

Minnesota Board of Firefighter Training and Education
Meeting Minutes of January 3, 2007 Maple Grove, MN

The Minnesota Firefighter Training and Education Board (MnFTEB) was called to order at 1:04 p.m. in Maple Grove, MN by Vice Chairman Marv Calvin.

P	Marvin Calvin MSFCA	Willmar	2009		A	Joanne Myrvik League of Cities	Minneota	2007
P	Wayne Durant MSFDA	Brainerd	2009		P	Tom Pressler MSFDA	Bloomington	2009
P	Jim Fisher Ass'n of Townships	Zim	2009		P	Jerry Rosendahl Dept of Public Safety	St Paul	N/A
	VACANT Ass'n of Townships		2010		P	Kelli Slavik League of Cities	Plymouth	2010
P	Aliina Granholm MSFDA	Esko	2007		A	Judy Smith Thill MSFDA	Maple Grove	2008
A	Doug Holton MSFCA	St Paul	2010		A	John Wiskocil MSFDA	Montgomery	2008
A	Margaret Larson Public Member	Lakeland	2007			VACANT MPFF		2008
P	Kathleen Mullen MPFF	Minneapolis	2007					

MPFF = Minnesota Professional Fire Fighters MSFCA = Minnesota State Fire Chiefs' Association
MSFDA = Minnesota State Fire Department Association

Also in attendance Dale Mashuga, Fire Instruction & Rescue Education (FIRE).

Marv Calvin commented that the Fire Advisory Committee meeting went well and our budget presentation was discussed and they are favorably recommending about \$2.5M in FY 2007 and \$4.0M in FY 2008.

In deference to our guest, Dale Mashuga, his presentation was advanced to the top of the agenda.

Dale Mashuga (FIRE) reported from the standpoint of an independent training organization. He covered:

- 28 years with Andover Fire Department serving at various times as Training Officer, Captain, Assistant Chief and Chief.
- Started teaching career at State Fire Schools 26 years ago and started teaching/doing live burns at the same time.
- Taught basic firefighting class at Anoka Hennepin Technical College (AHTC) from 1983 to 2003.
- For the last 17 years there was Program Coordinator for the FF program.
- Member of the Fire Center Advisory Board for many years.
 - While on that board, heard from fire department members and leadership over and over again that what Minnesota Firefighters wanted was:
 - Uniformity of training throughout the state
 - Availability/Affordability of training
 - Qualified Instructors

Those three wants has driven philosophy and practice of fire training for the last 20 years – both as AHTC Program Director and for the last 3.5 years in my private fire training company.

Accomplishments while at AHTC which evolved into the MnSCU system.

- Designed and built the largest mobile (16 units) fire training program in the state that included:
 - L/P Bulk car
 - Live burn trailer
 - Confined Space trailer

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- House burn trailer
- Ventilation trailer
- SCBA trailer
- RIT trailer
- Pump trailer
- Fire Extinguisher trailer
- Emergency Driving trailer
- Auto Air Bag Safety trailer
- Flammable Liquids trailer
- L/P (500 gallons) trailer
- Collapse Rescue trailer

In 2003, started independent training company – Fire Instruction & Rescue Education (FIRE)

- Employs approximately 80 part time instructors
 - 95% are Minnesota Fire Service Certified
- In process of building a mobile training program and have designed and built
 - Live Burn 40 foot Semi
 - Pump cut away
 - RIT
 - Car Fire
 - House Burn
 - L/P Gas emergency
 - Flashover (the Flashover trailer at St. Paul Fire was built from my design)
- FIRE offers many of the same fire classes as the colleges except for credit based classes
- During 2006 FIRE provided the following classes throughout the state of Minnesota
 - 10 Firefighter I Classes
 - 8 Firefighter II Classes
 - 9 HazMat Operations Classes
 - Conducted 58 house burns
 - 230 other classes such as Officer, Instructor, Inspection, Pump, etc
- FIRE did a total of 315 classes for 4,740 students – a total of 41,167 student contact hours.
- FIRE charges \$500.00 for a FF I class which is \$100.00 less than MnSCU – this is due to the Voucher dollars which FIRE cannot give or receive.

