

Motion to Approve by Windrow, 2nd by Henry - Motion passed



STATE OF TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE & INSURANCE
COMMISSION ON FIRE FIGHTING

WORK SESSION MINUTES

February 25, 2019
1:00 P.M. Central Time

Brentwood Library
8109 Concord Road
Brentwood, Tennessee 37027.

- 1 **CALL TO ORDER** (Commissioner Sorge)
- 2 **ROLL CALL** (Director Fox) – Members Present

Commissioner Brian C. Biggs
Commissioner Michael Henry
Commissioner Tommy Kelley
Commissioner Darryl Kerley
Commissioner Jay Moore
Commissioner Matthew Sorge
Commissioner Stephanie Specht
Commissioner David Windrow
Commissioner Steve Majchrzak

Members not present

Commissioner Toran Hedgepath
Commissioner Julie McPeak

A quorum was been established

Commerce and Insurance/Fire Prevention Staff Present:

Randy Fox – Executive Director – Fire Commission
Joseph Underwood – Chief Counsel
Fred McCay – Accreditation Manager

Michael Miranda – Fire Coordinator
Steve Cross – Fire Coordinator

Guest Present

| | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Wesley Vaughn | Lexington FD |
| Randy Ellis | Clarksville FD |
| Jeff Elliott | TFACA |
| James Jennings | Franklin FD |
| Michael Pardue | Franklin FD |
| Scot Hughes | Williamson County FD |
| David Dorris | Jackson FD |

Reports Regarding Certification Director Fox

I think I got a few reports just to share with you, just some things to kind of talk about for the first few moments if you have questions about, I'll pass these out to you. Basically, it's some numbers that we ran in the office about the last five years. Nothing earth shattering but just kind of let you know where we're at in the world of certification.

Just to kind of give you a run down on the numbers, the first page is a Certification Report from '14 to '18, covers those five years. Shows you what levels we have certified, and the numbers in those levels. Some of those levels weren't on line in '14, such as Fire Officer 4 and 3, Inspector 1 and 2. You'll see that we have zeros in there in Rescue but you can see how we've come along with that. And to date, well, end of the year, not to to date but to the end of '18 we had 25,234 certifications that had been issued by the Fire Commission. We go to the backside you can actually see a five-year report on exams that had been given from '14 all the way through '18. You can see that we have come up from a 54% pass rate from '14 to an overall five year of 68.32% pass rate. So, we actually come up about 20 points to 2018 to a 74% pass rate in our written exams. So, that's a good sign there. You can see the number of test events over five years, the reciprocities. And you can kind of see that they stayed pretty consistent for '15, '16, and '17. And you can see they really jumped in '18 and a lot of that was due to Memphis, and lateral classes, and things of that nature that's gone on in Memphis that they've done.

Departments and educational incentive pay, they've grown from 90 in 2014 up to 105 to date. The last two years have been 105. We're probably going to hit about that same number again this year. Fire fighters receiving pay, you can see a

steady growth in that. Don't know that it'll be more this year but we definitely can see a growth in that over a five-year period. Total paid out in educational incentive pay for those five years is \$18,310,200. Also, you can see the growth in Pro Board certifications as well as what people are buying through Pro Board. There was a price increase. It went from \$15 to 17.50. I believe it was last year or the year before last. That's another reason for the growth but you can see that 1,767 Pro Board certifications been issued from Pro Board through our partnership with them on accreditation. And you can tell that's generated quite a bit of revenue.

They charge us \$2500 a year to participate. That's a flat annual fee, however, they waive that fee because of the participation in the program. To kind of let you know we don't pay that \$2500 because of that participation. And we were the last state entity that was accredited by Pro Board that had this option. Because now any state or entity that gets into Pro Board they have to do the certifications at the state level or the entity level.

During that period we've issued 16,168 IFCAC seals. And bear in mind that number is different from your 25,000 certifications because at that time a lot of the certifications we issued were not accredited, such as PDO, and apparatus operator, and things of that nature, which have been accredited since then, Wildland Fire Fighters and others.

