

Fire Policy Committee Minutes February 17, 2006

The Fire Policy Committee of the Board on Public Safety Standards and Training held a meeting at 9:00 a.m. on February 17, 2006 at the Keizer Fire District. Chair Jim Whelan called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Attendees

Committee Members:

Jim Whelan, Oregon Volunteer Firefighters' Association, Chair
Larry Goff, Oregon Fire District Directors' Association
Kevin Gray, Non-Management Firefighter
William Klein, Community College Fire Programs
Nancy Orr, Oregon State Fire Marshal
Mark Prince, Oregon Fire Chiefs' Association
Dave Sprando, Portland Fire & Rescue
Joel Stein, Oregon Fire Marshal's Association
Kevin Wickman, Oregon Fire Instructors Association

Committee Members Absent:

Kelly Bach, Oregon State Fire Fighters Council
William Lafferty, Oregon Department of Forestry

DPSST Staff:

Eriks Gabliks, Deputy Director
Terry Riley, Fire Program Supervisor
Marilyn Lorange, Standards and Certification Supervisor
Bonnie Salle, Standards and Certification Section
Julie Olsen-Fink, Fire Certification Section
Anita DeVilliers, Fire Certification Section
Renee Johnson, Fire Certification Section
George Jamieson, Fire Training Section
John West, Fire Training Section
Era Horton, Fire Training Section
Patrick Wineman, Fire Training Section
Rosemary Neal, Director's Office

Guests:

Don Arbuckle, Portland Airport Fire & Rescue
Tim Weathers, Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue
Steve Straily, McKenzie Fire & Rescue
Jason McKinnon, Baker City Fire Department

Rob Dahl, Boring Fire District
George Eisert, Boring Fire District
Pat Davies, Portland Fire & Rescue
Nicole Braman, Portland State University
Matt Jones, Portland State University
Masami Nishishiba, Portland State University

1. Minutes (November 18, 2005)

Kevin Gray moved to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2005 Fire Policy Committee meeting. Kevin Wickman seconded the motion. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

2. NFPA Fire Fighter Standard

Julie Olsen-Fink of the DPSST Fire Certification Section gave an overview of the proposed changes. Julie thanked several members of the Fire Fighter Task Force who were in attendance at the meeting. The NFPA Fire Fighter Task Force began on November 16, 2005 and concluded the same day. The Task Force evaluated the currently adopted NFPA 1001, Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications, 1992 Edition, and compared it to the revised NFPA 1001, 2002 Edition. The Task Force has recommended DPSST move to adopt the 2002 Edition.

Staff was asked what outreach would be done to share the changes with the fire service? Julie advised the Fire Policy Committee that staff would send out information through the DPSST Fire Bulletin as well as through the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association Daily Dispatch. DPSST staff will also create a fact sheet on the changes and post it the DPSST web page.

Jim Whelan advised all that the Entry-Level Firefighter is not a DPSST certification level or standard. Entry-Level Firefighter is simply a suggested standard.

Bill Klein moved to recommend to the Committee to file the proposed language for OAR 259-009-0062 as a proposed rule with the Secretary of State. Kevin Gray seconded the motion. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Kevin Wickman moved to recommend to the Committee to file the proposed language in OAR 259-009-0062 as a permanent rule with the Secretary of State if no public comment is received and no hearing is held. Bill Klein seconded the motion. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Kevin Gray moved that the Fire Policy Committee has not identified any significant fiscal impact on small businesses pertaining to HB 3238 at this time. Bill Klein seconded the motion. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

3. NFPA Driver –Apparatus Operator

Julie Olsen-Fink of the DPSST Fire Certification Section gave an overview of the proposed changes. Julie thanked several members of the Driver-Apparatus Operator Task Force who were in attendance at the meeting. The NFPA 1002 Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Task Force began and concluded their work on September 21, 2005. The Task Force evaluated the currently adopted 1998 Edition and compared it to the 2003 Edition noting minimal differences between the two standards. The Task Force established the importance of the Oregon Fire Service maintaining updates, which reflect current NFPA standards.

