

Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Commission Meeting

Official Meeting Minutes

August 1, 2013

Commission Members Present:

Kenny Hunts	
Mike Arnold	Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association
Michael Donahue	Chancellor's Designee from LSU
Boyd Westbrook	Louisiana Fire Chiefs Association
Louis Romero	Professional Firefighters Association of Louisiana
Chad Major	
Karen St. Germain	Louisiana State Representative, Governor's Appointee
Dwayne Thevis	Louisiana State Fire Fighters Association
Louis Romero	
Butch Browning	
Dave Casey	New Director of the Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Commission

In Attendance:

Loree Ramezan – FETI
Michael Breaux
Wayne Hill – Galvez Lake VFD
Christine Melancon – FETI
Nick Palmer – FETI
Steve Gervais – LSUE
TK Devall – FETI
Andrew Degenhardt – FETI
Ed Smith – Baron Rouge
Kenneth Pitre – Schriever VFD
Peggy Pitre – Schriever VFD
Kenn Fontenot – LSFA
Donald Milligan – LSFA
Wayne Cruse – FETI
Dave Casey - FETI

Minutes

The meeting of the Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Commission was called to order by Chairperson Karen St. Germaine. The roll was called to for attending commission members, followed by an invitation to stand and salute the flag, and then remain standing for prayer.

Chairperson St. Germaine noted that the commission members would be hearing during the meeting from the new Director of the Louisiana Fire and Emergency Training Institute, Mr. Dave Casey, who would briefly address the members. The Chairperson added that the commission looked forward to fire service with Mr. Casey.

Financial Budget

Chairperson St. Germaine introduced the next topic, the financial budget, to be reported by Mr. Donahue.

Mr. Donahue opted to highlight his remarks, rather than go into details, asking the members to scan down his submitted paper to listed Account No. 170-40-0001, which displayed one-quarter of 1% of the monies available. That amount was budgeted at \$2.9 million dollars. The final collections were \$3,057,000. Mr. Donahue invited the members to skip two columns in order to view a little over \$697,000, which was transferred to the plant account or "reserve account." This would allow the fiscal year to start right at \$1.1 million dollars. Mr. Donahue noted that \$100,000 of those monies were already obligated, due to the critical necessity to replace four high-mileage vehicles that would be removed from the fleet. Two of those vehicles would be viewed as maintenance vehicles, while the other two would be considered surplus vehicles.

Mr. Donahue encouraged the members to review the 2012-2013 budget shown on the left side of the paper, adding that if the members had questions or details that they wanted to discuss, or wanted to be edified regarding the numbers, these would be answered at the next commission meeting. At that time, there could also be a discussion about the 2012-2013 budget regarding the spending rate. Finally, Mr. Donahue remarked that members could anticipate spending that money going forward.

Chairperson St. Germaine queried whether there were any other discussions on the budget, and added that the discussion could be forwarded to the next meeting.

Chairperson St. Germaine asked if there were any objections and hearing none, so moved.

Introduction of New Director

Chairperson St. Germaine invited Mr. Dave Casey, selected as the new director of the organization, to either come before the commission or remain at his seat. Mr. Casey offered the following remarks:

I'm Dave Casey, new to Louisiana from Florida. I held the roughly equivalent position of a Florida State Fire Marshal for six and a half years, and also attended Florida State Fire College, all state certifications, there also OSHA and Domestic Security. This position gives me more opportunity to concentrate on training. I have a very strong training background. Before being the State Fire Marshal, I was County Fire Chief with the organizational firemen as a combination fireman there, and fire end at LS for over 644 square mile county and did that for 11 years. Prior to that, I was with the career fireman department for 15 years and came up through the ranks, and I left there as the No 3 person in charge of the fire station firemen. At the same time, I was a volunteer with another department and came up through the ranks

in that department also, was their assistant chief for six years, so I know both sides of the family pretty well. I come from a fairly unique environment and /or a fire service environment.

Mr. Casey continued his remarks: One important thing, I know where I am. This isn't Florida. I think Mike said something the other night, that I have a lot of the answers, but I don't know the questions yet. I'll be asking what those questions are; I'll be reaching out to the different constituencies and to the different departments, pretty directly looking for what's going well and fortunately seeing what you are going to see happening. Thank you very much for the opportunity. I'm honored to take this position. You know how to reach me, and I'll probably be reaching out to you also. Thank you.

The forum was opened to the audience for any questions that might be proffered, as well as a suggestion that Mr. Casey might want a few days to acclimate himself to the environment and his new position, since he had just arrived.

Dwayne Thevis wished the director good luck.

Chairperson St. Germaine asked whether there were further questions.

The Chair welcomed the new director and shared a funny story: Mr. Casey had endured a five-hour day in making remarks of his plans for the organization. At the end of his presentation, he asked for questions and there were none. In the speaker's view, this made Mr. Casey somewhat nervous. The speaker simply wanted to assure Mr. Casey that "the good news around here is that when we don't ask questions, it usually means we're ok. "

The Chair asked for any other discussion or questions. When none came forth, Mr. Casey was thanked for his remarks.

Chairperson St. Germaine noted that the old business and the introduction had been addressed, and suggested that the discussion continue to the monthly dates, posing the possibility that the committee might consider two months at a time, in order not to include too many dates. This would allow the members to check their dates as to what was agreeable to their calendars. The Chair mentioned that the dates had already been set for the second Thursday of each month, and for the meeting to be at 3:00 p.m.

One member stated that September 12, 2013, a Thursday, would constitute the second meeting.

It was established that October 10th, the second Thursday, would be the third meeting. The committee members agreed to meet on September 12th at LSU at 3:00 p.m.

A discussion ensued as to what date the commission would attend the October educational symposium in Houma. A suggestion was made to table a consideration of the date, making any date tentative until October 3rd at 3:00 p.m., together with the email discussion at the fall symposium in Houma.

A motion to tentatively agree to those dates was put forth and accepted. When there was no objection, the Chair moved to accept said motion.

The Chair proposed adjournment, and the motion was moved and seconded.

Approved by: Karen St. Germain Date: 10-9-13