

Fire Policy Committee Minutes

June 9, 2020

The Fire Policy Committee of the Board on Public Safety Standards and Training held a regular meeting on, June 9th at 9:00 a.m. in the Boardroom at the Oregon Public Safety Academy located at 4190 Aumsville Hwy SE, Salem, Oregon. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Committee Members:

James Oeder, Chair, Oregon Vol. Fire Fighters Association
Jim Walker, Vice Chair, Oregon State Fire Marshal (Phone)
Greg Espinosa, Portland Fire and Rescue (Designee for Chief Sara Boone) (Phone)
Darren Bucich, Oregon Fire Chiefs Association (Phone)
Ron Graham, Oregon Department of Forestry (Phone)
Kevin Larson, Oregon State Fire Fighters Council (Phone)
Mark Kreutzer, Oregon Fire Dist. Directors Association
Richard Cearns, Oregon Fire Instructors Association (Phone)
Paula Simone, Community College Fire Programs (Phone)
John Rinier, Oregon Fire Marshals Association (Phone)
Bruce Riley, Public Member

DPSST Staff:

Eriks Gabliks, Director
Linsay Hale, Professional Standards Division Director
Julie Olsen, Fire Program Manager
Jennifer Howald, Rules Coordinator
Kayla Ballrot, Fire Program Compliance Specialist
Barbara Slinger, Fire Program Support Specialist
Theresa Janda, Executive Assistant to the Director (Phone)



1. Introductions

Introductions of members and staff were presented.

2. *Minutes

Approve February 26, 2020 meeting minutes.

- *Bruce Riley moved that the committee approve the minutes of the February 26, 2020 Fire Policy Committee (FPC) meeting. Mark Kreutzer seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.*

3. *Cronin, Elijah DPSST #F38682; NFPA Hazardous Materials Awareness and NFPA Hazardous Materials Operations

Presented by Kayla Ballrot

Issue: Whether Elijah Cronin’s conduct surrounding his arrest and conviction of Animal Neglect in the 1st Degree, ORS 167.330, should result in the denial of his NFPA Hazardous Materials Awareness and NFPA Hazardous Materials Operations certifications for failure to meet the minimum standards for a Fire Service Professional.

After reviewing all the information related to Cronin’s convictions of the identified crimes, staff has identified by a preponderance of evidence that Cronin’s misconduct violates the core values of **Integrity** and **Professionalism**.

Vote/Consensus	Second	Vote	Outcome
Jim Walker moved that the FPC adopt the staff report as the record upon which its recommendations are based.	Ron Graham	10 ayes (Espinosa- Abstained - joined call late.)	Motion passes
The FPC found as aggravating circumstances Cronin’s conviction of Animal Neglect in the 1 st Degree and that Cronin is still on probation until June 13 th , 2020.			
The FPC found as mitigating circumstances Cronin’s honesty and forthrightness with the investigating officer about the incident and that he did admit fault for the neglect of the animal.			
After considering the totality of the case Jim Walker moved to recommend Cronin’s certifications be denied.	Bruce Riley	10 ayes (Espinosa- Abstained - joined call late.)	Motion passes
Consensus reached by the FPC who determined this specific behavior precludes this Fire Service Professional from being certified in Oregon because of his continuous decision to not seek treatment for the dog which resulted in its death. This displays poor judgement and a lack of empathy and does not represent the behavior expected of a Fire Service Professional.			
Bruce Riley moved to recommend to the Board a minimum period of ineligibility of 5 years.	Darren Bucich	11 ayes	Motion passes unanimously

4. Harrington, Taeton DPSST #F38068; NFPA Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator and NFPA Fire Fighter 1

Presented by Kayla Ballrot

Issue: Whether Taeton Harrington’s conduct surrounding his arrest and convictions of Possession of Weapon in a Public Building, ORS 166.370, and Criminal Mischief in the Second Degree, ORS 164.354 should result in the denial of his NFPA Fire Apparatus Driver/ Operator and NFPA Fire Fighter I certifications for failure to meet the minimum standards for a Fire Service Professional.

After reviewing all the information related to Harrington’s convictions of the identified crimes, staff has identified by a preponderance of evidence that Harrington’s misconduct violates the core values of **Integrity** and **Professionalism**.

