

**Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Commission Meeting
Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2019**

Commission Members Present:

Chad Major	Professional Firefighters Association of Louisiana
Charlie Metcalf	Louisiana State Firemen's Association
Ken Himel	Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association
Michael Donahue	Chancellor's Designee from LSU
Louis Romero	Professional Firefighters Association of Louisiana
Brian Lindberg	Louisiana State Firemen's Association

Commission Members Absent:

Karen St. Germain	Governor Appointee
Butch Browning	State Fire Marshal
Martin Latino	Louisiana Fire Chief's Association

In Attendance:

Loree Ramezan	FETI
Carey King	FETI
Kevin Fontenot	FETI
Christine Earnheart	FETI
Eddie Pyle	FETI
Jim Wells	FETI
Kathe Jones	FETI
Kully Griffin	Lafourche Parish Fire District #3
Jordan Collins	Lafourche Parish Fire District #3
Devin Dedon	Lafourche Parish Fire District #3
Toby Henry	Montegut FD
Trent Larousse	Chackbay Fire
Trent Landry	Chackbay Fire
Joshua Falgoust	Chackbay Fire

QUORUM PRESENT

The Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Commission was called to order by Mr. Major. Invocation was performed by Mr. Brian Lindberg. Pledge was led by Mr. Charlie Metcalf. Mr. Major called the roll and announced that a quorum was present. The meeting began.

Mr. Major entertained a motion to adopt the minutes from the meeting held in December 2018. Motion was made by Mr. Metcalf to adopt the minutes and Mr. Donahue seconded the motion. No discussion was made. No opposition was noted.

MOTION PASSED.

Director's / Financial Report

Mr. Donahue presented his report. He stated that the selection process for the municipal assistant director was winding down. Communications with HRM had been coordinated and he was anticipating

extending a job offer next week with an effective start date of February 1. After the offer had been accepted, he would be communicating with the commission as soon as he had communicated with the other two applicants.

He did update the commission on the current Academy. He said everything was going well and they had only had one individual to drop the course due to aggravation of a previous injury. They offered to credit 50% of the tuition cost or transfer the credited tuition to the next academy offered in the future.

Ms. Ramezan stated that there was nothing unusual in the finances. They were currently on track at this point. Mr. Donahue did add that the recent government shutdown was delaying their AFG funds, but that was the case for everyone. There was some discussion regarding the present political climate and Mr. Major said that the next legislative session was scheduled for April.

Mr. Major asked if there were any other questions regarding the director's / financial report. None were voiced.

This concluded the presentation of the director/financial report.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Major presented his report. He stated that the commission had been meeting regularly so there were not many updates to give. Their annual conference was scheduled for February 8 & 9, 2019. At the convention this year, he would be bringing up coverage for PTSI, post-traumatic stress injury. Senator Ryan Gaddie from Shreveport Bossier was handling the bill for them and it would be for fire, police and EMS. He did not see any issues with the legislation especially since it was an election year. Several states had already approved this type of legislation and it was proving successful. Everyone was in agreement that this bill was overdue and highly necessary to provide this service to first responders.

There was a rumor out there about state supplemental pay was being skipped for July which was to be received August 1. Mr. Major confirmed that it was not a rumor. It was the truth and it was being proposed. He did understand the philosophy behind it. He gave explanation of that philosophy and summarized a meeting that he had recently held with the governor where this concern among others was discussed.

He did bring up certain topics that were addressed in the session last year. There had been a bill that allowed an independent bureau of EMS to be created. It would have no strings attached to the state. Even though they would be the majority of the stakeholders in it, they would be a minority in the decision making process in it. They had fought it last year and in the interim since last year's session, the individuals on the EMS side who had wanted the independent bureau realized that they could not afford it so they had taken a step back and re-evaluated their short term and long term plans.

Also, the other issue that was being addressed was the replica bill. It basically would allow anyone to cross state lines with their license from other states and work as long as it was a replica state and part of the compact. There were a number of problems involved with that. Mr. Major stated that he was told last week that Acadian was planning on pursuing it again and he had had a conversation with their attorney and informed him that they were just going to kill the bill again. They had to come to a compromise and Mr. Major suggested that the bill be drawn up for private industry only. Once the new draft was complete, the attorney would be sending it to him to review.

This concluded the presentation of the chairman's report.

Certification Report

This report was not addressed.

Old Business

They were working on the updated pricing for the after-hours training with municipal and industrial. The students were coming mainly out of West Baton Rouge, Livingston, and Ascension parishes.

Previously, the funding for this came straight out of the stat debt which needed to change as this option was becoming more popular and it was becoming very costly to FETI. Mr. Lindberg expressed his feelings regarding transparency about the new pricing. Mr. Donahue stated that everyone had been informed and sent letters regarding the future price changes. If approved with LSU, they were proposing the new pricing to be \$500 for after-hours usage on a week night and \$1,000 for the weekend drills which would cover everything except for the facility charge. There would be communication sent out regarding the final price changes.

New Business


No new business was addressed.

It was requested that the commission information packet be sent out several days prior to the meeting, so that the commission members could review it. Some discussion ensued regarding the timeframe and the information wanted for prior review. Mr. Major concluded that when possible the information packet including financials and minutes should be sent out three days prior to the meeting.

The next meeting was scheduled for March 15.

Motion to adjourn was entertained by Mr. Major. Motion was made by Mr. Romero to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Donahue seconded the motion. No objections were voiced.

Meeting was adjourned.



Approved by: Chad Major

3.15.19

Date: