [Inaudible] you have a course outline and objectives correlations if they are relevant to the course and I’ll be happy to answer any questions that you may have about those.”

Commissioner Windrow - “I make a motion to approve all three.”

Chairman – “Making a motion to approve all three. You second it. Seconded by Chief Moore. Any further discussion?”

SC – “Yeah, I just have one question? On the Pump Operations thing it says... The other two have 70% passing score, where that one says 80%. Did you mean for that to say 80%?”

Director Clark – “That was probably an oversight.”

SC – “That’s ok, I was just wondering if you were going to make it a 70% or leave it at an 80%?”

Director Clark – “It will probably be a 70%. It was probably an oversight on our part.”

SC – “All your classes are a 70%, aren’t they?”

Director Clark – “Most of them, yes, with the exception of the ACI trainer class are higher.”

SC – “Absolutely.”

Chairman – “That was a great catch by Commissioner Hendrick. Motion by Commissioner Windrow and Seconded by Commissioner Moore to approve all three as submitted, 4 hours credit. Any further discussion? All those in favor signify by saying Aye.”

Multiple Speakers – “Aye.”

Meeting Chairman – “No opposed, same side.”

Director Clark – “Thank you.”

Chairman – “Next item on the agenda is the Educational Incentive [inaudible] deadline. They’re late. Just so y’all know, they’re late.”

SC – “They’re late? [laughter]”

Chairman – “For the Nolensville Fire Department. The question is do they have a training officer? I don’t think so...”

SC - “On paper, I guess you’re looking at him. He’s also the Fire Marshall, the Two-in, Two-out, [laughter] the Purchasing Agent, Payroll.

SC – “Are there any excuses?”

SC – “So you’re saying you need about 40 [inaudible].

SC – “I should know better. I thought somebody turned it in.”

SC – “Wow?”

SC – “But we did attend the Peer Review last week at TFACA and it is in ACADIS and was filed and approved because someone else didn’t put their 10 questions in. Or they only put four. The same guy. [laughter].

SC – “I might want to reconsider the motion to approve...”

SC – “All these rules somebody made up.”

Chairman – Motion by Commissioner Kelley, second by Commissioner Hendrick. Any further discussions? [inaudible] [laughter]. Director, we call the role?”

Director – “Yeah”

Chairman – “Ok. Chairman Biggs?”

Chairman Biggs – “Yes”

Chairman – “Commissioner Cobb?”

Commissioner Cobb – “Yes”

Chairman – “Commissioner Hendrick?”

Commissioner Hendrick – “Yes”

Chairman – “Commissioner Kelly?”

Commissioner Kelly – “Yes.”

Chairman – “Commissioner Sullivan?”

Commissioner Sullivan – “Yes.”

Chairman – “Commissioner Moore?”

Commissioner Moore – “Yes.”

Chairman – “Commissioner Scott?”

Commissioner Scott – “Yes.”

Chairman – “Commissioner Speck?”

Commissioner Speck – “Yes.”

Chairman – “Commissioner Windrow?”

Windrow – “Abstain.” [laughter]

[inaudible]

Chairman – “Motion Carries. One Abstention. Next item on the agenda is the EIP waver deadline for the North [inaudible] Fire Department. We were lacking some information. [inaudible]

SC – “Cheryl, check on their program.”

SC – “No one’s here?”

SC – “Nobody.”

[inaudible]

SC – “I’m guessing they didn’t go to a regional peer review.”

Cheryl – “I don’t see their training program.”

SC – “So they still need to submit their [inaudible] program. Two options are we either deny or we make it contingent...”

SC – “On them submitting it.”

SC – “Do you want to do that? [inaudible] Recommend that [inaudible].”

SC – “Based on an approved program.”

SC – “Based on an approved program.” [inaudible]

Chairman – “Motion by Commissioner Scott, second by Commissioner Moore that we approve after an approved program has been submitted to the Commission Office. Any further discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor signify by saying, Aye.”

Multiple Speakers – “Aye.”

Chairman – “None opposed, same side, the Aye’s have it. Alright, item D. We have [IFS] University courses, there. Five courses here, one hour each. They’re all online courses.

Commissioner Hendrick - “Motion to approve all five of them, I guess.”

