

Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council Meeting
 October 9, 2009
 Conference Call/Ocala, Florida

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REPRESENTING:</u>	<u>TERM ENDING:</u>
James Angle Palm Harbor Special Fire Control Dist.	FL Association of Special Districts	10-2010 (2 nd term)
Julie Downey Davie Fire Rescue	State Fire Marshal	6-30-2010 (2 nd term)
Joe Palminteri Citrus County Fire Rescue	State Fire Marshal	6-30-2010 (2 nd term)
Ron Parrish St. Lucie County Fire District	Florida Fire Chiefs' Assoc.	6-30-2010 (2 nd term)
Jon Pasqualone Fl Fire Marshals and Inspectors Assoc.	FL Fire Marshals & Inspectors Assoc.	10-2010 (2 nd term)
Laurie Sweeney Orange County F/R Dept.	FL Professional Firefighters	6-30-2010 (2 nd term)
Ron Williams Lake County Vo-Tech	State Fire Marshal	10-11-2010 (2 nd term)

ABSENT:

Greg Gay	State Fire Marshal	11-21-2010 (1 st term)
Dr. Ron Nutter	State Fire Marshal	6-30-2010 (2 nd term)
Rick Talbert South Walton Fire District	FL Fire Chiefs' Association	01-13-2010 (2 nd term)
Charles "Scotty" R. Taylor Gainesville Fire Rescue	FL Professional Firefighters	10-2010 (2 nd term)

On a motion duly made, the minutes from the Firefighters Employment, Standards and Training Council meeting held on July 17, 2009 were approved.

Motion carried.

REPORT FROM DIVISION: *given by Chief Baker*

Report given at the previous meeting (Fire and Emergency Incident Information System Technical Advisory Panel). Please refer to those minutes.

REPORT FROM THE BUREAU: *given by Chief Barry Baker*

Expansion Project at FSFC:

We have a consensus on the expansion of the 50 acres across the street. We have developed a vision and have had a lot of discussion with constituent groups and have our thoughts together. A group of architectural students from the University of Florida will be taking “our vision” and putting pen to paper so we have something to look at.

One of the big things on the list is Aviation Training. What we found is that to be able to receive any kind of federal assistance through the FAA, that site actually needs to be physically on an airport and the application for the grant has to be submitted by the airport authority. So, what we have done is try to partner with the Ocala Airport which is actually owned by the City of Ocala. We are currently talking with them about how we might make that happen. Ironically, there was a similar project that took place with the FAA on that site and it failed. Several of those structures still exist. We will be visiting there next week to look at those structures and see where this takes us.

The strongest interest we are hearing from the constituency groups is a need for senior leadership training. To that end, we are looking at developing some sort of a leadership center where we could take senior executives and train them to deal with the complexities and difficulties that we find in today’s world so we can be competitive for resources to serve the citizens of Florida.

Another area we are looking at is a multi-disciplinary center or training associated with bringing such entities as law enforcement, fire, public works and health officials who often respond together on disasters and try to bring those people together for training so that we can enhance that training, get some face time, do some simulations to be even more effective before we go on deployments. We think there is some federal funding out there because as far as we know, there is currently nothing out there like this in the United States.

There is an interest in EVOC training and we have expanded that project a little bit to include some kind of a driving range that we could actually partner with some of our law enforcement agencies and get some of their money.

Going back to the Leadership Center, we are talking with Central Florida Community College (soon to be known as Central Florida College) about a program that they were going to do as part as a Bachelors initiative and see if we can some of that specialized

training here. Ironically, they have 30 million dollars for building and have no where to build. We'd like to have some of that money here.

Most of the things we are doing right now is looking at partnerships because there is not a lot of money so we can get something kicked off.

In the near future, we will be putting up a new sign here at the Fire College that will be lit and digitized at the bottom for messages. Additionally, we are going to be pushing down some trees and we will be putting a sign up across the street that says "Future Site Of" so we can start getting people to recognize that we are going to build. We have an opportunity to push down about 15 acres of trees on the site to put up a temporary shooting range to help our law enforcement brothers because theirs is temporarily out of service and they need something here locally which will get us actually into that land. We may do that. Right now it's all about partnerships and how we can work together to get something going pretty quickly.

We have been talking with Marion County about possibly building a fire station on that site in return for the citing of that fire station they would over build it so that we would have additional classroom space and commit to a program whereby our senior students would be able to ride along and get some practical experience before they go out there in the employment world.

Accreditation:

We are currently in the process of re-accreditation and new accreditation with Pro Board. That particular visit team was here this week. Next week they will be going before their thirteen member panel to consider our re-accreditation and new accreditation on the 13th. We should know the outcome by next week and we think it is going to be very positive. If so, that will actually be awarded to us at their annual meeting in Orlando in January.

There are some changes that we are going to have to make to meet the accreditation. An accreditation, in today's world, is an improvement in the quality of what we do. It requires an independent evaluation of the skills that we teach, independent of the instructor which we are not doing in all cases. In essence you are going to have a product that is evaluated by an independent source when you are done. What we found is that some of the things that we are doing are very difficult to continue and we are probably going to have to change. For example, we have Firefighter I (stand alone), Firefighter II (stand alone), and then Firefighter I/II. The Firefighter I/II at the end, is one written test and one practical test. What we are going to need to do is go back and look at stand alone tests for each of those. The reality is, we can not make a determination under the Pro Board standard with one written test whether or not you passed both sets of criteria because they are all mixed together. We are working with the training directors on how we can transition into that.

As it stands right now, for Firefighter I/II, if we were to continue testing that way, we could not get accreditation for it. Those are some of the things we are running across and

we are looking at opportunities for people who have trained earlier than the Pro Board Accreditation and how they might be able to do a bridge course and get the Pro Board Accreditation.

OLD BUSINESS:

Memorial Flag:

The Joint Council met and there is a draft rule that is being finalized with Legal. A few things still need to be ironed out trying to take into consideration the concerns and intent of the people who initiated the flag so that we capture the essence of what they intended.

The draft should be out in the near future and will be going through the rule making process with the public hearing.

NEW BUSINESS:

New Appointments:

Chief Ron Parrish has been newly appointed to the Council and replaces Chief William Bryson.

Other new appointments are in transition.

On a motion duly made by Chief Angle and Julie Downey it was decided to postpone the election of new officers for the Council until the January meeting.

Motion carried.

Procedure for implementation of changes in practical testing for FFI/II:

Allen Lovvorn explained that the time frame for the Firefighter I testing now includes a practical. Programs that start now, after October 1, 2009 will include that practical. Our staff along with some other folks that are assisting us are trying to come up with complete skill sheets that are reflective of the new Firefighter II standards and they will be intermingled with those. Unfortunately we do not have a test scheduled at the moment that includes the Firefighter II skills. We are in the process of where we could do that immediately if we needed to. We are trying to go through it very slowly and make sure that the new text book skills match the new skill sheets that will be tied to the Firefighter II skills. Most of the Firefighter I skills will be reflective of what we have already been doing. Now there will be a separation that occurs between those two. We are well on the way with it but it is not "in the box" as of yet.

Only for Pro Board Certification will there be separate grades for Firefighter I and Firefighter II skills. We are waiting for word back from the Training Director's Association on what impact that would have if we go to a separate grading of Firefighter

I and Firefighter II for a Minimum Standards class. In order to accommodate the Pro Board desires, we are going to have to do that but we are not locked into doing that with Florida Certification, in fact, it would require a code change to implement.

The first step is trying to identify what the impacts are. Once we get that feedback, we will try to work through the issues and determine what the best plan is. At that point, it would be brought to the Council for recommendation.

We are going to have to move in the direction of adding a practical testing component for Firefighter I (Firefighter I stand alone). That would increase the number of tests given by our examiners. Using last year's numbers, that would make an additional 800 tests and that number is steadily increasing. We simply we can not accommodate that many more additional exams without figuring out a way to make it work better. We are reasonably certain that the Firefighter I (stand alone) and at some point Firefighter II written exams will be given by Pearson Vue.

Chief Baker added that we have been very flexible as we are working through this transition to make sure that there is not any impact to either the training centers or to their students. We know that the change is somewhat difficult and it will require some effort during the transition so we are trying our best to make sure no one is disproportioned in this.

Chief Angle advised Council members to bring their statements/comments to the January meeting at Fire Rescue East which will be a face-to-face meeting.

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, January 21, 2010, Daytona Beach
10 minutes upon adjournment of FFIRS meeting.**

ADJOURN.