

BOARD OF FIREFIGHTING PERSONNEL STANDARDS AND EDUCATION

Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Association Convention (IVFA)
Courtyard Muncie at Horizon Convention Center
601 South High Street Muncie, IN 47305
June 15, 2023, 10:00 AM (Eastern Time)
Meeting Minutes

A. Call to order and determination of quorum - 10:03AM

Board Members Present

Eric Dreiman (Chair); Eric Gentry (Vice-Chair); Amy Biggs; Pedro Caceres; Scott Garrett; Tom Hanify; M. Burke Jones; Stephen Jones (State Fire Marshal); Clayton Kinder; Tony Murray; Tim Smith; Steve Anderson

Board Members Absent

Rob Lund (Secretary)

Staff Members Present

Hillary Egan; Justin Guedel(virtual); John Shafer; Zach Mathews; Michael Parks; Regine Johnson; Nichelle Elliott; TR Haggerty.

B. Consideration and approval of:

1. November 2022, Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the November 2022 minutes by Tony Murray, 2nd by Stephen Jones. All other voting members voted to approve. Motion carries.

2. May 30, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the May 2023 minutes by Tim Smith, 2nd by Pedro Caceres. All other voting members voted to approve. Motion carries.

C. State Fire Marshal Report – Stephen Jones

- Hub-and-Spoke Training - quotes for the building and training grounds.
- Grant money - for Fire Departments that can't afford protective gear funds will be available July 1st.
- Restructuring of the Fire and Public Safety Academy - announced John Shafer as the Academy Director.
- Honor Guard support for line of duty deaths
- Firefighter cancer – reminder to dispose of AAA foam and clean equipment.
<https://www.in.gov/dhs/fire-and-building-safety/foam-program/>

D. Academy Director Report – John Shafer

- Fire Certification Section is fully staffed Courtney James, Antoinette Hammack, and Regine Johnson.
- Customer Service focused - quicker response times
- New Coaching staff – Ben Williams Airport Firefighter-Aircraft crash and Rescue and Chris Crain Fire Officer series, Todd Budd Inspector/Investigator, and Jim Noll Instructor series
- Coaching will be pushing out more information for requested courses.
- Revamp of Academy Staff duties:
Mike Parks – Field Operations Section Chief; Zach Matthews – Planning and Certification Section Chief; Jim Noll – Instructor Series; Elizabeth Westfall – Logistics/Administration and Finance; Nichelle Elliott – Certifications Manager
- Six thousand seven hundred forty-three (6,743) fire certifications have been issued so far this year.
- Bulge is published monthly.
- Changes to the website.
 - a. Training opportunities can be found at <https://www.in.gov/dhs/training/fire-training/opportunities/>.
 - b. Prerequisites list updated to a Smartsheet.
- Summer Intern Hanna Haggerty will be updating a master list of fire departments and resources.
- Have visited twenty-six (26) training centers in the last three (3) months.
- Setup grant awareness system.
- Curriculum updates: Waiting on test banks for Fire Investigator.

E. Old Business – None currently

F. New Business –

1. Jason Pickering – Public Life Safety Educator 1- Variance Request Required to complete practical skills.
Motion to approve by Stephen Jones, 2nd by Amy Biggs. All other voting members voted to approve. Motion carries
2. Jason Pickering – Public Life Safety Educator 2 -Variance Request Required to complete practical skills.
Motion to approve by Amy Biggs, 2nd by Tony Murray. All other voting members voted to approve. Motion carries

G. Legal

1. Variances -Petitions for Review – Consideration of ALJ Non-Final Dismissal Orders and Issuance of a Final Order.
 - a. Rocky Buffum vs. Department of Homeland Security – BFPSE22-0006
Legal staff explained the reason the reason the request was denied and Rocky Buffum withdrew his request.
Motion to approve by M. Burke Jones, 2nd by Pedro Caceres.

All other voting members voted to approve. Motion carries

- b. Michael Capitanio vs Department of Homeland Security – BFPSE-22-0002

Didn't show up for the pre-hearing.

Motion to approve by Eric Gentry, 2nd by Tony Murray. All other voting members voted to approve. Motion carries

- 2. 655 IAC – Rule Rewrite update

Researched on the benefits of the new rules meeting scheduled for August 4, 2024.

H. Open discussion, comments, questions?

Question - Eric Gentry: Can you give some insight about the Muncie Testing situation?

Answer - John Shafer: Hazardous Materials Operations, Fire Officer Strategy and Tactics, Driver Operator series, Incident Safety Officer, Fire Fighter 1&2, and Instructor 1&2 test banks have been shuffled to pull different questions.

Question – Tim Smith – Can IDHS Staff or the Fire Board send a letter warning of the consequences of cheating and that it will not be tolerated?

Eric Dreiman: Agrees a letter should be sent out.

Answer – John Shafer: We are currently working on updating the Proctor Guidelines and there will be wording addressing this.

Zach Matthews: We are working on Frequency Asked Questions (FAQ's) so this can be address there also.

Eric Dreiman: We will work with the State Fire Marshal and Legal to come up with a statement.

I. Adjournment at 10:41AM

Next meeting: September 14, 2023,
1:00PM
IERC
Indianapolis Marriott
East
Indianapolis, Indiana 46219