Do you all have any questions on that? I know it's a lot of data and stuff to kind of throw at you but it's kind of good for us to stop and see where we've come from and where we're at.

CHAIRMAN SORGE: I'd just like to commend your staff and the Fire Service as a whole for increasing the participation in the programs, I think you guys have done outstanding and that needs to be recognized because I've had the pleasure of being here for many years, and have been here for this whole five years, and I think the changes and progressions that we've made along with the hard work that's happening in your office is reflected in these numbers. So congratulations to you and your staff – for doing an outstanding job.

DIRECTOR FOX: Thank you.

DIRECTOR Fox: I've got a lot of my staff here and several girls back in the office, as well. And our contractors out in the field and you all make it possible to make it work. Any other questions or comments concerning that?

That's a great segue into our next item. Basically, this report was put together at the request of the Governor. I want to share this data with you as well because you are from all across the state of Tennessee. And there are 15 counties

in this report that we have been asked to expand our reaches into when we have availability and time. And because you all are across the state and these counties, I wanted you to look at this report that we submitted to Gary Farley so they could submit it on further up the chain to put together a big comprehensive report. I guess you would call them distressed.

It's the Governor's Executive Order One and our research on the in those 15 counties. Basically, those 15 counties are starting in West Tennessee and going East will be: Lake; Lauderdale; Hardeman; McNary; Perry; Jackson; Clay; Grundy; Van Buren; Bledsoe; Fentress; Morgan; Scott; Hancock; and Cocke counties. And, basically, what our charge was was to see which of these identified counties participated in educational incentive pay. And, basically, we only had three departments out of those 15 counties that did. And which of those counties were exempt from TCA 4 24 112, which are the minimum training standards. And, basically, eight of those counties are exempt. And we wanted to identify which of those counties had a department in them that participated in our certification program in the last five years. And, basically, you can go to each page and you can see our statements regarding Lake County and Lauderdale and they all look the same. And we identified the departments within those counties with some help from Greg Adams with the State Fire Marshal's Office. So, if you have contact with these departments, and I know my coordinators will also, in the future and we're in those areas that we want to kind of stop in and do a little door knocking and see if we can assist these departments with our services. Now, that's not to say there's not other counties out there and other departments that are in the same shape but these are the 15 counties that were identified for us to report on.

Are there any questions on that? Like I say, the city of Bolivar in Hardeman County was one in educational incentive pay. And then we had Cocke County and the Newport Fire Department in Cocke County as well. And then you can go through the list of fire departments listed on there and see the ones that we've actually had certification testing in within those last five years as well, any questions or comments?

COMMISSIONER BIGGS: So, Cocke County, they participated up until '17, is that the way I read it right?

DIRECTOR FOX: Yes, but see we're still in '18 reporting. In other words I don't have '18, 2018 data on them. They have submitted it but it didn't make it into this report because it's been since then. Anybody else have any questions or comments?

If not, I will move forward on the agenda.

3 Wildland Fire Fighting Course Changes Request - Michael Miranda

DIRECTOR FOX: Michael Miranda has comments to make on that that we conducted in our last work session in Jackson, some concerns that he would like to address and maybe we can discuss those.

MICHAEL MIRANDA: My recommendation to admen the 211 course requirement, which is the Pumps for Wildland Fire Fighter 2. I believe it would be satisfactory if somebody already has Pumper Driver Operator or Aerial, which far exceeds the amount of preparatory training for that 211 class. That 211 class is not an online class, it's instructor led only. I believe it's going to be a bit of a challenge for the folks in the Fire Service to find a Forestry 211 class to cover Pumps. The questions on the exam that would not be answered by having Pumper Driver Operator, or Aerial, or Fire Apparatus Operator, they can watch a 10 minute YouTube video on the Mark Three Pump and have a sufficient knowledge in regards to the specific questions regarding the Mark Three Pump that's on our exam. And I believe it would benefit everybody if somebody has Pumper Driver Operator, Aerial, or FAO certification that that requirement be waived for that, for the 211 class. In addition, if someone had the intro to Pumps class that, I think we could also substitute for that 211 class if you guys so saw fit to do so.

