

FINAL

FIREFIGHTER AND FIRE SAFETY INSPECTOR TRAINING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES January 10th, 2007

Chaired by: Phil McLean

Meeting Date and Location: January 10th, 2007, Ohio Department of Public Safety,
1970 West Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43223

Committee Members Present: Brent Gates, Jim Holcomb, Terry Gill, Jim Steele, Richard Sacco and Bob Babb

Committee Members Absent: Mark Mankins

Staff Present: Doug Orahood, John Kennington, Richard Rucker, Thomas Macklin, PR Casey, Jacqueline Tunson and Heather Reed Friend

Guests: Scott Walker, Stewart Atwood, Gregory Paxton and Michael Vedra

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 12th, 2006 FIREFIGHTER AND FIRE SAFETY INSPECTOR TRAINING COMMITTEE MINUTES.

ACTION: Motion to approve the December 12th, 2006 Committee minutes. Steele first. Babb second. None opposed. Motion approved.

OPEN FORUM

Mr. McLean welcomed and thanked the newest member Richard Sacco to the committee and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Web Based Testing, Doug Orahood

Mr. Orahood stated he has been working with Public Safety's Information Technology Department to create the web based testing software program. He stated that he is waiting on a status report and will hopefully be able to start testing this month.

Fire Report

Mr. Orahood presented a certifications yearly report. He said there is a change in the way that the stats are being recorded in order to show the entire year of 2006 and what is being certified at each level; it is being done on a month by month basis.

Firefighter and Fire Safety Inspector Training Committee

Mr. Orahood stated that he will redesign the report to show how many fire instructors are being certified on a monthly basis compared to what is expiring on a monthly basis.

Mr. Orahood shared with the committee that the fire training bill (HB 401) was signed by Governor Taft on January 4th, and the law will become effective somewhere between April 2nd and April 4th.

Mr. McLean asked how the word will get out that this bill is being passed and going into effect.

Executive Rucker said he felt we should put an e-mail notice out to all the agencies, place it on our web site and place it in the Siren Newsletter.

Mr. Kennington said another way to get the word out is when we issue the certification renewal cards.

Ms. Reed Frient stated that over the next year we want to make sure that the word gets out that we're meeting and that the rules are being drafted and that any interested parties are welcome to attend and share their opinions.

Mr. Orahood stated he had received three invitations to organization meetings to discuss HB 401 now that the bill has been signed. The first organization meeting scheduled is a Delaware County Fire Chiefs Meeting on February 21st, at the Tri Township Fire Department at 1 o'clock. On January 25th, Mr. Orahood will attend the Ohio Fire Officials Association meeting at 10:00 a.m. to discuss the continued education requirements for the fire safety inspectors.

Mr. Steele asked what is meant by an effective date when there is no rule in place. What changes between the effective date and when rules are adopted?

Ms. Reed Frient stated that HB 401 was drafted to read like the other EMS code sections within Chapter 4765. That is, the law was written broadly in order for the committee to then draft rules that will fill in the details. As such, there may not be a lot of *statutory* provisions that will actually affect the fire community in April 2007. What will affect the fire community are the *rules* that are required to be in place 12 months after the bill becomes effective (April 2008).

Mr. McLean said that he felt it would be a good idea to bring the Alliance together and go over the rules so those group leaders know what is happening.

Mr. Gates said he felt that they should have a draft copy of the rules up front before we meet with them in order for them to have time or a chance to review them and be ready for discussion.

Firefighter and Fire Safety Inspector Training Committee

Mr. Orahood reminded the committee of the upcoming workshop to continue drafting the rules on February 22nd and 23rd, at Violet Township Fire Department from 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Orahood said that there has not been any progress in the online charter application renewal process.

Firefighter I and II Objectives

Mr. Orahood said the committee needs to work on those while we're going through this process to get them updated.

Regional Fire Coordinators

Mr. Orahood said he submitted a proposal to Executive Director Rucker regarding establishing regional fire coordinators to assist with getting information out to the departments doing site audits and it has been approved. The Ohio Fire Chiefs is currently looking over the proposal and it is our hope to find someone within that region that can fill that role for us and help us communicate with the fire departments. The two regions that have been selected to start are Southeast Ohio Region VI and Southwest Ohio Region VII on the Homeland Security map.

Mr. Orahood asked for guidance on an equivalency application and certificates of training and gave each committee member the current rule on equivalency. The individual in question is seeking a firefighter II and asked the committee to look at the verification of training form and the hours. There were several areas where it showed zero hours listed. Mr. Orahood said he thinks it is roughly about eighty-six hours of training for a firefighter II. It is IFSAC and the rule says it has to be significantly similar. (Mr. Orahood asked the committee do we approve this application or deny it based on the rule and if we deny it, he would need to send the individual a letter saying it was denied because of insufficient hours on the verification of training form.)

After some discussion among the committee the consensus was to draft and send the individual a letter asking for additional information (there appears to be insufficient hours in all the objectives of a NFPA 1001 firefighter II standards) before a decision can be made –and in the letter to explain why we want the additional information.

Mr. Orahood asked the committee to consider when drafting the new fire rules with regards to equivalency to try and draft a rule so it isn't so subjective or substantially similar.

Executive Director, Richard Rucker

Mr. Rucker shared with the committee that Mike Glenn, Assistant Administrator for the Division has resigned his position with the Division of EMS and has accepted a position

with the United States Army in Germany to handle the trauma portion of the military hospital.

Legal Report, Heather Reed Frient

No report given.

Driver's Training Discussion, Phil McLean

Mr. McLean stated that at last months committee meeting there were three organizations that came and gave driver training presentations. Mr. McLean said he would like for the committee to draft a letter to the three individuals who gave presentations to give them some guidance with regards to what we're looking for. Mr. McLean said he felt it was clear that the committee is looking for a collaboration of them to get together and help with a standard of a training program that we can incorporate.

Mr. Gill stated that he didn't think as a committee we want to get into endorsing any particular program. He said he felt the committee should look at in order to be consistent with the rest of the hours in the objectives we look at them to give us some insight on what we think should be included and after that it would be up to the committee. What objectives do we want accomplished and how many hours should that take.

Mr. Orahood said that in the rules development for fire training the committee has to do it similar to what was done with live burn and tie it to the NFPA standard. We have to meet the NFPA standard to teach it in driver training and not dictate to individuals how they meet the standard.

After discussion among the committee it was suggested that they get a copy of the NFPA requirements and begin to look at those and base objectives from them.

Mr. McLean said that with all the transitions taking place with job positions that he would like to write a letter of support on behalf of the committee for Mr. Rucker.

ACTION: Motion to write a letter of support that can be readily available in the event it's needed for the past and present activities of EMS Executive Director Richard Rucker. Steele first. Gates second. None opposed. Motion approved.

Mr. McLean stated he will write the letter and make sure the committee receives a copy.

The Ohio Firefighters as most of you know there's an education committee that he plays a role in that. Mr. Orahood has agreed to become a part of that committee and will be attending some of the meetings. The first one for this year will be held on January 13th at the Fire Academy.

Report to EMS Board on Goals and Achievements for 2006/07

Mr. McLean reiterated to the committee that he gave the EMS Board a year end report on the accomplishments and upcoming 2007 goals for the committee on December 20th, 2006.

Mr. McLean stated that he felt that HB401 (training bill) was a monumental step regarding laws passed for fire training.

Mr. McLean said he will meet with Randy Hormann and others that began working on the Fire Safety Recognition Course in order to get the course finished in the first quarter of 2007, and will provide a presentation of the details to the committee once completed.

Future goals; objectives for driving, we need to make access for those who are looking at the 120 and 240 hour course to include WMD, NIMS and driving training.

The assistance of the fire academy and the Ohio Society of Fire Service Instructors and I think we should include the inspectors group, because we do need their input on what are the topics that they want to see for the continuing education for the inspectors.

Mr. McLean said that the current committee is made up of practitioners that have got a lot of work done and asked if it was time to revisit the creation of a Fire Board. Is it time that we think about the status of the EMS Board.

Mr. McLean opened it up to the committee for discussion.

After some discussion the consensus of the committee was to leave things as it is currently.

NEW BUSINESS

Scott Walker passed out a Train-the-Trainer flyer on the National Fallen Firefighters Program. A date has been set to have the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation Train-the-Trainer in March 2007. The program would allow thirty individuals to be trained as train-the-trainers and based on the organizations that would allow six individuals from each of the respective organizations to hand pick some one who they believe will actually do something with this program.

Mr. McLean stated that the Ohio State Firefighters Association quarterly meetings that were held on Saturday evenings are now being held on Saturday afternoons at the Fire Academy. The first one is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 13th.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Gill said he would get with Jeff and come up with some objectives that are tied to NFPA standards that will fit in the number of hours for Firefighter I and build on it for Firefighter II.

Firefighter and Fire Safety Inspector Training Committee

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Motion to adjourn. Babb first. Gates second. None opposed. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 11:42 a.m.