

Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Commission Meeting

Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2017

Commission Members Present:

Michael Donahue, Chancellor's Designee from LSU
Chad Major, Professional Firefighters Association of Louisiana
Brian Castille, Louisiana State Firemen's Association
Charlie Metcalf, Louisiana State Firemen's Association
James Wood, Louisiana Fire Chief's Association
Dan Wallace, (proxy for Butch Browning), State Fire Marshal's Office

Commission Members Absent:

Martino Latino, Louisiana Fire Chief's Association
Karen St. Germain, Governor's appointee
Butch Browning, State Fire Marshal
Louis Romero, Professional Firefighters Association of Louisiana

In Attendance:

Loree Ramezan, FETI
Christine Melancon, FETI
Carey King, FETI
Eddie Tessmer, FETI
Eddie Pyle, FETI

The Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Commission was called to order by Mr. Chad Major. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. James Wood. Invocation was led by Mr. Charlie Metcalf. Mr. Chad Major called the roll and announced that a quorum was present. The meeting began.

Director's Report

Mr. Casey presented his report. He stated that they were still waiting on AFG just like everyone else. The bidding would be open for Firefighter Skills trailer and the LP fueled structural fire training trailer and they should be able to award the bid the following week. Mr. Major added that he was aware that it was on the table to cut Safer and AFG under the new administration. He urged everyone to speak to their Congressional representatives and let them know how valuable it was for their organization.

Mr. Donahue stated that he had been working with Chad Roberson. Loree and Carey had put together the numbers for Safer and AFG for the state of Louisiana separated by congressional district to present to the representatives. This would hopefully show the value of the program.

Mr. Casey continued with the director's report. He stated that the report in the board packet was self explanatory but he did add one item that was not listed. He mentioned HCR1. He asked Mr. Major to update them as to where they were in the funding that they received for Pine Country and Delgado. Mr. Major stated that they made it through special session and the biggest fight was moving some money from the rainy day fund. There was a lot of debate, but the governor had made it clear that he was supportive and committed to protecting public safety funding.

Mr. Casey moved on to update them on the Strategic Planning Group. The four tier program was being drafted currently. The NFPA was slowly moving toward going to a multi-tier as well. What the strategic planning group had been working on would fit very well with the NFPA. Mr. Fontenot had made a lot of progress on the first two tiers and that would soon be brought out to the strategic planning group. Because the material was so extensive, it would be sent out to the members of the group before the meeting occurred for them to review.

He then moved on to state that the Certification Asst. Director would be posted week after next. They also had a new I-series instructor that they were budgeting for. This person would be leading 40 hour classes that pushed towards certification. This instructor would be slated for Region 1 and 4 for the 40 hour classes and would be the curriculum coordinator for those programs. A lot of them would be transitioning to hybrid classes and this instructor would be shepherding that process and the online instruction. They were attempting to add a fourth region and a manager to that region as well because currently the service area was too broad. The regions were divided by department and travel distance.

Mr. Casey then explained to the commission that there had been some changes to their accreditation bodies and their rules for certification. Some of the changes included test transitioning, how materials would be obtained, lead evaluator changes, etc. Processes would be simpler once the changes went into effect. Mr. Casey is going to bring in a consultant to help get a good idea of where we are currently with Certification and what will need to be done to prepare for the new changes.

He then reminded the members in attendance about the Company Officer Leadership Conference. It would be moved from LSU E back to Baton Rouge. He encouraged everyone to attend and push it out to their constituents.

Mr. Major asked if there were any other questions. None were voiced. This concluded the presentation of the director's report.

Certification Report

Mr. Casey stated that he had given the updates in with the director's report. He did add that they were looking at several test banks and would make a decision soon on those. They would have 18 months to comply with upgrades on curriculum, test banks, and implementation once choices were made.

Mr. Major asked if there were any other questions. None were voiced. This concluded the presentation of the certification report.

Financial Report

Mr. Donahue presented his report. The reports did represent numbers only through the end of January. He would be able to present February numbers at the next meeting. He did comment that the marine program was not doing well as was the case with other educational entities such as Delgado. They had decided to resubmit their marine classes to the Coast Guard in a different variation so that they would be more palatable to industry or the seaman. The class could be broken up into two sessions instead of the seaman having to be out for training for an 8 day stretch. With the changes the full class would be able to be completed in 3 to 5 days. Hopefully with the changes in place, they would once again be recertified by the Coast Guard and the program would pick back up.

Although the recent flooding hurt their numbers earlier in the year, he stated that they had seen a dramatic turn-around in more recent times. Their schedules were so full that they were beginning night training sessions. Because of this, they would finish very strong again financially.

Mr. Major asked if there were any questions regarding the financial report. None were voiced. This ended the presentation of the financial report.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Major presented his report. He updated them on some legislative pieces he would be involved in. He stated that testicular and prostate cancers would be added to the current cancer awareness law if passed. They had wanted to add breast cancer as well, but there was not enough research to back it up currently. The other piece of legislation that was always running was that the working test period would begin subsequent to the end of the academy. The current law stated that the test period began when firefighter one was obtained. The current piece would only include four departments and others would have to be added later as they desired.

The next meeting date was set for May 2nd at 10 am.

Old Business

No old business was addressed.

New Business

Mr. Major introduced the new business item on the agenda which was municipal pricing rates. He gave the floor to Mr. Donahue. Mr. Donahue stated that they were not looking to raise municipal rates. He was aware that from time to time FETI had a piece of the pie in terms of stat ded funding and it was allocated in different directions. No one aspect of the fire service was hurt or benefited more than the other. In fact, for example, training volunteers except for l courses were free or certifications were only 25 to 30 when the real cost was 80 to 85. The

difference was offset by the stat debt. Historically, those discounts were supposed to be for any fire district that shared 2% monies and people that were not included in that should not be eligible for the municipal pricing.

However, it was difficult to determine who was receiving that 2% money. Several years ago it was decided that if a department had an FDID# from the State Fire Marshal's office then they should get the municipal rates, but there currently were a number of institutions and departments that had FDID #'s that were not sourced from the 2%. That meant that if those entities received the discounted rate then FETI was absorbing the monetary gap.

He wanted to know if the board was satisfied with the way it was currently or did they want to only focus on and give the discounted rate to the 2% people. A decision did not have to be made today, but he did want to bring it to their attention and discuss it and maybe make a decision in the future. Discussion ensued regarding the application and eligibility for an FDID #. The process for validation of the 2% status was also discussed.

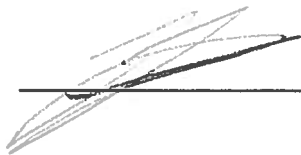
Motion was entertained by Mr. Major to establish a new rule that in order to receive the discounted municipal rates where these rates applied the entity must be eligible to receive 2% monies. This rule would be effective immediately. Motion was accepted by Mr. Metcalf and Mr. Wood seconded the motion. No further discussion was made. No objections or abstentions. The record does reflect that the vote was unanimous to approve this new rule.

Mr. Major asked if there was anything else to come under new business. Nothing else was mentioned. This concluded the presentation of new business.

Next meeting date was set for Tuesday, May 2, 2017 at 10 am at FETI.

Motion to adjourn was entertained by Mr. Major. Motion was accepted by Mr. Metcalf and Mr. Wood seconded the motion. No objections were voiced. Meeting was adjourned.

Approved by: Chad Major



Date: 16-25-17