JEFF ELLIOTT: They really educated me that day on that, on that portion. The YouTube video that you referenced, I know that's what that committee was saying was just a very specific one type pump.

MICHAEL MARANDA: It's a specialized trash pump essentially. It's just a very specific type of pump that has certain questions that are attached to it. They can watch that video and, the YouTube video, and get the information they're going to need.

DIRECTOR FOX: Could we get the link for that? And attach it to our folder on our website concerning Wildland?

MICHAEL MIRANDA: We sure can and probably get with whoever does the online stuff through Acadis and we can actually have that as the video they have to watch

and we'd have documentation that they watched the video for our one-on-one class.

DIRECTOR FOX: Would that be something that we could work with you all on at TFACA?

MICHAEL MIRANDA: At least there's documentation we have, yes. They have attended it and watched that 10-15 minute video.

DIRECTOR FOX: Basically, at our last meeting I think by vote we amended the Wildland Fire Fighter Course to require that, so, I would assume it would take a vote to un-require it, correct, Joe?

JOE UNDERWOOD: Yes, I do recommend that. It goes with that ruling.

CHAIRMAN SORGE: We'll need a motion, somebody to make a motion and a proper second to outline that for that to happen. That's how we can overturn what was done last –

MOTION BY: Commissioner Specht SECOND BY: Commissioner Henry

Motion to: Add to the S211 course requirement as alternatives for meeting the training the following:

Intro to Pumps and Commission approved YouTube Video on Mark Three Pump. Or

PDO and Commission approved YouTube Video on Mark Three Pump. Or

FAO and Commission approved YouTube Video on Mark Three Pump. Or

AADO and Commission approved YouTube Video on Mark Three Pump.

RESOLUTION

Vote: 8 – Yea 0 – Nay 0 – Abstain

MOTION CARRIED

4 – HMA & HMO Outlines –

The commission entered into a lengthy discussion on an instructor tool kit from Jones & Bartlett to meet the course requirements for HMA & HMO under NFPA 1072 with no decision being made today and moved to tomorrow's business meeting.

Brief Recess

2:10 P.M. – 2:35 P.M.

5 – Work Session on Training Courses/In-Service Submissions –

The commission entered into a lengthy discussion on training courses and in-service submissions with no action being taken.

CHAIRMAN SORGE: At this point I suggest that we just dig into the rules and that a Rules Work Session be planned and we'll try to solve some of these issues there.

CHAIRMAN SORGE: Anybody got anything else?

COMMISSIONER SPECHT: Motion to adjourn.

COMMISSIONER HENRY: Second.

CHAIRMAN SORGE: Got a proper motion from Commissioner Specht and a proper second from Commissioner Henry to adjourn. All in favor?

(All respond aye)

CHAIRMAN SORGE: All right, we're out of here.

(Meeting adjourned 4:45 P.M.)



STATE OF TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE & INSURANCE

COMMISSION ON FIRE FIGHTING

COMMISSION BUSINESS MEETING

Brentwood Library
8109 Concord Road
Brentwood, Tennessee 37027
February 26, 2019
(9:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.)

The business meeting of the Tennessee Commission on Firefighting Personnel Standards and Education was called to order by Chairman Sorge at 9:00 A.M. Central Time on February 26, 2019, at the Brentwood Library, 8109 Concord Road, Brentwood, Tennessee 37027

I. PRAYER – Charlie Vance

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Jay Moore

Assistant Commissioner Farley ask for a moment of silence for Chief Jason Byrd from Fayette County who passed away

III. Roll Call – Director Fox - Members Present:

Commissioner Biggs
Commissioner Henry
Commissioner Kelley
Commissioner Kerley
Commissioner Moore.
Commissioner Sorge
Commissioner Specht
Commissioner Windrow
Commissioner Majchrzak

Members Not Present:

Commissioner Hedgepath.
Commissioner McPeak

A quorum has been established.

