



STATE OF TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE &
INSURANCE COMMISSION ON FIRE FIGHTING
COMMISSION BUSINESS MEETING
Jackson, Tennessee
February 24, 2021

CALL TO ORDER (Commissioner Windrow)

ROLL CALL (Director Grande)

Commissioner Michael Henry
Commissioner Tommy Kelley
Commissioner William Scott
Commissioner Stephanie Specht
Commissioner David Windrow
Commissioner Travis Solomon
Commissioner Gary Farley

Members not present

Commissioner Carter Lawrence
Commissioner Toran Hedgepath
Commissioner Brian C. Biggs
Commissioner Jay Moore

A quorum has been established

Commerce and Insurance/Fire Prevention Staff Present:

Anthony Grande- Executive Director- Fire Commission
Amy Cooper- Chief Counsel
Brian Nicholson – Fire Coordinator
Fred McCay – Accreditation Manager
Michael Miranda – Fire Coordinator
Cheryl Deener- Administrative Assistant

Jeff Elliott – TFACA Director, Fire service Program
Jason Sparks, TFACA Field Supervisor

Prayer led by Commissioner Kelley and Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Scott

Motion to approve minutes from previous meeting: Motion approved by Commissioner Scott, seconded by Commissioner Henry. Motion carries.

Announcements:

Commissioner Gary Farley: I am working with TFACA on classes for Volunteers and the Salary supplement program that is coming for Volunteers. Two people have been added to TFACA. We have a new Commissioner, Mr. Travis Solomon, the Chief of Oak Ridge.

Mr. Sparks: The recruit classes we have are bigger than normal. The fall class has 42 slots beginning in October 2021. Smoky Mountain Weekend has been cancelled for 2021. NFA classes are being held in Sevier County in April and Murfreesboro in April.

Communications

Director Grande: I have given you a graph showing the exams given and you will see the uptick of exams throughout the years. We have completed 62 departments for the 1st batch of salary supplement. We are continuing to learn each other's job responsibilities to help our office run smoother since Covid.

Kim Cooper: There has been a complaint of an instructor behaving unprofessionally during a class that was Commission approved. We are currently drafting a letter to be sent to the instructor that this behavior will not be tolerated.

Director Grande: We are currently in the process of drafting into policy and rule the Firefighter Moral Code of Ethics.

Commissioner Windrow: We need a motion to do that.

Commissioner Scott: Motion to add Firefighter Moral code of Ethics into policy and rule and to send letter to instructor, seconded by Commissioner Kelley.

Coordinator Nicholson: Reciprocity annual stats are 651 for 2020 and that consists of 244 applications, with 12 of them being denied. Currently we are at 96 reciprocities for 2021, which is 90-100 less than last year. I also ask that any rule changes to have reciprocity mirrored for those changes as well.

Coordinator Miranda: There is a few changes to classes but no significant changes to report.

Mr. McCay: January 7th, FFI was updated to the new 2019 standard. We need to update the policy. Plans Examiner was Ifsac approved. FDI and FDI2 must be updated to 1041 by May 25th, also the FOI, FOII,FOIII,FOIV series must be updated on the 1021 standard with new methodology. On test challenges, from our previous meeting, most entities do not let students see questions they missed. If there is an issue with a question, then the student would bring it to the contractor. We must change the rule because it is violating test security. On retests, all other policies have a timeline from six months to one year. If you do not pass within the timeline then you start over. I suggest a timeline of one year and two times total retest before requiring training again and then testing another time.

The questions on self-assessments, we fill out for accreditation, some rules and policies do not match. We need to clean up the rules such as the standard. Every time the standard changes, we must do a rule change.

Commissioner Farley: Work with Beth, Leigh and Kim in legal to help prioritize the rules..

Commissioner Scott: Is the purpose of changing the retest or challenging pertained to accreditation?

Fred McCay: It is up to us to charge and develop and perform the policy.

Director Grande: We will draft a policy and submit it for review, to the Commission. After three retests you will need to have a refresher course.

Director Elliott: There is a validation process with questions. We review the questions to make sure it is a fair question. The student would need to maintain the info.

Director Grande: Data is available, Acadis data is hard to pull. LXR is not supported and the new software has to be built. We would like to send data to an instructor stating what curriculum they missed, when tests are graded. Everything we do is to maintain accreditation.

Commissioner Windrow: So, you're doing a policy?

Director Grande: We are doing a test challenge policy and retest policy.

Commissioner Henry: What about text books.

Director Grande: We cannot go to a single text book for popular certifications. Commission could say that our tests are written to J&B standard.

Old Business:

Commissioner Windrow: We have three rule changes from October.

- 1.) 0360-02-01 Definitions-defining active firefighting.

Commissioner Scott: Motion to add to agenda, seconded by Commissioner Henry.

- 2.) Affiliation of fire Departments
- 3.) TFACA- Tennessee Fire & Codes Academy

Commissioner Solomon: Motion to defer until April, seconded by Commissioner Scott. Motion Carries.

Commissioner Windrow: Motion to add to meeting 0360-05-02, changing 35 months to 60 months and they will need to retest at FFII level. Seconded by Commissioner Henry. Motion carries.

Director Grande: Acadis need to be updated with current roster for all departments and make sure that people are separated, retired, etc. Certifications do not disappear, so we need to be notified of people leaving departments.

Commissioner Windrow: all in favor of sending to hearing? Motion carries.

Commissioner Henry: Motion to discuss, seconded by Commissioner Scott, for reciprocity to mirror 60 month rule. Motion carries.

New Business:

Commissioner Kelley: Motion to accept Batch 1 and all other later batches for EIP, seconded by Commissioner Specht. Motion carries.

Commissioner Windrow: The volunteer EIP is \$600 per volunteer effective 7/1/2021.

Director Grande: We will work with legal to make an emergency rule change.

Commissioner Scott: Motion to authorize emergency rules, seconded by Commissioner Solomon. Part of the emergency rule was waive submission of program, mandatory training with FFC for Chief or training officer. All audits will be paper audits for 2021. Motion approved.

TFACA course requests: Apparatus Specification- 8 hour, Advanced Hydration Ops- 16 hour, Modern Aerial Ops S&T- 16 hours, Advanced Pump Operator- 40 hours, and Aerial Familiarization.

Commissioner Windrow: Motion to approve, seconded by Commissioner Henry.

Commissioner Windrow: Motion to add Fred McCay's policy to change policy #D on agenda under X. Seconded by Commissioner Henry. Motion carries.

Director Grande: 2018 law changed to allow people with felonies to apply to get certified. There needs to be a procedural item in house to check all the boxes on this. The Fire Chief must appear before us on the matter. Motion to adopt law change- Fresh Start Act. By Commissioner Henry and seconded by Commissioner Scott. We will gather the information on the person and once that is gathered then it will be set by the board. Only nonviolent, non-sexual felonies are allowed. Those with Felonies A,B, or C are not allowed period.

Motion carries.

Commissioner Scott: Motion to add an approved class for PDO,AADO,FAO as a prerequisite for certification. Seconded by Windrow. Amend the motion to have an effective date of 1/1/2022 to have course for driver operators by Commissioner Henry and seconded by Commissioner Windrow. Motion carries.

The following meeting would be in April 6th-7th, 2021. April 6th will begin at 9 AM and 9 AM on the 7th.

Commissioner Windrow: Motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Henry.

Motion carries.