

**THE TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON FIREFIGHTING  
PERSONNEL STANDARDS AND EDUCATION**

Commission on Firefighting Personnel Standards & Education

Minutes

October 14, 2014

Nashville, TN

**October 14, 2014 work session**

**Attendance:**

Marcus Harney, LaVergne Fire Department, Chad Wisniewski Kittrell Fire Department, Steve Cross TFFC, Cheryl Deener TFFC, Charles Chambers Manufactured Housing Director, Joseph Underwood C&I Legal Counsel.

Roll Call was called at 9:00 Commission Members present were: Matt Sorge Vice Chair; Thomas J. McCormack; Charles M. Vance; Brian C. Biggs; Michael A. Slay, Secretary; Stephanie Specht, Darryl Kerley, Michael Naifeh and Ex-officio non-voting member present: Roger Hawks.

Commission Members absent from the meeting: Mark Finucane and Ex-officio non-voting member absent: Julie Mix McPeak, Commissioner.

The topics of the work session discussion are from the following:

- Director's Job Plan Review was discussed for 2015 with additions being made.
- Board member orientations manual was discussed with additions being made and have them ready for the December meeting.
- Report from the recent comptrollers audit was discussed.
- Making sure educational incentive pay is processed thoroughly so that no one can collect both the fire and police supplements.
- Motion to add to the agenda for the business meeting that Director approves reciprocity if they meet all the requirements made by Commission McCormack and seconded by Commissioner Naifeh.
- Commission discussed the next date and time for the meeting.

**October 14, 2014 Business Meeting**

Those in attendance: Marcus Harney LaVergne Fire, Chad Wisniewski Kittrell Fire, Blake Boros Bartlett Fire, Mike Guffey Soddy Daisy Fire, Ronnie Goss West Polk Fire, Byron Smith Germantown Fire, Steve Cross TFFC, Cheryl Deener, TFFC, Charles Chambers Manufactured Housing Director, Jeff Elliott TFACA, Scott Haupt TFACA, Joseph Underwood C&I Legal Counsel

The meeting of the Tennessee Firefighting Commission on Personnel Standards and Education was called to order by Chairman Matt Sorge at 1:00 P.M. on October 14, 2014 at 500 James Robertson Pkwy, Nashville, TN 37234. Roll was called and the Commission members in attendance were Brian Biggs,

Stephanie Specht, Thomas McCormack, Michael Naifeh, Michael Slay, Matthew Sorge, Charlie Vance and Darryl Kerley. Non-Voting Roger Hawks was present.

Commission members absent from the meeting: Mark Finucane and Ex-officio non-voting member Julie McPeak.

Motion to approve the August, 2014 minutes by Vance, seconded by Slay, motion carries.

### **Announcements:**

Matthew Sorge would like to thank the previous Commissioners: Frank Cotton and Gerald Wakefield and Congratulations to the two new Commissioners, Stephanie Specht and Darryl Kerley.

Guests – Mike Guffey, Soddy Daisy Fire Department wants to know about teaching from one book and testing from another book. Is there going to be a time when teaching from one curriculum is going to match testing. Director Fox standpoint is our test list is on our website along with a reference list for each certification as to where we get the test questions from. Nothing has changed since Director Fox took his position in July 2013. January 1, 2015 there should be new standards and tests for HMA, HMO, FFI, FFII, FDI, FDI2 and they should be referenced from both IFSTA and Jones and Bartlett Books. Jeff Elliott, TFACA is teaching the standard that is current whether testing is available or not. The academy is not exclusive to one vendor over the other.

### **Communications:**

Jeff Elliott- reports from TFACA- We have one grant classes offered; NFA Department Wellness. The TN/VA weekend at the National Fire Academy was a success; Tennessee only had 64 firefighters sign up from 22 different Fire Departments. East TN Fire Rescue conference had 102 firefighters attend and Upper Cumberland had 160 firefighters attend. Nov 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> is the TN River. May 2 & 3<sup>rd</sup> is the Smokey Mountain weekend in Gatlinburg. The 2015 NFA TN/VA weekend is September 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. Ed Heinze and Director Hawks did testing on the driving simulation course. The train the trainer is set up for November 17<sup>th</sup> on this course and the ribbon cutting should be around the second week in March when everything is completed and will start this course.

**Director's Report:** The Director would like to thank Charles Chambers for all the work he has done since March. He is now the Director of Manufactured Housing. We have listed his position and the cut off for applications was September 30<sup>th</sup>. We should have the list of applicants by October 20<sup>th</sup> and someone selected by November 20<sup>th</sup>. Pro Board conference is January 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>. Fred Prechota from Pro Board will be coming November 12, 2014 to review our process and procedures. IFSAC has the Fire Officer IV in the hands of a reviewer. Fire Inspector has been sent but is not in someone's hand yet. Fire Investigator is still being finalized.

**Old business:** Mr. Underwood, Legal Counsel prepared the rule changes for firefighting I and firefighting II Live burns for 36 months or until June 30, 2016 and presented it to the commission. Motion to approve the prepared changes by Commissioner Biggs, seconded by Commissioner Naifeh. Motion carries.