Commerce and Insurance / Fire Prevention Staff Present:

Randy Fox – Executive Director –Fire Commission
Michael Miranda – Fire Coordinator
Brian Nicholson – Fire Coordinator
Fred McCay-Accreditation Manager
Joseph Underwood – Chief Counsel – C&I

Jeffrey Elliott – Fire Service Program Director – TFACA
Steven Snow- Codes Program Director – TFACA

Guest:

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| Nick Wilson | Hamilton County Fire Training |
| Jody Clift | Hamilton County Fire Training |
| Rip Rohen | Hamilton County Fire Training |
| Randy Ellis | Clarksville FD |
| Trichelle Wilson | TEMA |
| Wesley Vaughn | Lexington FD |
| Mark Matthews | Red Bank FD |
| Nick Adams | Brentwood FD |
| Michael Pardue | Franklin FD |
| Terry Hollis | Nashville FD |
| Joe Kennedy | TEMA |
| Scot Hughes | Williamson County FD |
| Charles Vance | Nashville FD –Retired |
| Jacob Warren | Fairview FD |

IV. MINUTES:

MOTION BY: Commissioner Specht **SECOND BY:** Commissioner Moore

Motion to: Approve the Commission Minutes from December, 2018 as submitted.

Call for the question - None

RESOLUTION:

Vote: 7 – Yea 0 – Nay 0 – Abstain – 1 - Sorge

MOTION CARRIED

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

VI. GUEST:

JEFF ELLIOTT: So, at the Jackson meeting I announced that we had done some restructure at the Fire Academy, that we had made two internal promotions being Jason Sparks as the Field Supervisor and then Joey Edwards as the Campus Supervisor and also the Supervisor over Curriculum. I'll just get him to raise his hand. Joey came with me today. Joey's actually been with the Academy probably close to five years. Primarily, responsibility with over the recruit program so we're, we're very excited about that.

We have then filled one of the new positions, Ben Wexler, who was a past captain, Kingsport Fire Department and the current Warrior's Path Fire Chief, was hired as the East Tennessee Coordinator. So, he will be at the April Commission Meeting.

The Fire Academy started our first 2019 recruit class yesterday. Yesterday's report would have said there are 34 recruits. We have 23 males staying on campus, and one female on campus, and the remainders are commuters. And then we are starting a second class. That will start April 8th. So, we'll have several weeks of a rollover, of a dual enrollment. That class will exceed 30 also. And it appears that the demand is already there. So, in fall, most likely, we will have another dual enrollment recruit class. So, we're trying to stay on top of the new demand that was made by so many SAFER grants being awarded in the area. I ran a report Sunday, since January 1st we've taught about 215 classes. So, it's been a very busy January and February. Most of those related to teaching the four hour in service classes that career fire departments are using as part of their incentive paid 40 hour in service.

And then I'll just mention some training opportunities. And I may see if Scott Hughes wants to join in. But there are three upcoming training opportunities. The first, being a Williamson County training event.

SCOTT HUGHES: Notification opening up state wide will go out end of today, early tomorrow. It's April 6th and 7th posting a total of nine classes. One's already filled completely up. It's at no cost to the firemen attending. Williamson County EMA will be picking up the cost for all the training for students to attend.

JEFF ELLIOTT: All right, Smoky Mountain Weekends registration is open so those, those numbers are already starting to roll in. Smoky Mountain Weekend dates are June 8th and 9th. And then the final training opportunity that I will reference is there's going to be a minimum of four free training opportunities in conjunction with the Tennessee Fire Chief's Annual Conference that's being held in July in Murfreesboro. There are three direct delivery NFA classes that are already on the portal, open registration for the Saturday and Sunday preconference. And then the Monday there's going to be full eight hour cancer awareness. And this one is a very big scale, in other words, the Firefighters Cancer Network is the lead supporter of it bringing in some very keynote speakers for that. So, there'll be really four free training opportunities as preconference settings for the annual Chiefs' Conference.

