



Department of
**Commerce &
Insurance**

State Fire
Marshal's Office

**THE TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON FIRE
FIGHTING PERSONNEL STANDARDS AND
EDUCATION**

Web Ex Meeting
April 16, 2020

**FIREFIGHTING COMMISSION BUSINESS
MEETING**

Roll Call – (Director Anthony Grande)

Members Present:

Commissioner Stephanie Specht
Commissioner Brian Biggs
Commissioner Tommy Kelley
Commissioner David Windrow
Commissioner Michael Henry
Commissioner Jeff Elliott
Commissioner Gary Farley
Commissioner Toran Hedgepath
Commissioner Jay Moore
Director Anthony Grande

Members Not Present:

Commissioner Darryl Kerley

Director Grande: Roll call

Chairman Biggs: Here

Commissioner Hedgepath: Here

Commissioner Henry: Here

Commissioner Kelley: Here

Commissioner Kerley: No Response

Commissioner Moore: Here

Commissioner Scott: Here

Commissioner Specht: Here

Commissioner Windrow: Here

Director Elliott: Here

Commissioner Farley: Here on the behalf of Commissioner Mainda.

Business Meeting

Mr. Underwood:

Statement of Necessity:

A meeting of the Tennessee Commission on Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education ("Commission") is taking place remotely at 10:00 a.m. on April 16, 2020, via electronic or other means of communication. Notice of this meeting was posted on the Commission's and the Department of Commerce and Insurance's website on April 9, 2020.

As there is not a physical quorum present, a Statement of Necessity will be read into the record and filed with the Tennessee Secretary of State as required by statute. Pursuant to T.C.A. § 8-44-108(b)(2) which states "[i]f a physical quorum is not present at the location of a meeting of a governing body, then in order for a quorum of members to participate by electronic or other means of communication, the governing body must make a determination that a necessity exists." Furthermore, this determination by the Commission is as follows:

Due to the impossibility of having a quorum of members physically present and the immediate need of the Commission to certify the eligibility of firefighters to receive salary supplement payments pursuant to T.C.A. § 4-24-202, the Commission believes a necessity exists that requires this meeting be held by electronic or other means of communication. The matters to be considered by the Commission at this meeting require timely action by the Commission. Further, physical presence by a quorum of the members of the Commission is not practical due to the current COVID-19 pandemic and Governor Lee's Executive Order No. 27 which has prohibited Commission members from attending the meeting in person and participation by a quorum of the members of the Commission by electronic or other means of communication is necessary.

Chairman Biggs: Motion to approve Necessity for meeting standard, physical appearance not available.

Commissioner Windrow: Motion to approve.

Commissioner Henry: Seconded.

Roll Call by Director Grande:

Commissioner Specht: Yes

Commissioner Windrow: Yes

Commissioner Henry: Yes

Commissioner Biggs: Yes

Commissioner Moore: Yes

Commissioner Scott: Yes

Commissioner Kelley: Yes

Commissioner Hedgepath: Yes (by text)

Chairman Biggs: Since we are unable to do the Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance, we will take a moment of silence.

Director Elliott: With the academy shut down and classes suspended, employees are still working from home. We had 45 recruits on campus when we shut down and they were able to be productive until April 3, 2020. Once we re-open, the recruits will come back to finish up the hands-on portion. The training classes that lead to certification that were currently underway will be the first things we bring back once we open campus. I will be submitting plans to re-open today.

New Business

Director Grande: Item A on the agenda is extension of deadlines for training. The Governor allowed

extensions on deadlines per executive order 4-24, because of the COVID 19. The training is done in the calendar year. We can extend the training for 2020 but by extending training into 2021 will put people behind for the training year 2021 and the deadlines for us to meet June 30th of each year for fiscal to pay out salary supplement will not be extended. Also, people are asking about practical extensions, since we are not testing, practical's will be expiring as well. Currently there is a 20-hour maximum rule for online training.

Commissioner Windrow: Motion to table COVID 19 extension to July meeting.

