

FINAL

**FIREFIGHTER AND FIRE SAFETY INSPECTOR TRAINING COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
July 10, 2012**

Chaired by: Jim Steele

Meeting Date and Location: July 10, 2012, Ohio Department of Public Safety 1970 West Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43223

Committee Members Present: Jim Steele, Dudley Wright, Eric Waltemire, Richard Sacco, Phil McLean, Bob Babb

Committee Members Absent: Mark Lundy, Mark Mankins

Staff Present: Rachel Moore, Doug Orahod, Ellen Owens, John Sands

Guests: Dave Belcher, Ohio Society of Fire Service Instructors; Steve Goheen, Ohio Society of Fire Service Instructors/ Clark State Community College; Michael Vedra, Columbus Fire; Scott Walker, State Fire Marshal, Ohio Fire Academy

The meeting was called to order at 10:04AM.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE MAY 8, 2012 FIREFIGHTER AND FIRE SAFETY INSPECTOR (FFSI) TRAINING COMMITTEE MINUTES ALONG WITH THE CHANGES DISCUSSED DURING THE MEETING.

ACTION: Motion to approve the May 8, 2012 FFSI committee minutes along with the changes discussed during the meeting. Wright First. Sacco Second. None opposed. Motion approved.

OPEN FORUM

None

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Ellen Owens is filling in as the Interim Executive Director until a new one is hired for the Division. There were about 70 applications for the position, the applications are being reviewed by the selection committee, and interviews will be set up very soon. The intention is to have a new Executive Director selected and put into place as soon as possible.

House Bill 487 has been introduced and is in the process of getting set up, it will eliminate the requirement for individuals to fill out the DMA (Declaration Regarding Material Assistance) form in order to get an initial, renewal, equivalency, or reinstated certification. The date this will go into effect is September 10, 2012. Right now the

Division is working on ways as to how to phase the DMA form out as part of the webpage, and online applications etc.

Ms. Owens also stated that Mr. Kennington is no longer with the Division, his message on his old line states that anyone calling in to his phone can contact our main number for assistance.

Mr. Steele brought up the fact that the Fire Committee hasn't seen any fire continuing education exemptions in a long time. It used to be their duty to advise and council the Executive Director on whether or not their exemption from continuing education hours would be accepted. At one point, and no one was really aware who made the decision and when it was made, it had been decided that the requests for exemption from fire continuing education should go to the Fire Board members instead of to the Fire Committee for approval or denial. Mr. Steele mentioned that he would have liked the courtesy of knowing this decision had been made rather than just finding out randomly during a fire committee meeting, many months after the decision had been made.

OHIO SOCIETY OF FIRE SERVICE UPDATE

Dave Belcher is now the new President of the Ohio Society of Fire Service Instructors, and Steve Goheen is the Vice President. Just got back from the National Fire Academy for training.

STATE FIRE MARSHAL/OHIO FIRE ACADEMY REPORT

Mr. Walker presented the State Fire Marshal report, a grain bin rescue simulator is being constructed for the Ohio Fire Academy with the bulk of the construction being done by Ohio State University Agricultural Safety, and Engineering students. The plan is to have the simulator completed by late August/early September. The Department of Commerce which houses the State Fire Marshal as one of its branches, is hoping to be able to display the simulator as a static display at the Ohio State Fair. It will be a mobile unit that can be used around the state.

Deputy Chief State Fire Marshal Leaming was officially sworn into his new position yesterday, July 9, 2012.

They are looking to replace Pat Wambo as the head of the Fire Instructor training department.

The State Fire Marshal is working on improving and expanding their facilities to better serve their students.

CERTIFICATION REPORT

Mr. Sands distributed the certification totals for the month of July as well as for the year to date.

FIRE COORDINATOR REPORT

Mr. Orahood stated that they are working on updating the Fire Safety Inspector item bank for creating online testing. There are about 360 questions to work from in the item bank. The questions and pictures were reviewed in cooperation with the Ohio Fire Academy as a subject matter expert. We are hoping to have the item bank and the new test/tests completed by September of this year. There should be enough information to have at least five different exams.

The practical skills testing evaluator's training manual is being finished up and should be completed by January 1, 2013, at that time it will be mandatory for all schools to implement it.

The online testing module is being revamped and should be completed by August 1, 2013. It offers online test requesting and set up, this also includes the practical skill testing. As part of the new testing module, a test validation system is being built into it as well so that all questions can be validated electronically, in case there are any testing related challenges. The new testing system will also offer the ability to be able to run reports and do a statistical analysis.