COMMISSIONER SORGE: Outstanding work as always. We thank you.

STEPHEN SNOW: Stephen Snow, Director of Codes Program at the Fire and Codes Academy.

STEPHEN SNOW: We had our pilot class that was initiated for Fire Inspector 2 on January 28th. We've wrapped that up. We had a very successful program. We had 16 students. A lot of those students were asked to come because of their involvement in Fire Inspector 1. So, we enjoyed the continuum of having that, some of those who were in the pilot class for Fire Inspector 1. We had a pass rate of 100% although they didn't all skate through. And that was good. We don't want to make it too easy. But we were glad that the individuals who took the course did well. I do think there was an elevated intensity with those who attended. They really wanted to show well. They all participated well. I was impressed with the group. And, so, between 70% and 89%, I think, were the scores for passing.

We did all of our Fire Inspector 2 in two weeks. Included in that was Plan Review. We had, we had four days of Plan Review that we really wanted to emphasize but there's still more Fire Inspector 2 material apart from Plan Review and there's still more Plan Review. So, what

we'd like to do in May is a have a Plan Review class that will be a prerequisite to the class for Fire Inspector 2, which will be in June. That way we can get all of the Fire Inspector 2 material that we'd like to into the class but the students will already have been prepared with the plan review knowledge that they need for Fire Inspector 2. We don't want anyone to go out and go onto the job not knowing how to read plans at this level. And, again, the students responded very well. We have Brian Nicholson from the Firefighting Commission, he was, he was monitoring the class and I think that he would attest to the intensity of the students and the success of the class. We enjoyed having him. We appreciate your letting him attend.

DIRECTOR FOX: So, with that being said, I would assume you would be bringing a Plans Examiner class back for approval?

STEPHEN SNOW: Yes, this, the initial class is not an attempt at certification at all. It's mainly a TFACA prerequisite. But as soon as we can we're going to initiate Plan Review as a certification in cooperation with the Commission and at your pace. But I don't think this is the time, but for consideration I'd like to think that it would be a possibility that you all would consider allowing anyone who takes the weeklong Plans Examiner class before the certification is ready then they might possibly be able to sit for the exam when it does become available from the Fire Fighting Commission. But I'll let you all think on that.

DIRECTOR FOX: Any other questions or comments for Mr. Snow?

COMMISSIONER SORGE: Thank you, sir, for your update.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS:

VIII. DIRECTORS REPORT:

DIRECTOR FOX: At this time I will yield the floor to our legal counsel, Joe Underwood, and after that Commissioner Windrow on Legislation, things of that nature.

JOE UNDERWOOD: Legal report, I have explained that an Executive Order was filed by the Governor regarding a moratorium on rulemaking for 90 days, which will expire May the 2nd. So, in the next work sessions or so we will discuss rules going forward into the next year.

DIRECTOR FOX: Okay, Commissioner Windrow?

COMMISSIONER WINDROW: A few pieces of legislation will touch us directly. The salary supplement only has real traction but, again, most of the committees haven't met yet, is to increase it by \$200, which would take effect July 2019. So, it wouldn't be this year's money, it would be next. Again, because you have to do Police and Fire that's about a 3 1/2 million dollar proposal. So, whether that survives the budget process, fiscal is what usually kills every bill. It's not that they don't want to do it it's just, I meant to ask, I'm guessing they broke ground or at least they're getting the architectural done for the new conference center at the Academy. It's got to be moving, right?

COMMISSIONER MAJCHRZAK: The pre-bid's on Friday.

COMMISSIONER WINDROW: So, that's a lot of money going to the fire school, I mean, but they boil it down up there, we get that 4 million, the conference center's being built. They'll go, well, the Fire Service, we're done with, you know, they've used up their pot. So, we have to be careful because we've got work in the Tennessee Fire Service Coalition, which if you don't know who those are that's the IAAI, Fire Safety Inspectors, Electronic Security, Firemen, Fire Chiefs, and I'm forgetting some members, six members. And then you have the Professional Fire Fighters, which Eddie Mitchell's the president of. We're actually working real close this year on the Cancer Presumption Bill. Currently there are two bills going forward. There's no way two bills will make it all the way. At some point they'll be, either one will be held or be blended.