Commissioner Kelley: Seconded

Roll Call by Director Grande:

Commissioner Specht: Yes

Commissioner Windrow: Yes

Commissioner Henry: Yes

Commissioner Biggs: Yes

Commissioner Moore: Yes

Commissioner Scott: Yes

Commissioner Kelley: Yes

Commissioner Hedgepath: Yes

Chairman Biggs: Motion carries

Director Grande: Item B on the agenda waiver requests. Oakridge and Memphis waivers were for extension of training, those are currently tabled until July meeting.

LaVergne's motion to add a person, who was left off the salary supplement excel sheet, who is an inspector.

Stephanie Specht: Motion to approve if the person has completed the Inspector in-service or has substitution forms. He can't complete the regular fire in service program as he is an inspector.

Commissioner Henry: Seconded.

Roll Call by Director Grande:

Commissioner Specht: Yes

Commissioner Windrow: Yes

Commissioner Henry: Yes

Commissioner Biggs: Yes

Commissioner Moore: Yes

Commissioner Scott: Yes

Commissioner Kelley: Yes

Commissioner Hedgepath: Yes

Chairman Biggs: Motion carries

Director Grande: Waivers from McGhee Tyson, Sevier County, Goodlettsville, Rogersville, Lenoir City and Maryville, to waive the March 1st deadline for salary supplement paperwork to be turned in and allow them to submit the paperwork for the salary supplement pay.

Commissioner Specht: Motion to approve.

Commissioner Henry: Seconded.

Roll Call by Director Grande:

Commissioner Specht: Yes

Commissioner Windrow: Yes

Commissioner Henry: Yes

Commissioner Biggs: Yes

Commissioner Moore: Yes
Commissioner Scott: Yes
Commissioner Kelley: Yes
Commissioner Hedgepath: Yes
Chairman Biggs: Motion carries

Director Grande: Hamilton County, Blount County and Oakland waiver to waive the October 1st deadline for submitted In Service training program for 2020 and allow them to submit the program for 2020 this year.

Commissioner Windrow: Motion to approve
Commissioner Henry: Seconded.

Roll Call by Director Grande:
Commissioner Specht: Yes
Commissioner Windrow: Yes
Commissioner Henry: Yes
Commissioner Biggs: Yes
Commissioner Moore: Yes
Commissioner Scott: Yes
Commissioner Kelley: Yes
Commissioner Hedgepath: Yes
Chairman Biggs: Motion carries

Chairman Biggs: Next is the April meeting scheduled in Gatlinburg, we need a motion to cancel the meeting.

Commissioner Specht: Motion to cancel April meeting in Gatlinburg.
Commissioner Hedgepath: Seconded

Roll Call by Director Grande:
Commissioner Specht: Yes
Commissioner Windrow: Yes
Commissioner Henry: Yes
Commissioner Biggs: Yes
Commissioner Moore: Yes
Commissioner Scott: Yes
Commissioner Kelley: Yes
Commissioner Hedgepath: Yes
Chairman Biggs: Motion carries

Director Grande: We normally draw audits during the April meeting, but we can wait until the July meeting to do those.

Mr. Underwood: The new rules are supposed to go into effect 4/20/2020.

Chairman Biggs: Date for future meeting, July 28, 2020 at Park Vista in Gatlinburg, work session to begin at 9 A.M. and the business meeting immediately following the work session.

Commissioner Moore: Motion to approve.
Commissioner Henry: Seconded.

Roll Call by Director Grande:
Commissioner Specht: Yes
Commissioner Windrow: Yes
Commissioner Henry: Yes

Commissioner Biggs: Yes
Commissioner Moore: Yes
Commissioner Scott: Yes
Commissioner Kelley: Yes
Commissioner Hedgepath: Yes
Chairman Biggs: Motion carries

Chairman Biggs: The West Tennessee meeting will be around October, November, December timeline.

Commissioner Windrow: Motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Kelley: Seconded.

Chairman Biggs: Meeting Adjourned.