Vote/Consensus	Second	Vote	Outcome
Jim Walker moved that the FPC adopt the staff report as the record upon which its recommendations are based.	Richard Cearns	11 ayes	Motion passes unanimously
The FPC found as aggravating circumstances his convictions of Possession of Weapon in a Public Building and Criminal Mischief, current court ordered supervision, he was not forthcoming in his interview with arresting officers, and his prior convictions.			
The FPC found as mitigating circumstances the letter that Harrington wrote himself and two other letters from Mid-Columbia Fire & Rescue. In addition that Harrington has paid all his fines and has sought treatment.			
After considering the totality of the case Bruce Riley moved to recommend Harrington's certifications be denied.	Paula Simone	11 ayes	Motion passes unanimously
Consensus reached by the FPC who determined this specific behavior precludes this Fire Service Professional from being certified in Oregon because of his poor judgement and behavior. He was also not truthful during the investigation into this incident, all of which is not representative of the behavior expected of a Fire Service Professional.			
Bruce Riley moved to recommend to the Board a minimum period of ineligibility of 7 years.	John Rinier	11 ayes	Motion passes unanimously

5. ***Vallance, Kelly DPSST #F34182; NFPA Operations Level Responder, NFPA Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator, Firefighter Type 2 (FFT2), and NFPA Fire Fighter I**
Presented by Kayla Ballrot

Issue: Whether Kelly Vallance's conduct surrounding her arrest and convictions of Assaulting a Public Safety Officer, ORS 163.208, Resisting Arrest, ORS 162.315, and Assault in the Fourth Degree, ORS 163.160, should result in the revocation of her NFPA Operations Level Responder, NFPA Fire Apparatus Driver/ Operator, Firefighter Type 2 (FFT2) and NFPA Fire Fighter I certifications for failure to meet the minimum standards for a Fire Service Professional.

After reviewing all the information related to Vallance's convictions of the identified crimes, staff has identified by a preponderance of evidence that Vallances's misconduct violates the core values of **Integrity** and **Professionalism**.

Vote/Consensus	Second	Vote	Outcome
Jim Walker moved that the FPC adopt the staff report as the record upon which its recommendations are based.	Richard Cearns	10 ayes 1 abstain (Larson)	Motion passes
The FPC found as aggravating circumstances the convictions of assaulting a public safety officer, resisting arrest, and assault in the 4 th degree.			
The FPC found as mitigating circumstances that Vallance has paid her court fines, and completed alcohol and anger management treatment. In addition the FPC found the letters from the law firm, her parole and probation officers, and herself as mitigating circumstances.			
After considering the totality of the case Bruce Riley moved to recommend Vallance's certifications be revoked.	Paula Simone	10 ayes 1 abstain (Larson)	Motion passes
Consensus reached by the FPC who determined this specific behavior precludes this Fire Service Professional from being certified in Oregon because her extreme lack of judgement and violent behavior are conduct unbecoming of a Fire Service Professional.			
Bruce Riley moved to recommend to the Board a minimum period of ineligibility of 7 years.	No Second		Motion failed
Mark Kreutzer moved to the board a minimum period of ineligibility of 5 years.	Richard Cearns	6 ayes; 4 nays (Walker, Espinosa, Riley, Bucich) 1 abstain (Larson)	Motion passes

6. ***Monroe, Anthony DPSST #F18280; NFPA Driver, NFPA Pumper Operator, Wildland Interface Fire Fighter, Wildland Interface Engine Boss, Task Force Leader (TFLD), NFPA Fire Fighter I, NFPA Fire Fighter II, NFPA Fire Instructor I, NFPA Fire Officer I, NFPA Rope Rescue-Level I, NFPA Rescue Level II, and NFPA Vehicle and Machinery Rescue**
Presented by Kayla Ballrot

Issue: Whether Anthony Monroe's conduct surrounding his arrest and conviction of Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants, ORS 813.010, should result in the revocation of his NFPA Driver, NFPA Pumper Operator, Wildland Interface Fire Fighter, Wildland Interface Engine Boss, Task Force Leader (TFLD), NFPA Fire Fighter I, NFPA Fire Fighter II, NFPA Fire Instructor I, NFPA Fire Officer I, NFPA Rope Rescue-Level I, NFPA Rope Rescue- Level II, and NFPA Vehicle and Machinery Rescue Certifications for failure to meet the minimum standards for a Fire Service Professional.

After reviewing all the information related to Monroe's convictions of the identified crimes, staff has identified by a preponderance of evidence that Monroe's misconduct violates the core values of **Integrity** and **Professionalism**.

Vote/Consensus	Second	Vote	Outcome
Bruce Riley moved that the FPC adopt the staff report as the record upon which its recommendations are based.	Jim Walker	11 ayes	Motion passes unanimously
The FPC found as aggravating circumstances Monroe's conviction of DUII and the dismissed charges of Disorderly Conduct and Interfering with a Peace & Probation Officer which occurred the night before his DUII arrest. Additionally, Monroe was not truthful with arresting officers.			
The FPC found as mitigating circumstances the letter Monroe wrote on his own behalf, the letter he wrote to the judge and that he has paid his court fines.			
After considering the totality of the case Bruce Riley moved to recommend Monroe's certifications be revoked	Paula Simone	11 ayes	Motion passes unanimously
Consensus reached by the FPC who determined this specific behavior precludes this Fire Service Professional from being certified in Oregon because of his conviction of a DUII and untruthfulness to the arresting officer. Additionally, Monroe showed a lack of judgement when he chose to drive while his blood alcohol content was a .14 which is well over the legal limit. This behavior endangered himself and others. This shows poor judgement that does not meet the standards expected of a Fire Service Professional.			
Bruce Riley moved to recommend to the Board a minimum period of ineligibility of 4 years.	Jim Walker	10 ayes 1 nay (Larson)	Motion passes

7. Department Update

Linsay Hale Presented

- Thanking John Rinier for his time and commitment to the Fire Policy Committee as he is retiring in July and congratulating Darren Bucich on his appointment to the chairmanship of the Board.
- The work group formed to review the Revocation and Denial process will meet following this FPC meeting to make sure that the practices are applicable to the Fire Service in 2020.

