

# Fire School Advisory Board Minutes

From the August 10, 2016 Quarterly Meeting



**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mike Norket, Jon Ryan, Mike Benoir, Bruce Burding, Brian Horton, Brad Maness, Justin McClellan, Tommy McDowell, Shannon Tanner

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Barry Davis, David Laird, John Robinson, Joel Rogers, Diane Woods

**ALTERNATES PRESENT:** Les Woods

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ken Kerber, Bert Polk, Joe Palmer

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Skip Hannon, Bob Maibach, Terry Sheriff, Russ Friar, Ashley Boltin, Rick Dunn, Bonita Watters, Phillip Russell, Brent Turner, Ray Reckelhoff, Harold Hawley

Chairman Norket called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. and was advised a quorum was present.

Shannon Tanner opened the meeting with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Norket noted the Agenda had been posted and sent to the media 24 hours prior to the meeting.

With a quorum present, Chairman Norket asked for a motion to approve the Agenda. A motion was made and a second was voiced. The motion carried unanimously. Chairman Norket asked for a motion to approve the May 11, 2016, minutes. Skip Hannon stated his name was misspelled (corrected 8-12-16\). On a motion and a second, the May 11, 2016, minutes were unanimously approved.

## **Superintendent Ken Kerber:**

Chief Kerber asked for Chief Polk to have the floor.

Chief Polk spoke briefly concerning the application process for a new Fire Academy Superintendent. He advised 62 applications had been received. He also mentioned the Governor has appointed a new agency director.

Chief Kerber asked the Members to review the report previously sent for his report. The material sent was a portion of the Division's Annual Report. He also thanked the Board for their support and advice during the last two years.

Kerber then reviewed the financial report and the cash statement that had also been sent. There were no questions.

## **Phillip Russell – Regional Training**

Phillip Russell briefly reviewed the previously sent report. He mentioned there were

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32,000 student contacts in FY16. He also discussed the Academy database, the Fire Portal, transcript, and scanning issues.

## **Ray Reckelhoff – Facilities**

Ray had a brief discussion concerning the work being done on campus. He updated the Board about the LP (Liquid Propane) and sewer systems.

## **Bonita Watters – Curriculum**

Bonita reviewed the curriculum update list. She and Phillip Russell discussed briefly the EVDT update and answered questions concerning EMR and EMT future schedules.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

There was a brief discussion on the new fire marshal certification process and availability of classes, particularly ICC classes.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Following the Agenda, Chief Polk had already discussed the Superintendent position. Chairman Norket had previously discussed the regional offices. Tommy McDowell requested a new regional map be provided, particularly in a future Annual Report. Before the meeting adjourned, a new map was provided to attendees.

Ray Reckelhoff briefly discussed future props and additions, and referenced the previously discussed CPIP.

Chairman Norket introduced new members. Prior to the next Agenda item, everyone introduced themselves.

Bonita introduced Harold Hawley, CFO from Horry Georgetown Tech. Mr. Hawley was asked by Chief Kerber to assist with getting the Advisory Board to start thinking strategically for the Academy's benefit in future training curriculum, site/facility, staffing, policy, and budget. Mr. Hawley discussed, "What's the end goal" in three to five years? He also recommended that an annual plan should not just sit on a shelf. Discussing what's broken is okay, but what it is going to take to fix it is critical. It's necessary to quantify what is the critical criteria for the success of the Academy. He did stress multiple times we have to inform others of what it is we need. People need to know what the world would be like without us. We need to share our success stories constantly. He discussed partnerships tech schools have with local industries and that we need to try to take advantage of those partnerships. Chief Kerber added a few comments. Chairman Norket suggested a S.W.A.T. type meeting

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in the near future to begin the strategic planning process. He asked those present to forward him issues they considered important and he would compile them.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Norket read a list of upcoming announcements and events.

**NEXT MEETING** – November 9, 2016, at 10 a.m. at the South Carolina Fire Academy, conference room A.

## **ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by  
Kenneth W. Kerber

**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.