So, Fire and Arson, again, there's a proposal to move those people to TBI. I didn't realize there are only five agents that moved the first time, two years ago. There are 23 more agents to move. So, that's a big impact to Fire Service, especially for the small communities. That's, doesn't affect us as much but it's out there for the Fire Service.

And I would just encourage Fire Department Day on the Hill is next week. Wednesday morning we have a picture with the Governor at 8:30 behind the Capital. Professional Firefighters, I believe, is tomorrow in Nashville. So, were heading in back-to-back weeks with some of the same messages. So, if you can be there you're welcome to be there. Lunch is free out at EBS on Dickerson. They took over the old Cumberland Shop. So, there's, they're having kind of a grand opening but they're also providing transportation so, free parking, free lunch, free breakfast. Just e-mail me if you'd like to come.

DIRECTOR FOX: And along those same lines you have an agenda item on your iPad. It wasn't in your packet agenda item VIII 1, that's the Sun Set for the Fire Commission. Senate Bill 139 and House Bill 470. That extends the Commission to June the 30th, 2025. And that's in the process of going through the legislative process as well. Just for your information.

Any questions or comments? Hearing none, I will yield to my Accreditation Coordinator, Mr. McCay, to give us a status on where we are at on Pro Board, and our extensions, and what's been submitted, and where we're at.

FRED MCCAY: We got everything submitted to Pro Board for extension for 1072. It's through the reviewers' hands and so it's waiting on the May 15th, 16th meeting for them to approve it. With IFSAC on 1072 all I have to do is e-mail them, tell them that we're updating except for 6.3 and 6.4, which is the technical decon, mass decon and technical decon, which we're extending accreditation for those two levels of competencies. Has to go in for administrative review and it's sitting in the queue ready to go at this time.

DIRECTOR FOX: And just to clarify that, so, you don't think it's, it's a new part of operations that we hadn't been accrediting in the past or certifying in the past, but we have been doing 6.1 and 6.6.

FRED MCCAY: 6.2 and 6.6.

DIRECTOR FOX: Yeah. You don't see that on a certificate but that's part of that process because those are required to be in operations. Correct?

FRED MCCAY: Right.

DIRECTOR FOX: Any questions or comments for Fred?

DIRECTOR FOX: Next item we'll have will be a Reciprocity Status Report from Brian Nicholson.

BRIAN NICHOLSON: For the record I'm Brian Nicholson, Tennessee Fire Commission Regional Coordinator and Reciprocity Manager. Low numbers on your report due to my absence. I had surgery the very, just after the holidays, the very first of the year and I was out for about three and half weeks. And then had the honor of attending the pilot course for Fire Inspector 2, which I was honored to be a part of. Since the report, I believe, your report indicates there were 23 certifications issued. There is now 66 year to date. We have 18 applications for reciprocity that are in the queue, which will probably push that number above 100 certifications issued by the end of this month.

DIRECTOR FOX: Any questions or comments? (No response)

DIRECTOR FOX: All right, the next item you have on your agenda will be from our side of the house will be Courses Approved by Submittal, item VIII.d. And that's been submitted since our last Commission meeting in Madison County in Jackson, Tennessee back in December. To let you have a glance of what's coming through the office.

Hearing none, we will be having, Fred and I will be attending the IFSAC conference the first week of April in Oklahoma City. That's gone through the process and been approved for both of us to attend that.

Next item that everybody's concerned about will be item VIIIe. That will be the request for, to approve educational incentive pay for this first batch, batch number 22619. That was everything that I had in the office that was cleared up to that point, date, and time. I do have several that have come in since then that will be part of the second batch. Basically, this goes to 81 fire departments for two men, \$95,800 for 3493 firefighters for \$600 each. And that list is on the back of the second page. And, as we've done in the past, I would ask for a motion to approve this and all subsequent batches following.

MOTION BY: Commissioner Windrow **SECOND BY:** Commissioner Biggs
Motion to: Approve batch one and any subsequent batches that the Director receives.

Call for the question - None

RESOLUTION:

Vote: 8 – Yea 0 – Nay 0 – Abstain -0

MOTION CARRIED

IX. Old Business:

X. New Business:

Item IX.a. Henderson City Fire Department 2019 In-Service Waiver Request

MOTION BY: Commissioner Specht **SECOND BY:** Commissioner Kerley

Motion to: Approve.

Call for the question - None

RESOLUTION:

Vote: 8 – Yea 0 – Nay 0 – Abstain -0

MOTION CARRIED

Item IX.b. TFACA NFPA 1072 HMA-HMO Courses

MOTION BY: Commissioner Kerley **SECOND BY:** Commissioner Specht

Motion to: Approve.

Call for the question - None

RESOLUTION:

Vote: 8 – Yea 0 – Nay 0 – Abstain -0

MOTION CARRIED

Item IX.c. TFACA NFPA 1021 FOII Blended Course

No motion required since program has already been approved – only change is how it will be delivered (Blended verses Classroom).

Item IX.d. TACA 2019 Conference

MOTION BY: Commissioner Biggs **SECOND BY:** Commissioner Moore

Motion to: Approve.

Call for the question - None

RESOLUTION:

Vote: 8 – Yea 0 – Nay 0 – Abstain -0

MOTION CARRIED

Item IX.e. TEMA NFPA 1072 HMA-HMO Courses

DIRECTOR FOX: Next item you have on your agenda will be from Tennessee Emergency Management, consideration of their NFPA 1072 course.

JOE KENNEDY: Good morning. My name is Joe Kennedy. I am the TEMA Development Hazmat Program Manager for the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency.

What we're asking you to consider is recognition of the Awareness and Operations course that TEMA conducts. And the packets, I believe, were on the tables for you this morning. I have the letter requesting recognition and the Awareness Level POI, how we put the program together. And behind the POI is a crosswalk was built out of NFPA 1072 and where in our program those requirements were found. So, we filed the 1072 as we wrote the program and updated to make meet the current. Following that is the operations level course. Again, a POI as to how we're going to instruct the ops course and then the crosswalk as to how we met all the 1072 standards, and made sure they were incorporated into our program.

DIRECTOR FOX: Any questions for Mr. Kennedy?

COMMISSIONER KERLEY: At the completion of this will there be any differences between what TEMA's teaching and what the Academy's teaching?

JOE KENNEDY: We believe that the two courses will support each other as we go through. We're going to recognize each other's courses because of the 1072 standards that we are basing our training off of. So, we will accept each other's training as we go through the process. I've worked with Mr. Elliott and Commissioner Majchrzak to make sure that we're kind of in step as we go through this.

COMMISSIONER MAJCHRZAK: And we had some conversation yesterday and I think I would mention that one, they have coordinated and worked together to make sure it's a working process. This is a partnership that's sort of been building for a number of years. As the Commission will recall, TEMA came several years back to get their courses originally recognized by the, by the Commission. They in turn recognized the Academy class that was offered and approved initially and recognized as meeting to their requirements for, I won't say certification, but recognition. This actually, I think this move today actually moves things forward in a very positive direction. They've worked in alignment with each other so it could be crossed recognized, trying to get a track of the certification process.

And I'd say the other large piece, and Joe didn't necessarily touch on this part, but TEMA is the recipient of most of the federal funding for training. They actually this year included the Academy in being sub recipient funding for that program to allow the program that Director Elliott put forward today. He offered that to the Fire Service and to the Fire Academy at no cost to the Fire Service. So, I think that is a very positive relationship. It's going to move things forward for the betterment of all Tennessee. So, we're very excited about it.