Kayla Ballrot Presented

- Maintenance Re-certification packets went out on June 1st 2020, they are due on 12/31/2020, we recognize that COVID-19 may effect this but encourage training, drills, and TPE's while maintaining social distancing practices. Extensions will be granted upon request.

- The Marine-Based Fire Fighter standard is up for renewal, a task force has been formed to meet and get this standard updated. This should be brought to the FPC in the November meeting.
- The Fire Officer task force has been announced and will most likely be convened at the end of the summer.
- DPSST and the Fire Program have a new website that will be rolled out Monday June 15th.

Julie Olsen Presented

- Training has not been occurring on campus but regional trainers are being sent out to department in their regions. Additional measures are being taken to keep both DPSST Training Staff and fire service personnel safe due to COVID-19.
- The Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial will be taking place September 17th at 1:00pm at DPSST, we are planning a virtual memorial and are working with the Honor Guard to determine what that will look like. Eric Aarseth will be added to the memorial wall this year as well.
- Grant opportunities were announced several months ago. We highly encourage more training associations to take advantage of them and to get grant requests submitted by October of 2020. The funding must be used by June 21st, 2021.
- The DPSST Fire Program has been asked to train the Oregon National Guard for wild fire season. We are in the process of planning the training and logistics of this event and will debrief the FPC in our August meeting.
- We have received a \$20,000 grant from the National Fire Academy to be used for fire training and we will work with an FPC sub-committee to determine what classes will be offered around the state.
- The Fire Program is still not in a position to hire more Training Staff but current staff are working to make sure that open areas throughout the state are having their training needs met.

Eriks Gabliks Presented

- DPSST is actively tracking the tragic death of George Floyd due to the actions of a Minneapolis police officer. There is no excuse for the actions of the Minneapolis police officer or the inactions of his three co-workers. As the state's standards and training agency for many public safety disciplines, including law enforcement, there is much interest in the work of DPSST. DPSST embraces transparency and has responded to inquiries from local, state and federal elected officials. For almost 20 years, DPSST has participated in a national decertification database that is operated by the International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training (IADLEST). This system, the National Decertification Index (NDI), is used by dozens of state criminal justice certification agencies but the challenge is that not all states certify, decertify, or use the same language for their actions. NDI is a "pointer system" that sends agencies to the state that entered the information for more details. DPSST has pledged to provide whatever

information is needed and to assist any legislative committees that are formed that will improve law enforcement professionalism through standards and training.

- On March 17, 2020, DPSST suspended all training classes due to the COVID-19 pandemic and updated CDC and Governor's guidelines. The suspension was necessary so that DPSST staff could create a health and safety protocol that managed risk and enabled training classes to return. The Academy has resumed operations but under new guidelines around the campus including Aramark food service. Staff have done a great job working with students to address risk and implement proactive cleaning measures and use of PPE. While the Academy was closed, more than three dozen DPSST staff answered the call for assistance issued by Oregon Emergency Management. DPSST staff assisted in the emergency coordination center, joint information center, incident management team, and the Wilsonville PPE distribution center. All DPSST staff have completed their assignments and have returned to normal duties.
- DPSST hosted the State's Fallen Law Enforcement Officer Memorial On May 5, 2020. While the campus was closed to the public, it was necessary to honor and remember Oregon's fallen police, corrections and parole and probation officers. A limited number of honor guard members participated in the modified ceremony and the names of all of the fallen were read. DPSST livestreamed the event on Facebook and also created a video afterwards that has generated more than 25,000 views to date.
- DPSST continues to work on its 2021-2023 Agency Request Budget as are other state agencies. DPSST is waiting to hear if reductions will be taken in the current 2019-2021 biennium. Until additional guidance is given, vacant positions at the agency are being held vacant to avoiding hiring an individual only to lay them off in a few months.
- Eriks asked committee members to keep Johnny Mack of Chemeketa Community College, and a former member of the Fire Policy Committee, in their thoughts and prayers as he works through some medical challenges.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:09 am.

8. Next Scheduled FPC meeting –August 26, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

* All documents reviewed and discussed in this meeting are subject to Oregon Public Records Law (ORS 192.410 to ORS 192.505). These documents can be requested by contacting DPSST at dpsst.records@state.or.us.