

**South Carolina Fire Academy
Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting
Meeting Minutes November 12, 2014**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bruce Kline, Bruce Burding, Barry Davis, Skip Hannon, Brian Horton, David Laird, Mike Norket, Shannon Tanner, Diane Woods

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Robinson, Joel Rogers, Tracy Wallace

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Keith Scharf, Steve Graham

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Ken Kerber

VISITORS PRESENT: Cecil Anderson, J. D. McCarley, Ashley Boltin, Rick Dunn, Amy Williamson, Phillip Russell, Tammy Rowe, Billy Roberts, Lenny Busby, Brent Turner

Chairman Kline called the meeting to order and was advised that a quorum was present.

Chairman Kline asked everyone to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and Phillip Russell offered the Invocation.

Chairman Kline asked for a motion to approve the November minutes. The motion was made by Skip Hannon and seconded by Diane Woods.

Superintendent Ken Kerber:

Presented and discussed the attached report

He asked the Advisory Committee to review short/long term goals and let him know their thoughts. He requested their advice and counsel.

Rebranding:

Kerber displayed all the logos being considered. All uniforms and vehicles will have the new logo.

All new vehicles being bought will be rebranded.

Architect Curt Davis: Kerber & Russell discussed their meeting with Mr. Davis. They discussed short/long term goals for site. He designed and built the US&R building. Kerber had previously sent Chairman Kline the details. The estimated cost for site plan was \$500K. it included an evaluation of current and new upgrades. Kerber reported that we own sewer line from site to I-20. We are responsible for it. Has approached the City of Columbia and they are not interested in taking over. We will need to check into insurance liability.

The Fire Academy needs to be run like a business and not a fire station. Requests support from the committee. The staff is in the process of investigating a system in which invoices are presenting upon registration. The Academy does not need to keep losing money as we are on the cafeteria, dorms, etc.

Kerber distributed and discussed financial report on expenses. He will gather income and will distribute next meeting.

Chairman Kline recommended something in writing for the committee to approve for long term goals so the plan can be submitted to LLR and Legislature for approval.

Chairman Kline – look at fees. Core classes - instead of charging \$5 monthly offer the class. Phillip Russell stated that we were investigating the core classes at \$0 but the \$5 helps.

Chairman Kline stated one of the problems with advance pay will be if someone cancels within 24 hours. Ken is looking at changing fees and issues if class cancels. Ken – if class 6 – will go/not canceling.

Ken reported the Academy and Regionally we need for core quality instructors. Diane asked if there is a need for more instructors.

New employees were introduced by Phillip Russell – Curtis J. Cafeteria/Dorm, J D. McCarley – Region 2, Miranda Turner – Region 6 (not present).

Phillip reported regional changes since they came on board 8/8.

Rick announced Bonita Watters starts 11-17 in accreditation.

Ken reported that Billy Roberts will be retiring 12-31. Billy has agreed to assist with consulting work. Billy states he appreciates the opportunity he was given 14 years ago.

Ken stated that we will receive application for a site safety/compliance person.

AFG Grants:

Kerber stated that he would like the committee to recommend items to apply for grants.

Kerber reported that they were looking at a purchasing or leasing option for new fire trucks for recruit schools to upgrade our equipment. Does not want 50 vendors on site.

Priority will be on updating the fire station in order to offer two recruit schools in the future.

REG/TRG

Kerber stated he envision in the state to have five or six training sites over the state. FA will support reg/trg sites.

Recruit schools

Two in January. Need more instructors. Kerber meet with each companies on Fridays for lunch. Take notes to Lenny/Terrell. Will be talking about interviews at a later date.

EMD Update – NFA

EMS – Will start having EMS training on site. Have started bring in equipment for the site. Will be upgrading individual props and curriculum.

DOD

Looking to working with DOD to train military being pushed out of service. Their GI Bill will cover their training. Looking at 247K personnel being released in two years.

Rick Dunn – Curriculum – Presented and discussed report.

Have been IFSAC Accredited to the levels we had except for Fire Inspector 1. Will be revisiting the first of the year.

Proboard coming December 3rd or 4th. Hope to receive certification during conference in January. Will not get HAZMAT Ops certified.

Lenny – Residential Training – Presented and discussed report.

Currently down to one delivery truck. Maintenance working hard.

Soliciting for instructors to train onsite. Looking for someone who is already on payroll.

Waiting on approval from HR to fill Perry Bailey's position.

Phillip – Admin. Hosp. Reg. – Presented and discussed report.

Ken – need to advertise Fire Officer classes to younger FF to attend other than the students attending just to get promoted.

Phillip, Lenny and Brent working on Weed/Feed to develop reg. instructors in Rescue Services classes.

New catalog postings - should be out over the next couple of weeks.

Meeting W. John R. in December for portal group.

Will be rebranding store items. Looking to add several TVs in the cafeteria. Goal is to have online store by next year.

Kline – Why such a change in the cost of training, etc.? – Phillip – some areas cannot support without Academy support, travel, etc.

Phillip asks for Advisory Committee members to meet with staff to review policies and rewrite.

Bert – FM

Looking at and working on different projects. Need to put some of the site plan projects in the annual budget instead of waiting. Thanked the committee for all that they do.

Chairman Kline states that the committee is receiving good reports from FA regime. Has full support of the committee to make changes, better the site, etc., but stop putting band-aids on issues/fixes. Big push this year is getting authorization to spend funds needed to get FA running.

Bert asked about online pay for registration. Chairman Kline stated that the student does not have authority but training officer could approve.

Bert looking at getting new cable, etc., onsite.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SC FALSE 20TH Anniversary Conference from 4-26-15/5-2-15

NEXT MEETING – 2-11-15

ADJOURN

With no other business the meeting was adjourned with a motion made by Brian Horton and seconded by Diane Woods.

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.