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FARLEY: Echo that. I want to say this, back in June, after I took over Fire Prevention, we had a meeting, Director Fox, Majchrzak, and myself sat down with Mr. Kennedy and others with TEMA and I am proud to say, to see the day how this has worked out, the partnership between TEMA, the Fire Fighters Commission, the Fire Code Academy, and the State Fire Marshall's Office with the grant, with the training, and stuff like that. Because the Fire Service has actually been asking for this for a long time and I'm proud to see the day happen. So, I fully support this myself and it's a good day.

COMMISSIONER BIGGS: - will this course be delivered regionally throughout –

JOE KENNEDY: Throughout the state - upon the request of the jurisdiction.

COMMISSIONER BIGGS: At the fire department?

JOE KENNEDY: Yes, sir.

JOE KENNEDY: If they request then instructors will be certified to deliver it.

COMMISSIONER BIGGS: I just wanted to make sure that was in the minutes.

JOE KENNEDY: Yes, sir.

COMMISSIONER WINDROW: There was a lot of training, I assume, because this is probably whittling on the wrong end of the stick for us but there's always been concern that we hear Middle Tennessee is easy to get the classes. East and West it could take those years and, again, you may not have an answer. I'm just expressing concern that we hear from the training officers from around the state. They have a real struggle getting, and, again, that's just a statement. I mean, that's really not our purview, it's not our –

JOE KENNEDY: Okay and I understand. I've heard, and part of it was the ability of us to have the instructors.

COMMISSIONER WINDROW: Right.

JOE KENNEDY: So, I've kind of revamped how we're doing the train the trainer courses and we're trying to power those down to our regions so they get more instructor certifies so that you would have more instructors available within those regions. Our goal is to make this as user-friendly as possible and still maintain a high level of training for the customers we serve out there.

COMMISSIONER BIGGS: - that was brought up so we just wanted to make a mention.

COMMISSIONER SPECHT: And, just, volunteer friendly because they can't take off Monday through Friday.

JOE KENNEDY: Yes, ma'am. This was designed -

COMMISSIONER SPECHT: And that's one of the biggest issues. I have had a lot of complaints –

JOE KENNEDY: Okay, this course was designed to be delivered in four hour blocks. So, we could teach it, and Commissioner Biggs sat through a long couple of weeks with me a few years back on Tuesdays, and Thursday nights, and Saturdays. So, it can be tailored to meet the needs of the volunteer departments. And that's been, a lot of our customers are the volunteer departments. And so I've made sure that when we wrote this program it was set up in four hour blocks so that it could be delivered that way.

MOTION BY: Commissioner Kerley SECOND BY: Commissioner Biggs

Motion to: Approve.

Call for the question - None

RESOLUTION:

Vote: 8 – Yea 0 – Nay 0 – Abstain -0

MOTION CARRIED

Item IX.f. Nashville Fire Waiver Request 2019 In-Service Requirements

No Action required by the commission since he can just amend his 2019 in-service program and re-submit for approval.

MOTION BY: Commissioner Specht SECOND BY: Commissioner Kerley

Motion to: Add to the agenda item WS-4 from yesterday's work session "HMA & HMO Outlines by Jones & Bartlett"

Call for the question - None

RESOLUTION:

Vote: 8 – Yea 0 – Nay 0 – Abstain -0

MOTION CARRIED

At this point the commission entered into a lengthy discussion on using the program and who would carry the proposal in the future for the fire service.

MOTION BY: Commissioner Kerley SECOND BY: Commissioner Biggs

Motion to: To table it until April
Call for the question - None

RESOLUTION:

Vote: 8 – Yea 0 – Nay 0 – Abstain -0

MOTION CARRIED

XII. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Our next meeting will be Wednesday April the 24th 9:00 A.M. Eastern at the Park Vista located at 705 Cherokee Orchard Road in Gatlinburg in conjunction with the Tennessee Fire Chiefs' spring meeting. Any questions or comments?

Do I hear a motion to adjourn?

COMMISSIONER BIGGS: Motion.
COMMISSIONER MOORE: Second.
DIRECTOR FOX: We're adjourned.

(Adjourned 10:00 A.M.)