Kevin Gray moved to recommend to the Committee to file the proposed language for OAR 259-009-0062 as a proposed rule with the Secretary of State. Kevin Wickman seconded the motion. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

A letter submitted as part of the Driver-Operator packet from John Shull of the Scappoose Fire District regarding the requirement of entry-level fire fighter created some discussion. Several members shared Chief Shull's concerns that there are a number of volunteer fire agencies with dedicated volunteers who serve in support roles several of which may drive fire apparatus. In many cases these support volunteers cannot meet the training requirements of fire fighters because of physical or medical limitations. Several in attendance shared this concern but others expressed concern over fireground situations that may require the Driver of a fire apparatus to wear a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) due to changing wind conditions at a structure fire or hazardous materials incident.

Kevin Gray moved to recommend to the Committee to file the proposed language in OAR 259-009-0062 as a permanent rule with the Secretary of State if no public comment is received and no hearing is held. Kevin Wickman seconded the motion. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Kevin Gray moved that the Fire Policy Committee has not identified any significant fiscal impact on small businesses pertaining to HB 3238 at this time. Bill Klein seconded the motion. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

4. NFPA Airport Fire Fighter

Julie Olsen-Fink of the DPSST Fire Certification Section gave an overview of the proposed changes. Julie thanked Don Arbuckle of the Portland International Airport Fire-Rescue who was in attendance for his assistance on the NFPA Airport Fire Fighter Task Force. At the November 2005 Fire Policy Committee meeting, members approved the adoption NFPA 1003 Standard for Airport Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications, 2005 Edition. At that meeting the proposed Oregon Administrative Rules to make this change were not ready for the Fire Policy Committee to review. In review of the rules, NFPA Airport Fire Fighter was not

listed in the definition section; DPSST staff has corrected this issue in the proposed rules.

Mark Prince moved to recommend to the Committee to file the proposed language for OAR 259-0019-0005 (19) as a proposed rule with the Secretary of State. Larry Goff seconded the motion. (Note: The remaining definitions would be renumbered sequentially). The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Nancy Orr moved to recommend to the Committee to file the proposed language in OAR 259-009-0005 and OAR 259-009-062 as a permanent rule with the Secretary of State if no public comment is received and no hearing is held. Kevin Gray seconded the motion. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Kevin Gray moved that the Fire Policy Committee has not identified any significant fiscal impact on small businesses pertaining to HB 3238 at this time. Nancy Orr seconded the motion. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

5. NFPA Fire Officer

Julie Olsen-Fink of the DPSST Fire Certification Section gave an overview of the proposed changes. Julie thanked members of the Fire Officer Task Force who were in attendance. At the November 2005 FPC meeting, members approved the adoption of NFPA 1021 Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications, 2003 Edition. At that meeting the proposed Oregon Administrative Rules to make this change were not ready for the Fire Policy Committee to review.

State Fire Marshal Nancy Orr thanked the members of the Task Force and DPSST staff for recognizing and including fire prevention professionals in this certification category.

A question was raised regarding the changes in the requirements for Fire Instructor certification with the new standard. Staff reviewed the NFPA 1021 Standard and made the following report - Fire Officer I will require Fire Instructor I. Fire Officer II will have no additional requirements. Fire Officer III will require Fire Instructor II.

Nancy Orr moved to recommend to the Committee to file the proposed language for OAR 259-009-0062 as a proposed rule with the Secretary of State. Mark Prince seconded the motion. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Nancy Orr moved to recommend to the Committee to file the proposed language in OAR 259-009-062 as a permanent rule with the Secretary of State if no public comment is received and no hearing is held. Larry Goff seconded the motion. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Mark Prince moved that the Fire Policy Committee has not identified any significant fiscal impact on small businesses pertaining to HB 3238 at this time. Larry Goff seconded the motion. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

3a. NFPA Driver –Apparatus Operator (Follow-Up)

Mark Prince asked that some additional discussion take place regarding the Driver-Pumper Operator Standard. Chair Whelan allowed the discussion to occur.

Mark stated he did not vote on the motion because on a professional level he understood the direction but as a member of the Oregon Fire Chiefs Association was concerned on the impact to small rural volunteer fire agencies.

Nancy Orr was aware of the additional workload on DPSST staff but believes that certification is a benefit to Oregon's fire service and to non-combat volunteers.

Kevin Gray could see a benefit for Driver but is concerned for Operator especially when fireground operations could change rapidly and place individuals operating equipment in danger in Immediate Danger to Life Health (IDLH) situations. Kevin was also concerned that to meet two-in / two-out requirements, a crew arriving on the scene of an incident with four persons of which the driver was not a firefighter would not meet this requirement.

