

Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council Meeting
Tallahassee, FL
April 17, 2007

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT:

NAME

James Angle, Palm Harbor Special Fire Control Dist.
William Bryson, Miami Fire Department
Julie Downey, Davie Fire Rescue
Dr. Ron Nutter
Shayne Stewart, Okaloosa Island Fire District
Laurie Sweeney, Orange County Fire-Rescue Dept.
Rick Talbert, South Walton Fire District
Charles "Scotty" R. Taylor, Gainesville Fire Rescue
Ron Williams, Lake County Vo-Tech

REPRESENTING:

Fl Association of Special Districts
Fl Fire Chiefs' Association
State Fire Marshal
State Fire Marshal
State Fire Marshal
Fl Professional Firefighters
FL Fire Chiefs' Association
Fl Professional Firefighters
State Fire Marshal

ABSENT:

John Drago, City of Longwood
Greg Gay
Jon Pasqualone, Fl Fire Marshals and Inspectors Assoc.
Stockton Reeves VI, Insight Orlando

Fl League of Cities
State Fire Marshal
Fl Fire Marshals & Inspectors Assoc.
State Fire Marshal

Chairman Stewart requested a moment of silence in honor of the victims at the Virginia Tech Campus along with any of our brothers and sisters in the fire service and our military that we have lost.

Rick Talbert introduced himself as the new appointee from the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association to the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council. Rick Talbert is currently the president of the Florida Fire Chiefs' and is honored to serve the council. Currently the fire chief for the city of Titusville until 4/25 when he will become the Fire Chief at South Walton Fire District.

On a motion duly made, the minutes from the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council meeting held on January 25, 2007 were approved with a note of addendum referencing the January 25, 2007 Fire & Emergency Incident Information System Technical Advisory Panel minutes.

REPORT FROM DIVISION:

Director Hallman, to avoid redundancy, did not concentrate on the legislative issues which everyone present had already been informed of.

On file, the letter from Chairman Stewart to the CFO requesting safety positions. Legislative budget requests (LBR) is the normal process followed. Those positions were not requested in the original LBR so there is no way they can be entertained in this current budget cycle which begins July 1, 2007. The best hope is that they will be included in the next budget request.

On the issue of "conflict of interest", Lesley Mendelson (DFS Legal Counsel) has clarified the issue and feels that there are no conflicts of interest and the council can move forward with discussions. Director Hallman requested that those discussions be held starting at the next meeting so that all who might have interest may be properly notified.

Due to a family emergency, Chief Casey was unable to attend the meeting. It was decided that Chairman Stewart would go over Chief Casey's briefing (which was handed out) in his absence.

REPORT FROM THE BUREAU:

Two Tier Training Center Proposal: Director Hallman stated, if the council, as a whole, agrees upon this proposal, the council can make a recommendation and request to the Division, to move forward with it, the Division would then officially go into the rule making process. The council's input is normally the launching point for going to the rule making process.

The problem right now is, the current rules are not being enforced. Under the current rules, for a training center to be in compliance they must meet everything in the current rules. To do what the training centers are requesting, it would require modification of the current rules which can not be done.

Chief Bryson motioned that he would like the rules be listed as an agenda for discussion at the next meeting. Motion carried.

NFPA 1001: Charlie Brush, Standards Supervisor, gave a summary of changes and objectives.

Changes in Training hours:

FF1 - 234 hours

FF2 - 434 hours

Changes in Testing:

FF1 - will now have a practical exam.

FF2 – proposed modifications – working with training centers.
Chairman Stewart requested copies of all drafts. Charlie Brush will forward to council members.

Discussion was held on how these changes may affect the high school/cadet programs. Chief Casey is researching this and also researching the age requirement for FF1.

Director Hallman stated that, the Joint Administrative Procedure Council (JAPC) feels that since we are now focusing on FF1 that it would be appropriate for it to be included in F.S. Ch. 633. FF1 should be formally recognized. In order to do that, it needs to go through the legislative process.

Live Fire Training incidents still under investigation.

USAR Dedication – received final approval from CFO. The dedication will take place at the Fire College on May 25, 2007. It will be a dedication of the USAR training site along with recognition of the Florida USAR Teams. One or possibly both FEMA teams will be in attendance. Public announcement will be given on FSFC expansion and the additional 40 acres acquired.

Classrooms at FSFC will be getting a “face-lift” and updates.

OLD BUSINESS:

Training Center Update – discussion will be held at next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Council member Scotty Taylor has been elected as the First District Trustee by a vote of 27 – 7.

Director Hallman advised the council that the “Everyone Goes Home Safe” program has started a “Whistle Stop Tour”. The first stop will be on Monday, April 23, 2007 in Hialeah. It will be promoting the National Fallen Firefighters and “Everyone Goes Home Safe”, they are actually are going to run the “Courage To Be Safe” training program. Anyone who attends will receive that 4 hour program.

Director Hallman, for the last year has been trying to work a labor management type approach to the “Courage To Be Safe” program. The Florida Fire Chiefs’ Association is conducting regional training. The regionally trained people are now going out and finding their labor representative that will partner up with them. Director Hallman is hopeful that by this spring/early summer the Train-the-Trainer program will be brought to Florida. That will allow every region to have a chief officer conducting joint programs on “Courage To Be Safe”.

Ron Williams informed the council that with the cooperation of the Bureau, the training directors have formed a physical fitness committee.

There are three current projects:

- Physical Exams – possible problems with doctors not understanding what to look for.
- Physical Agility Test – to use throughout the state.
- NFPA change – class on fitness and nutrition for the firefighter. (To be added to FF1)

The committee would like to add more physical training to FF1/FF2. Currently there are only 8 hours of physical training. They are looking at this and hope to have recommendations ready to present to the council by the July meeting. They are also working towards and will be recommending to the council, the idea of designating certain physicians that will give the physical. To do that, the physician's would be brought to the training academy and have some type of short training course so they can actually see what the training consists of. This seems to be working well for other schools. They were also able to get a reduced rate for their students.

The committee's next meeting will be in May in Orlando.

On a motion duly made, Chief Bryson was nominated for Vice Chair of the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council.

Motion carried.

Chairman Stewart again asked the state to step in reference to the Escambia County issues.

AUDIENCE: None

NEXT MEETING: July 20, 2007, 10:30 a.m. Sanibel, FL

ADJOURN