Commissioner Sullivan - “I second.”

“Motion to approve all five together by Commissioner Hendrick, second by Commissioner Sullivan. Any further discussion? Any questions heard yesterday. Not hearing any today. All in favor signify by saying, Aye.”

Multiple Speakers – “Aye.”

Chairman – “Any opposed same sign. The Aye’s have it, motion carried. Alright. This is the opportunity for the audience to make any comments or ask questions of the commission regarding actions taken at today’s meeting. Anybody from the public wish to come forward? Hearing none, our next meeting will be Monday, January 31st, 2022 at 1:00 P.M. in Jackson, TN at the Double Tree. That will be a work session. Then we will meet on Tuesday, February 1st, 2022 at 9:00 A.M. at the Double Tree in Jackson as well. And then we will meet in Gatlinburg the week of April 4th, 2022. Are there any questions?”

SC – “I want to verify, on the February meeting do we want to attempt to do audits on those that have already... if somebody has submitted their payments, do we want to attempt to do some audits...”

Multiple Speakers – “Yes. Yes. Yeah.”

SC – “...that afternoon.”

SC – “I think, a small number. That gives us a pattern. A process.”

SC – “We can do that. Let’s do that on Tuesday.”

SC – “Tuesday afternoon.”

SC – “I’m sorry, I’m sorry.”

SC – “Do you want to do it Tuesday or Monday? Because I think some of them had to cut out... The east guys and gals wanted to cut out [inaudible].

SC – “Are you going to change the Monday start? [inaudible] the Monday start?”

SC – “No, it will be a 1:00 P.M. Monday start and then a 9:00 A.M. start on Tuesday. Then that leaves crews going to head back.”

SC – “So when are we going to?”

SC – “It won’t have to be on the agenda because its audit, so we’ll just have to...”

SC – “I can’t imagine that there are going to be that many.”

SC – “I can’t either.”

SC – “So I think we can get them on Monday after we get done.”

SC – “How many entities do you think we’ll have by, let’s go with, by the 21st of January.

SC – “January.”

Cheryl – “Career, I’ll have a bunch, but volunteer? I have no idea.”

SC – “Because they have to [inaudible] first.

SC – “But, most of the career, the big ones, Nashville and Memphis don’t submit until late anyway. So, if we ordered... you know, we’ve asked the volunteers to provide their documentation for year one. Typically, we don’t ask the career side to do that, we go out and do the audits at their facilities. So, we may not have... we may have two volunteer departments, or we may have 20. We just don’t know.

SC – “It’s just getting them here around the table and we’ll audit them altogether then.

SC – “Right. Right.”

SC – “We’ll do what we’ve got... We’re only going to audit the one-year people at the meeting. Not the... we don’t want to [inaudible].

SC – “Yeah, and if we get a hundred, we’ll just do 20. We know we’ve got to do more in April.”

SC – “We can do what we can, with the one-year people.”

SC – “That’s as much to set the process up...”

SC – “Yes, that’s correct.”

SC – “...so it runs smoother. The pilot.”

SC – “Get ready for the load in April.”

Chairman – Alright, is everybody clear on our meeting dates? Do we have a motion to approve the meeting dates? January 31st at 1:00 P.M. and February 1st at 9:00 A.M.”

Commissioner Sullivan - “I make a motion.”

Chairman – “Motion to approve by...”

Commissioner Kelly - “Second.”

Meeting Chairman – “...Commissioner Sullivan, second by Commissioner Kelly, all those in favor signify by saying, Aye.”

Multiple Speakers – “Any opposed same sign. The Ayes have it. See y’all in February. Thank you very much.”

[inaudible]

SC – “Gatlinburg will be the week of April 4th; I just don’t know the dates yet.”

SC – “Ok.”

SC – “We’ll work on that. In February, but it will be that week of April 4th. It will probably be a full two days. We’ll have a lot of [inaudible].

Chairman – “Need a motion to adjourn?”

Commissioner Speck - “Motion”

Chairman – “Motioned by Commissioner...”

Commissioner Scott - “Second”

Chairman – "...Speck to adjourn, second by [background noise] Commissioner Scott, all those in favor signify by saying, Aye." No opposed same sign the Aye's have it."

[Meeting adjourned.]