### **New Business:**

- Reciprocity presented by Charles Chambers: Motion to approve all reciprocity that is presented by Commissioner Vance and seconded by Commissioner Boggs. Roll Call vote: Commissioner Biggs- yes with abstaining from two, Commissioner Kerley-yes, Commissioner McCormack-yes, Commissioner Naifeh- yes with abstaining from 14,15,16, Commissioner Specht-yes, Commissioner Slay- yes, Commissioner Sorge –yes, Commissioner Vance- yes. Motion passes with abstentions.
- Motion to add reciprocity changes to agenda by Commissioner McCormack and seconded by Commissioner Slay. Motion carries.
- Motion by Commissioner Kerley, seconded by Commissioner Vance to let Director Fox grant approval for reciprocity as long as they meet all requirements and follow up with individuals if more information is needed. If the situation is a waiver then it will come before the commission for approval or denial.
- Add items to the next work session by Commissioner Biggs: Further research and information on reciprocity. How other states are processing it and other issues that need to be addressed with reciprocity rules.
- Consideration for approval of Department Wellness Program which is a grant class from National Fire Academy and offered by TFACA. Motion to approve by Commissioner Biggs and seconded by Commissioner Slay. Motion carries.
- Consideration for approval for course from Jackson State Community College. Motion to approve by Commissioner Slay and seconded by Commissioner McCormack. Motion carries.
- Consideration for approval for North Regional Fire Academy Course. Motion to approve by Commissioner Slay and seconded by Commissioner Naifeh. Commissioner Sorge abstains. Motion carries.
- Consideration for approval for Oak Ridge Officer Development class. Motion to approve by Commissioner Sorge and seconded by Commissioner Vance. Commissioner Kerley abstains. Motion carries.
- Consideration for approval for Eastman Chemical Fire Department course. Motion to approve by Commissioner Slay and seconded by Commissioner Specht. Motion carries.
- Consideration for approval for TN Fire training SIDS course. Motion to approve by Commissioner Naifeh and seconded by Commissioner Biggs. Motion carries.
- Consideration for approval of 8 hours toward in service hours for the people notated that showed up on Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> that helped correlate questions for Fire Inspector certification.
- Consideration to approve 2014 in-service program from Vonore Fire Dept. without a waiver. The program was turned in before the deadline but was overlooked. Motion to approve by Commissioner Vance and seconded by Commissioner Specht. Motion carries
- Waiver request sent in from Loudon County and Springfield Fire Depts. for Firefighter II test. No one is present from either department. Motion to approve by Commissioner Biggs and seconded by Commissioner Specht. Motion carries.

### **2013 Audits:**

- Motion to approve Springfield's audit 9/26/14 by Commissioner McCormack and seconded by Commissioner Slay and Commissioner Biggs abstains. Motion carries.

- Motion to approve Putnam County audit 9/26/14 by Commissioner Vance and seconded by Commissioner Slay and Commissioner Biggs abstains. Motion carries.
- Motion to approve Brentwood audit 9/26/14 by Commissioner Slay and seconded by Commissioner Vance and Commissioner Biggs abstains. Motion carries.
- Motion to approve Tullahoma audit 9/29/14 by Commissioner Biggs and seconded by Commissioner Kerley and Commissioner Vance abstains. Motion carries.
- Motion to approve Columbia audit 9/29/14 by Commissioner McCormack and seconded by Commissioner Kerley and Commissioner Vance abstains. Motion carries.
- Motion to approve Nashville audit 9/22/14 by Commissioner Biggs and seconded by Commissioner Naifeh and Commissioner Vance abstains. Motion carries.
- Motion to approve Millington audit 9/17/14 by Commissioner Biggs and seconded by Commissioner Vance and Commissioner Naifeh abstains. Motion carries.
- Motion to approve Humboldt audit 9/17/14 by Commissioner Vance and seconded by Commissioner Specht and Commissioner Naifeh abstains. Motion carries.
- Motion to approve Milan audit 9/17/14 by Commissioner Vance and seconded by Commissioner Specht and Commissioner Naifeh abstains. Motion carries.
- Motion to approve Henderson audit 9/18/14 by Commissioner McCormack and seconded by Commissioner Specht and Commissioner Vance abstains. Motion carries.
- Motion to approve Lexington audit 9/18/14 by Commissioner Biggs and seconded by Commissioner Slay and Commissioner Vance abstains. Motion carries.
- Motion to approve Harriman audit 9/9/14 by Commissioner Vance and seconded by Commissioner Specht and Commissioner Slay abstains. Motion carries.
- Motion to approve Lafollette audit 9/9/14 by Commissioner Biggs and seconded by Commissioner Vance and Commissioner Slay abstains. Motion carries.
- Motion to approve Chattanooga audit 9/10/14 by Commissioner Vance and seconded by Commissioner Biggs. Motion carries.
- Motion to approve Bradley County audit 9/10/14 by Commissioner Biggs and seconded by Commissioner Vance. Motion carries.
- Motion to approve Knoxville audit 9/18/14 by Commissioner McCormack and seconded by Commissioner Specht and Commissioner Slay abstains. Motion carries.

Next Commission meeting is December 18, 2014, with December 17<sup>th</sup> as a travel day. Work session in the morning at 9:00am and the business meeting will be in the afternoon at 12:30pm at the Brentwood Fire Department, 1300 Sunset Road, Brentwood, TN. 37027. Motion made by Commissioner Biggs and seconded by Commissioner Sorge.

That concludes the meeting agenda.

Motion to adjourn by Commissioner McCormack and seconded by Commissioner Slay. Motion carries.