

**Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Commission Meeting
Meeting Minutes
May 18th, 2016**

Commission Members Present:

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| Charlie Metcalf | Louisiana State Firemen's Association |
| Michael Donahue | Chancellor's Designee from LSU |
| Martino Latino | Louisiana Fire Chief's Association |
| Louis Romero | Professional Firefighters Association of Louisiana |
| Brian Castille | Louisiana State Firemen's Association |

Commission Members Absent:

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| Karen St. Germain | Governor's Appointee |
| Chad Major | Professional Firefighters Association of Louisiana |
| James Wood | Louisiana Fire Chief's Association |
| Butch Browning | State Fire Marshal |

In Attendance:

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| Loree Ramezan | FETI |
| Christine Melancon | FETI |
| Carey King | FETI |
| Eddie Pyle | FETI |

The Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Commission was called to order by Mr. Metcalf. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Castille. Invocation was led by Mr. **Martino Latino**. Mr. Metcalf called the roll and announced that a quorum was present. The meeting began.

Chairman's Report

Mr. Major was out of state and absent from the meeting. No report was reviewed.

Director's Report

Mr. Casey presented his report. At the previous meeting, a budget cut was discussed. They did receive the cut for the current fiscal year. For the new year, there is no solid direction as to what is going to happen under budgeting other than what was in the newspapers. They should expect a 3.5% cut across all the statutory funds. They would know more when the legislature finishes up.

Mr. Casey stated that the 3.5% was not a huge amount, but it was significant. So they were in a holding pattern and would be frugal again this year as they had been in 2015 because they could receive a cut again. The budget year would open up pretty soon. Their funds were statutorily dedicated not constitutionally dedicated so their funds could be cut and could fluctuate. There are also other statutory dedications such as agriculture, equine center and probably about 14 statutory dedications that would take a cut.

Mr. Casey moved on to mention the tuition re-costing. In part it was being held up by the budget and in part because they were trying to do some transition to hybrid which was changing the costs. They should have the initial recommendations ready to go to campus soon. He did not have a draft yet to show them however. There was some discussion regarding the tuition increases and when they would take place as well as some different models of classes to make it more cost efficient.

Mr. Casey stated that the Strategic Planning Group had worked efficiently in their last meeting to work on JPR's. They finished it in one day. From there, a lot of it had to be put in writing. At the next meeting, they would be going over the Tier proposal as laid out with JPR's. He would be sending it to them ahead of time.

He informed them that the North American Fire Training Directors which they were a member of took a strong stand with the NFPA. They were against dissolving Fire Fighter II and just have one level Fire Fighter Course. There was also much discussion about tier programs. There had been a lot of give and take and it was not a unified decision.

He then updated the board on the women's dorm. Mr. Casey stated that the piers had been put in to hold it up, the wiring and plumbing had been channeled over, and they were waiting for the arrival of the tiny house which should be within the next two weeks. They did have one female recruit that was housed at LSU, but should have her housed in the new dorm before the half way point.

Next, he began the update on AFG. They had put in for a sole-source for the modular burn buildings based on what facilities had recommended to their purchasing department. It had not been approved for the sole-source even though there was only one company that made the modules they had been looking at. They were ready to go out to bid and the specs were done. Purchasing had agreed to make it a short time period. He commented that he would be very surprised if someone else underbid who they were trying to sole source it too because of the design criteria. The new modules would give them greater flexibility and they were modestly priced for what they were getting. Once the bid was awarded, it would be 16 weeks until delivery.

They recently had to change the brands on their air packs. Previously, they had used Scott, but Scott had decided they would no longer honor their previous academy discounts so the price increased tremendously. Also, they would not do factory direct anymore. MSA, the new vendor, was basically honoring the same price that Scott had done in the past. The products were very nice. There were no electronics in the mask. It was all in the regulator. They also had a department that was donating some newer Scott air packs to them for distribution throughout the region.

PPE was on order which was also for AFG. Their first 20 ft. structural mobile was delivered and they would go out and take a look at it if the weather allowed. The Class A was not AFG. They

had bought it themselves. They were awarding a bid on another prop today. It was not lined, but it was easy to take off. The difference in price lined or not lined was about 33,000 to 37,000 dollars. The expected life of the box was about 4 years so it should last for what they needed it for.

For this year, they had received their AFG award. The skills trailer that had been discussed previously was just a big trailer with forcible doors, windows, roof cuts, stairs to go around, sprinklers, gas meters, electric boxes, etc. They had one of those and they would be the prototype. They had another trailer like the one they had outside except it was on LP fuel. The main reason for them going to a propane one was because it was easier to operate with less people. It was mainly a fire fighting training tool, but some fire behavior training could be done as well.

They had put in for two pickups on the federal grant and did get them to 550 grade flat beds. They had received funding for more PPE. All of their instructors would be housed in the FETI bunker gear. Right now, most of the regionals had been using their own fighters gear. They had put in for an ambulance gator. Unfortunately, it did not get funded though.

Over the next few months, he would be bringing ideas to them for the following year.

He repeated that the pickup trucks bid had been approved. The two right now was in the process in federal funding. The plan was to go for two more. The Peterbilt was still needed for the tower and the 40 ft. burn box. The 550's would tow the four fire props, the two mazes, and the pump prop.

As mentioned at the previous meeting, Bobby had retired and they were holding interviews starting tomorrow. They had several applications in.

The Smoke Coalition had contacted them because they had some extra funding. FETI had participated in that class year before last and there were over 100 people to show up for that class. They still didn't have the dates for that, but they were working on that.

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

Certification Report

Mr. Steve Gervais was not present. No report was reviewed.

Financial Report

Mr. Donahue presented his report. He stated that the biggest number they needed to look at was related to account number 170-40-0001, the stat ded. The second column listed the amount of \$2,933,502 which reflected what they had actually received this year. It included the \$267,000 which was cut from them. That came to about 8 1/2% of their budget which did not come out at the beginning of the year, but at the end. They had anticipated this coming. It

would have been better if they had been able to get the entire amount, but he did not feel it was as dramatic as losing the whole thing. They did try to budget in lieu of what they had received over the previous year. The rest of revenues and resources were coming in strong. The biggest contract they would be seeing next year would be letting a contract out to re-engineer the water system. Also, they would continue to finish up on the air packs for the industrial side.

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

Old Business

Mr. Romero brought up the Hybrid program for Officer I. Mr. Casey stated that they were right on the edge of doing the first pilot. The price would be the same as the regular class which was \$135, but they were going to do revisions and would be re-costing that.

Mr. Metcalf hesitantly asked what they should do about Mrs. Karen St. Germain. After some discussion, it was decided that it was time to address the lack of attendance and involvement and some suggestions were made. Mr. Donahue suggested that they get with someone like Mr. Major since he was their chair and ask him to speak to her directly. If she was truly no longer able to serve on the commission, then he could ask her for some recommendations. Then the commission would have to decide what type of citizen at large they wanted. It could be someone retired or employed, but ultimately, by not addressing this situation, they were violating their by-laws.

New Business

No new business was addressed.

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, June 20, 2016.

Motion to adjourn was entertained by Mr. Metcalf. Motion was made by Mr. Romero and Mr. Latino seconded the motion. No objections were voiced. Meeting was adjourned.



Approved by: Chad Major

6-20-16

Date: