



STATE OF TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE &
INSURANCE COMMISSION ON FIRE FIGHTING
COMMISSION BUSINESS MEETING
Gatlinburg, Tennessee
April 2022

CALL TO ORDER (Commissioner Biggs)

ROLL CALL (Director Grande)

Commissioner Brian C. Biggs

Commissioner William Scott
Commissioner Jay Moore
Commissioner Stephanie Specht
Commissioner David Windrow
Commissioner Gary Farley
Commissioner Solomon

Members not present

Commissioner Carter Lawrence
Commissioner Tommy Kelley
Commissioner Michael Henry
A quorum has been established

Commerce and Insurance/Fire Prevention Staff Present:

Anthony Grande- Executive Director- Fire Commission
Commissioner Gary Farley
Leigh Ferguson- Chief Counsel
Kim Cooper- Legal
Brian Nicholson – Fire Coordinator
Michael Miranda – Fire Coordinator
Cheryl Deener- Administrative Assistant
Fred McCay- Accreditation

Jeff Elliott – TFACA Director, Fire service Program

Jason Sparks, TFACA Field Supervisor

Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Scott: Motion by to approve minutes from previous meeting, seconded by Commissioner Solomon.

Commissioner Biggs: Motion approved

Commissioner Farley- I have asked for a position within the Firefighting Commission and should get it in the new budget.

TFACA Sparks- Basic Training and live burns for volunteers will be free, and a four (4) hour in service class will be free. Fire Chief's conference is 6/11 and 6/12/2022. Spring recruit class graduates on 5/6/22 at 10 AM. The fall recruit class begins 8/22/2022.

Communications

Director Grande- A few concerns, those will come through legal. Other communications are IFSAC will be on campus for their site visit July 18-20th, Proboard has yet to set a date for their site visit.

Legal

Kim Cooper, 1-Two (2) items.

(1) a complaint on documentation for training hours, we are following up on this complaint. It appears to be more auditing and training needs to be completed.

(2) A former firefighter is soliciting donations and some training, who is out of state currently. We are following up to see if it is a 501C3. It seems to be a legitimate organization, but we are still following up.

Reciprocity

Brian Nicholson- There is a back log of large submissions. We are getting our normal flow of applications as well. For the 1st quarter, 95 applicants were approved for 249 certifications, at this rate we should be back on track for about 1000 reciprocities. With having to validate with agencies and organizations I have created a list of contacts. It can take up to a few days to weeks for confirmation. Agencies are sending me certifications pre-hire to make sure they will qualify before hiring.

Director Grande: 2021 EIP update: I am very thankful of the career departments helping and mentoring volunteer departments with programs. I have spoken to an East Tennessee department's chief on helping with training. There are volunteer departments still working on submitting programs and we are still doing 101 classes.

Accreditation

Fred McCay- After six (6) revisions, Proboard is finally under review. IFSAC reaccreditation has been submitted. We are working on NFPA 1021, Officer series, in 14 years of doing test validations the Fire Officer I and II projects and products have been updated. These are the worst validations I have done. We had a hard time correlating the test banks to the textbooks. Fire Officer III is a single textbook from Jones & Bartlett. Fire Officer IV is a single book, but I was able to blend PTS and J&B together to get test banks with 200 questions. Wildland Firefighter I & II's are changing to NFPA 1140, but we have not seen as much testing for those certification.

Do we want to invest time in accrediting Wildland firefighter I & II since we are not seeing a return?

Commissioner Windrow: Does TFACA get the red cards?

Director Elliott: No, it must come through forestry.

Commissioner Windrow: Can we ask forestry to bring it?

Director Elliott: The problem is that the pack part is good for only one year and it is a problem getting people renewed on the pack.

Commissioner Grande: This is about certification, ours in Tennessee is good, but without the red card, people can not for to different states and help fight wildfires.

Leigh Ferguson: Is it another state agency?

Director Grande: Forestry. We feel the training is very important.

Commissioner Windrow: Is the Wildland firefighter certification working as what the requesting agency needs?

Commissioner Biggs: We need to review and discuss, no decision today.

Fred McCay: Group 1-47 is the new NFPA 1072, Standard 472. NFPA 1033 stays the same, NFPA 1051 Wildland firefighter is going to NFPA 1140, Wildland protection.

We have a trip to Oklahoma scheduled for the IFSAC conference.

Is there a reason we need to be dual accredited?

Proboard versus IFAC; there is no need to be dual accredited, just Inspector I to get ICC for licensure in Tennessee. Proboard will not accept correlations that you do for IFSAC. Both have the same creditability. Looking at numbers, you will discontinue it. 4,000 IFSAC and only 700 issued through Proboard. If we change to only IFSAC we do not need to keep Hazardous Materials Awareness through Proboard because they already get it though IFSAC. Proboard memberships get us 550 certifications at \$5.50. We could do this at no cost to the person and no extra cost to the Commission.

Commissioner Scott: Would we want to drop Wildland Firefighter from IFSAC as well?

Commissioner Windrow: That is a separate question.

Commissioner Scott: So, we are going to drop Proboard on everything except Inspector I. Then would look beneficial to keep Wildland Firefighter I & II on IFSAC. If we drop Proboard I want us to be able to add the technical rescue side.

Fred McCay: Correct if we drop Proboard and we can open more lines of certifications.

Director Grande: We would still accept Proboard for reciprocity.

Fred McCay: If you want me to continue with Wildland Firefighter with IFSAC?

Commissioner Windrow: Motion to reduce all Proboard except Inspector I. Seconded by Commissioner Scott.

Josh Webb: People who got the Proboard application can get Proboard? They only have until the standard changes.

Commissioner Farley: Can we send letter to the fire service of the update?

Commissioner Windrow: They have the Proboard application so even if we stayed when the standard changes the application will not be any good.

Commissioner Biggs: There are more IFSAC than Proboard.

Motion carries.

This will not take effect until the site visit in July.

New Business

Commissioner Biggs: 2021 EIP, we are taking these separate.

1. Vonore- Daniel Amschler requested an extension from the deadline because of his father's medical issues out of state. Motion to accept by Commissioner Scott and seconded by Commissioner Solomon.
2. Quito VFD- No one is here, they had tornados. Motion to accept by Commissioner Windrow, seconded by Commissioner Specht.

Kim Cooper: If you have questions, we have another meeting they can attend.

Commissioner Windrow: Amended Motion to move Quito VFD and other departments that can be here, seconded by Commissioner Specht. Motion carries.

Legal and Waivers

Leigh Ferguson: Update on the rules for EIP program, the emergency rules have expired. The only way to submit waivers to approve the volunteer departments who submitted late will be put in June meeting.

Commissioner Biggs: Gibson County

Assistant Chief Belton Withers: we are going to move your request to the June meeting.

Commissioner Solomon: Motion to defer, seconded by Commissioner Moore. Motion carries.

Commissioner Biggs: Gallatin

Jeff Beamon: We missed the deadline, and I just became Chief.

Commissioner Scott: Motion to approve the waiver, seconded by Commissioner Solomon.

Approves waiver.

Commissioner Biggs: Franklin

Ben Marlor: The training chief failed to submit the excel spreadsheet.

Commissioner Specht: Motion to approve the waiver, seconded by Solomon. Motion carries.

Commissioner Biggs: Paris Landing Community

Director Grande: The paperwork was submitted before March 2nd.

Commissioner Scott: Motion to accept the waiver, seconded by Commissioner Cobb. Motion carries.

Commissioner Biggs: East Hickman waiver request.

Commissioner Specht: Motion to approve the waiver, seconded by Commissioner Scott. Motion carries.

Commissioner Biggs: Johnson City waiver request.

Commissioner Specht: Motion to approve the waiver, seconded by Commissioner Scott. Motion carries.

Commissioner Biggs: Cosby Fire Department

Commissioner Cobb: Motion to approve the waiver, seconded by Commissioner Moore. Motion carries.

Commissioner Solomon: Motion to add Inspector ICC cert as meeting the prerequisites as Inspector I to move on to Inspector II. ICC is no longer in Proboard, so we have not been able to give reciprocity now. Seconded by Commissioner Specht. Motion carries.

Course Approvals

Turner Group: Chief Lee Turner has five (5) classes, Foam, Gas Monitoring, RIT, Surviving Fire Situations, Chemical Suicide Tactical Consideration.

Commissioner Solomon: Motion to approve courses, seconded by Commissioner Moore. Motion carries.

Tennessee Fireman's Association has three (3) courses, Hoarder Rescue, Advanced Firefighter Rescue and Survival,

Commissioner Scott: Motion to approve courses, seconded by Commissioner Solomon.

Director Grande: 0360.07.01.06- death benefits need some clarification. A firefighter dies while employed, no matter the training you get the salary supplement? We want to make sure we are teaching correctly.

Commissioner Biggs: We can fix that in rule change for dies while employed.

Kim Cooper: If it is the pleasure of the commission, regardless of their training you can clarify that by rule.

Commissioner Scott: Motion that the intent of the rule was no matter the training, if they die while a volunteer or career firefighter, they get EIP, seconded by Commissioner Specht. Motion carries.

Commissioner Biggs: Comments or suggestions for the audience?

Commissioner Biggs: Motion for Next meeting June 15th at 1PM and 16th 9AM

Chief Brown, Putnam County would like to host our next meeting.

Commissioner Scott: Motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Solomon. Motion carries to have the next meeting in Cookeville.

Commissioner Windrow: Motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Moore. Motion carries.