

Fire School Advisory Board Minutes

Quarterly Meeting: May 3, 2017



MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Mike Norket, Mike Benoir, Brian Horton, David Laird, Justin McClellan, Terry Sheriff, Shannon Tanner

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bruce Burding, Barry Davis, Brad Maness, Tommy McDowell, Diane Woods

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Otis Driggers, Steve Graham, Les Woods

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Joe Palmer

VISITORS PRESENT: Phillip Russell, Jonathan Jones, Ashley Boltin, Skip Hannon, Bonita Watters, Lenny Busby, Doug Spinks, Farrar Stewart, Emily Farr, Greg Gerber

Chairman Norket called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. A quorum was present. Phillip Russell opened the meeting with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mike Norket-Chairman

- Chairman Norket asked Phillip Russell to discuss the budget.

Phillip Russell-Interim Superintendent

Briefly summarized the status of the following projects:

- Receipt of new apparatus
- VOIP telephone system
- Budgets for the cafeteria and dorms
- Income report
- Need for a new swift water trailer
- Replacement of HVAC units on site
- Repair and replacement of air valves
- Sewer pipes repair/replacement
- Completion of the LP Gas line project
- Purchase of two new vaporizers
- EMT and EMS costs, objectives and current enrollment. Brian Horton inquired about the time frame as he has 10-12 students who need it. Phillip informed him there is no current ETA.

Farrar Stewart- LLR, Administration

- Discussed CPIP and fire station renovations project in detail, including the planned hearing with the JBRC (Joint Bond Review Committee). In addition, she advised the

dormitory renovation project will not go before the JBRC until August 2017 after the feasibility study has been completed by the architect. The estimate for the dorms is \$3.6 million. This includes repairing the existing sprinklers and addressing the mold issue. When asked about the time frame, Farrar stated at this time, a completion date for these projects would be premature and has not been established. Chief Jones stated the dormitory will be renovated floor by floor and will never be completely closed.

Lenny Busby- Interim Maintenance Manager

Briefly discussed the status of the following maintenance objectives:

- Maintenance staff has completed 147 service requests
- Requested an engineer who will submit removal plan of tree from pond dam area
- Completed the painting of the Fire Marshal building
- Installed the new phones, including the battery backups
- Retention pond has been cleaned up
- Continuing to remove surplus items from the site
- Continuing the landscaping and beautification of the site

Phillip Russell-Interim Superintendent

- Introduced the Fire Academy new hires: Angelica Adams- FA Administration, Mike Regal- FA Training, Eric Adams – FA Region 5 Coordinator, Doug Spinks – Accreditation Manager
- Discussed the ongoing process of trying to hire a facility manager
- Provided Fire Academy training report
- Briefly discussed the three classes offered in partnership with the National Fire Sprinkler Systems

Doug Spinks – Accreditation Manager

- Relayed statistical information on accreditation, IFSAC and Proboard testing
- Discussed the reduction in number of pre-employment applications processed.
- Currently working on correlating the skills in 3213 (Fire Investigation) to NFPA 1033 standard.
- Joe Palmer asked about the pass/fail rates of certification tests compared to other states. Doug Spinks responded it's not a fair comparison since every state has its individual oversight and delivery system. There are two annual IFSAC conferences. Bonita Watters suggested this could possibly be brought up and discussed there during a break out session.

Bonita Watters – Curriculum Manager

Addressed the ongoing objectives in curriculum:

- The 3224 (Initial Fire Investigation for First Responders) has been changed to 3209 (Fire Investigation First Responder).
- The first week of the 2103 (Fire Officer III) has been completed. Received positive feedback. Students will return for the final week of class in May. Bonita explained this class does not have a certification test at the end, but instead is project based. Chairman Norket praised selection process for this class and encouraged committee members to get employees to sign up. Students for this class were chosen by a selection committee that did not contain any Fire Academy staff members.
- Was approached by Don Headrick and others about making changes to the 8280 (FEMA Structural Collapse Specialists) course. The course number and course hours will change in 2018. Chairman Norket inquired about a price increase for this course. Phillip responded we would try to keep the price the same.
- Informed the committee about the upcoming IFSAC conference.
- 2130 (Building Construction Principles: Combustible) and 2132 (Building Construction Principles: Noncombustible) will be combined based on feedback from the students and instructors. June is the target date.
- 1160 (Truck Company Operation for Residential Occupancies) will be changed to 1161 Truck Operations for Fireground Support (working title).
- EBS Education Business Summit - Conference for Career Center Instructors is June 26 - 27.
- Discussed the 1139 updates
- Discussed the technical schools that currently offer some type of fire science program and lack of financial aid offered for these programs.

OLD BUSINESS

- Creation of instructor online courses
- The replacement of SEFS with Fire Scene
- Fire Escape
- Boy Scouts of America/Camporee
- The issues and inconsistencies with the CTC program were discussed in detail. As a solution, a meeting with the 26 participating schools was suggested which would include discussing the merits of end of course testing and how to increase interest in the fire service of high school students.
- Part time and adjunct instructor salaries/travel is still being reviewed by HR.

Jonathan Jones – State Fire Marshal

- Chief Jones expressed his gratitude for the warm welcome and support from the committee.
- Announced the superintendent's position will be posted soon.

Emily Farr – Director of LLR

- Director Farr introduced herself.

NEW BUSINESS

- Quality of the Fire Academy instructors which included instructor evaluations, student pass/fail rates, and online courses vs. instructor led courses.
- Basic Fire Inspection and the lack of a clear pathway or prerequisite to Fire Investigator. Also the need for a continuing education class for the 3213 Fire Investigation course which includes additional training before actual hands on training.
- Open enrollment policy for recruit schools and members of the military. A committee will be formed to discuss how this would benefit the State. Terry Sheriff and Bonita Watters agreed to serve as committee members.
- The need for more EMT courses throughout the state.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- SC Firefighters' Association Fire Rescue Conference is scheduled for June 12-17, 2017 in Myrtle Beach, SC.
- State Chief's Conference is scheduled for June 6-7, 2017, in Myrtle Beach.
- Fire & Life Safety Educator
- Kick-off to Fire Prevention is to be held September 15-16, 2017.
- Fire Investigation Class is being held in York County June 21-21, 2017.
- Greenville Chief's Association is hosting "Step up and Lead" May 23, 2017, at the TD Convention Center.

NEXT MEETING – August 9, 2017, at 10 a.m. in the SCFA Conference Room A.

ADJOURN

This meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Phillip Russell

Disclaimer: The attached minutes are DRAFT minutes. Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information, statements and decisions recorded in them, their status will remain that of a draft until such time as they are confirmed as a correct record at the subsequent meeting.