Jim Whelan and Julie Olsen-Fink shared that the best way for individuals and organizations to share their views was to make public comments during the process.

Jim asked if the Committee was in favor of Public Comment and a Hearing to allow all interested parties on the Driver-Pumper Operator Standard to have an opportunity to share their views and concerns. There was consensus of the Committee that this takes place.

6. Fire Ground Leader

Julie Olsen-Fink of the DPSST Fire Certification Section gave an update on the Fire Ground Leader Task Force. To date, six individuals have expressed an interest in writing. DPSST opens task force nominations for 30 days. The closing date for interested parties is February 24, 2006. After the closing date, DPSST will contact Chair Jim Whelan who will appoint the Task Force.

7. House Bill 3238

House Bill 3238 was passed during the 2005 Legislative Session. The legislation took effect on January 1, 2006. The bill requires that the organization implementing rules consider the impacts during the administrative rules process to small businesses and government entities. Bonnie Salle of DPSST's Standards and Certification Section will manage this process and work with the various committees to meet the

intent of the legislation. This was an informational item and no action by the Committee was required.

8. Mayday Task Force Report

Eriks Gabliks provided the report on the Mayday Task Force. The Governor's Fire Service Policy Council formed a task force to identify and define standard emergency terminology and audible signaling. The task force was directed to make suggestions which could be adopted statewide to create common terms for critical events that could occur during emergency incidents. The Mayday Task Force was comprised of fire-rescue professionals from across the state. The Mayday Task Force included chief officers, fire instructors, USAR team members, haz-mat team members, and DPSST staff. The Mayday Task Force Report was adopted by the Governor's Fire Service Policy Committee at its January 24, 2006 meeting in Salem, Oregon. The DPSST Fire Training Team is reviewing the report to identify ways through which the recommendations can be implemented into training programs for fire service and 9-1-1 communications professionals. This was an informational item and no action by the Committee was required.

9. Code Three Task Force Report

Eriks Gabliks provided the report on the Code Three Task Force. The Governor's Fire Service Policy Council formed a task force to evaluate Code Three driving practices and accidents. The task force was to make suggestions which reduce and/or prevent emergency vehicle accidents from taking place. The task force was made-up of law enforcement, fire-rescue, and insurance company representatives. The Code Three Task Force Report was adopted by the Governor's Fire Service Policy Committee at its January 24, 2006 meeting in Salem, Oregon. The staff at the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) is reviewing the report to identify ways through which training programs for all public safety disciplines can address the issues identified by the Task Force. This was an informational item and no action by the Committee was required.

10. National Fire Service Credentialing System

Eriks Gabliks provided an update on the National Fire Service Credentialing System under discussion and development by the United States Department of Homeland Security. For over three years, the United States Fire Administration (USFA) has been working with the various fire service organizations on a system which establishes a national credentialing system for fire service responders. DPSST participated in the initial meetings of the work group and provided information to the Fire Policy Committee on the efforts and concerns. DPSST's concerns were primarily driven by staff impacts, Oregon fire service impacts, unfunded mandates, and format of credentials. DPSST was not alone in its concern; in fact most states raised similar issues. As the USFA continued to work on this issue, a smaller steering committee was formed. DPSST concerns were shared with the North American Fire

Training Director's Association representative on the steering committee. The report addresses the majority of DPSST's concerns regarding staff impact, local fire service impact, and funding. The format of the credential still needs to be addressed. This was an informational item and no action by the Committee was required.

11. Strategic Planning

DPSST/BPSST has engaged the assistance of the Executive Leadership Institute of the Mark Hatfield School of Government at Portland State University in a strategic planning process. The Fire Policy Committee received a briefing on the process from Portland State University staff and was asked to gather information from the various fire service stakeholder groups on their expectations of DPSST, BPSST, and the various policy committees. This process will continue at the next meeting.

Meeting Dates for 2006

May 12, 2006 – 0900 - Keizer Fire District

August 18, 2006 – 0900 - Oregon Public Safety Academy – Salem

November 17, 2006 – 0900 - Oregon Public Safety Academy – Salem

There being no further business before the Committee the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.