The Fire Rules are in draft form and were forwarded to the Communications Department to be put on the website for public review and comment. They will be available for viewing until the end of July. All comments should be available to the Fire Committee by the September meeting, for review and to make changes on the rules. We are hoping to have all the changes and approvals made by the November meeting so that the rules can be filed by January 1, 2013. Any and all comments made by the public will be shared with the committee before changes will be made to the rules, after that point the rules will have to be put through the Common Sense Initiative.

The Fire Awards will be held in collaboration with the State Fire Marshal's award ceremony being held on September 20, 2012 at 11:00 during the Fire and EMS Expo at the Columbus Convention Center. During the expo, the Division will also be putting on the Program Director's conference because they will be able to reach a lot more individuals and won't be limited to a small number of individuals being able to attend due to space restrictions at the Department of Public Safety. There will be numerous opportunities for training for Fire and EMS personnel. On September 19, 2012, they will be out at the Ohio Fire Academy offering EMS and Fire hands on training and breakout sessions. On September 21, 2012, the educational breakout sessions will be held during the EMS & Fire conference. The breakout sessions are 90 minutes in length. Recipients for the Fire Awards will be selected by the Fire Committee.

The Ohio Fire Chiefs conference is being held in Sharonville, down by Cincinnati, this weekend it goes from July 13-15, 2012.

The Chempak and Trauma Triage online training programs offered by the Division of EMS have been relocated to the Department of Public Safety website.

A couple of the rewritten Fire Safety Inspector pilot tests were held at the Ohio Fire Academy, aside from a few small mistakes in the test write up, the test was very successful.

CHAIR'S REPORT

The Committee had requested information for Cuyahoga Community College on how their hybrid Fire Instructor course went, they wanted to get some stats and see how things went. Mr. Orahood mentioned that he hadn't heard anything from the Program Director about the course or how it went or anything. Mr. Orahood is going to contact Ted Huffman to follow up.

Haz Mat Update, Mr. Lundy and Mr. Steele met with the Haz Mat Tac on June 26, 2012, and the proposal to offer it as a state certification has remained unchanged. They still believe the training class should be 40 hours of training time. They are also strongly in favor of grandfathering people who took the original 24 hour Haz Mat class from years back. They would also like for the continuing education to maintain the certification should be 16 hours per year and should also be able to be counted as regular fire continuing education hours. They will need to show their training documentation in order to be able to renew their certification, and it can be accepted and signed off by their Fire Chief, or a Program Director of one of the state fire schools. They also discussed the survey that was sent to the fire departments around the state. They felt that the way one of the questions was written, it made it look like the state was thinking about mandating this certification for all firefighters. This is not the intent of the survey; it was just to take a general survey about what departments around the state thought about making this an optional state certification. They were very motivated about getting this process approved and move forward with it.

Mr. Orahood mentioned that he needs to know if a decision can be made by the Fire Committee on if ProBoard can be offered for training for Fire Officer 1 & 2. He needed to know if this was decided on by the committee if they wanted it to be something that was housed by the division, and any of the fire schools interested in teaching those courses would get the training and materials from the division, and after the training was completed, they could make application to get a ProBoard certificate for the course. Another option would be the fire schools could create the program and come before the fire committee to present their program for approval before they could run it. Mr. Orahood needs to know how the fire committee would like to handle this. Mr. Waltemire felt that it should be standardized throughout the state so that everyone is getting the same training. If schools in the state wish to offer ProBoard certificates, they will have to go through the state ProBoard accreditation in order to be able to offer that option, now that the Division of EMS is accredited as the state entity for ProBoard, and offering it to the fire schools. Mr. Steele mentioned that they had no information regarding this request and would like to have it added to the agenda for discussion before discussing this topic.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Goheen, the Program Director at Clark State Community College in Springfield, Ohio, mentioned that he would be very interested in the state offering ProBoard for Fire Officer 1-4; it has to be ProBoard approved in order for the course to be approved by the military. Mr. Goheen and Mr. Orahod will be working together to create this and the presentation to present before the committee. He has a guard base in his jurisdiction, and they need to be able to receive ProBoard for those certifications, in order to be able to transfer around as part of their job.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Wright asked about the status of the hybrid online 36 hour course that the Ohio Fire Academy is working on. Mr. Walker stated that they are waiting for textbooks and for their IT department to get it all set up. Basically it is still in the works.

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Mr. Steele entertained a motion to adjourn. Wright First. McLean Second. Meeting adjourned at 11:28.