I believe that Fire Training throughout the state of Minnesota would be much improved with the following changes –

- UNIFORMITY – Training is not uniform throughout the state even at the FF I level. Some colleges are teaching Jones & Bartlett curriculum, some are teaching Delmar curriculum and some are teaching IFSTA curriculum. Some teach NFPA 1403 [qualification for structure burn standard] and some teach NFPA FF I and different variations of the two. I believe Certification is the only way to achieve uniformity in Minnesota
- AVAILABILITY/AFFORDABILITY – The classes must be available and affordable throughout the state – that is as fire department in Grand Marais should be able to get the same class at the same price as Andover Fire Department. Private companies should have access to the same funding as MnSCU so we can compete.

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- QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS – I believe the state should require all fire classes to be taught by certified instructors teaching certifiable classes in order to receive funding.
 - For example: Andover Fire Dept. would receive \$700.00 per firefighter who has taken a FFI class which was taught by a Minnesota Fire Service Certified instructor. The department would be reimbursed upon the firefighter's completion of Minnesota Fire Service FF I certification.

Dale distributed a comparison sheet on costs/fees between MnSCU and FIRE.

Questions:

- How do you select the instructors? Answer: For live burns, they must be certified FF I, FF II and Instructor certified, attend 25 live burns on their time then take supervised team into a live burn with an evaluation after as many times as necessary for positive evaluation.
- Comment: Last year at AHTC they put \$250K in the General Fund.
- What are instructors paid? Answer: \$30/ hour, but most are not in it for the money.
- Comment: Training needs to start at a basic level.
- What does Fire Instructor Training consist of? Answer: 30 – 40 hours using the IFSTA Instructor manual – personally feels it is better than the NFPA manual.
- What is the difference? Certification is somewhat geared to the curricula used – there are more than 1000 questions in the FF I test bank – all questions are validated. IFSAC is the supplier of the tests and validates and certifies state certification programs.
- If instructor standards were raised, what would be the impact? Answer: If not too extensive, most instructors would strive to meet them – it is a part-time job for most instructors.

Officers Reports: None

Correspondence: None

Unfinished Business:

Interaction to Fire Advisory Committee

As mentioned earlier, the budget request was well received. Prime activity is putting in place an Executive Director (administrative staff).

Jerry Rosendahl complimented Marv Calvin on a credible job of presenting and explaining the budget request. Further comments from others attending the meeting indicated that there were no negative comments.

Some concern about being able to spend the monies in a timely manner. Jerry Rosendahl suggested the need to meet with financial and human resources people to develop the plan for the administrative staff.

New Business:

Elections

Chairman – nominations were opened for Chairman. One nomination presented – Marv Calvin.

Motion – that nominations be closed and a unanimous vote be cast for Marv Calvin for chairman by Aliina Granholm, second by Kelli Slavik. Carried.

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Discussion on Secretary/Treasurer position – nominations opened for Treasurer. Kelli Slavik respectfully declined nomination. Tom Pressler nominated.

Motion – that nominations be closed and a unanimous vote be cast for Tom Pressler for Treasurer by Jim Fisher, second by Kelli Slavik. Carried.

Minutes

Discussion as to detail in the minutes and action item list resulting in limited use of individual names used in discussions and action item list used when possible.

Next Meeting Location

Motion – that a policy be enacted to move a scheduled meeting to the next day when the 3rd Monday falls on a holiday (such as because of the February President's Day Holiday, move the regular meeting from February 19, 2007 to February 20, 2007) by Aliina Granholm, second by Kelli Slavik. Carried.

The next meeting will be held on February 20, 2007 at Maple Grove, MN. The main thrust of the meeting will be the assignment of committees – especially for the administrative activities.

Meeting adjourned at 2:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tom Pressler, Secretary