

FIRE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes

August 7, 2019
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Elk River Fire Department
 13073 Orono Parkway
 Elk River, MN

P	Mark Kulda Insurance Federation of MN	P	Don Smiley MN State Fire Chief's Assoc. (MSFCA)
P	Kip LaMotte Fire Marshals Assoc. of MN / International Assoc. of Arson Investigators-MN Chapter	P	Chris Parsons MN Professional Firefighters Assoc. (MPFF)
P	Rick Loveland MN Professional Fire Fighters Assoc. (MPFF)	P	Jon Kahnke MN State Fire Department Assoc. (MSFDA)
P	Mark Windschitl <i>Vice Chair</i> League of MN Cities	P	BJ Jungmann <i>Chair</i> MN State Fire Chief's Assoc. (MSFCA)
P	Lisa Laliberte League of MN Cities	P	Ed Hoffman MN State Fire Department Assoc. (MSFDA)
P	Jim Fisher MN Assoc. of Townships	P	Robert Hawkins Commissioner Designee

Guests: Steve Flaherty (MBFTE), Margaret Koele (FSAC Admin), Larry Freund (DPS Chief Financial Officer), Bruce West (State Fire Marshal), George Esbensen (MnFIRE), Pete Knaeble (MN TF1), Paul Seleski (MFSCB), David Schliek (MFSCB) and Steve Shapira (Century College)

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Call to order – Chair Mark Windschitl

- Acceptance or additions to agenda
 - MBFTE 1001 requirements
 - Rick Loveland motioned to approve the agenda with the addition, Jim Fisher second, motion carried
- Approval of June minutes
 - Ed Hoffman motion to approve the minutes, Rick Loveland second, motion approved

New Business

- FSA & Firework balance - State Fire Marshal Bruce West
 - \$1,164,274.42 one-time appropriation additional funds
 - \$14,207,274.42 total collections for FY19
- History of account – Larry Freund
 - MnFIRE portion of funding returned to FSA
 - \$277,213
 - DNR funding returned to FSA
 - \$419,900
 - Task Force One returned to FSA
 - \$113
- Presentation discussion for funding one time appropriation
 - Non Responsible Party (\$100,000 request)
 - Service Planning Grant (\$150,000 request)
 - Rick Loveland motioned to fully fund both the “Non Responsible Party” and the “Service Planning Grant” programs, Robert Hawkins second the motion
 - Roll call vote was unanimous, motion carried
 - Task Force One (\$755,000 request)
 - BJ Jungmann asked if Task Force One could entertain a partial funding of the request, as one of the committees top three statutory requirements
 - Pete Knaeble, commented that they could utilize any portion of the funding that would be granted
 - Rick Loveland asked if there is a tie to a group up in Northern MN
 - Pete Knaeble commented there are no other groups affiliated with Task Force One.
 - Some groups are doing training on grants to help out neighboring departments showing their technical rescue capabilities, but they are not part of Task Force One. There is

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- only one state response team, which is Task Force One.
- Ed Hoffman asked if only \$500,000 were funded would they still be able to do the operational readiness training
 - Pete Knaeble commented they can still do the training, just on a smaller scale
- Rick Loveland motioned to fund Task Force One at \$454,274.42, Chris Parsons second the motioned
 - Roll call vote unanimous, motion carried
- MNFIRE (\$790,000 request)
- Washer Extractor Grant (\$300,000 request)
 - Rick Loveland motioned to fund \$200,000, Robert Hawkins second the motion
- Dryer Grant (\$300,000 request)
 - Rick Loveland motioned to fund \$200,000, Robert Hawkins second the motion
 - Mark Kulda, motioned to amend the motion on the table to combine the request and allocate \$400,000 for the purchase of washer or dryers, second by Kip LaMotte. First motion accepts the amendment, motion carried to change the original motion
 - 40-50 units could be covered by this funding, per Marshal West
 - Roll call vote unanimous, motion carried
- Sauna Study (\$60,000 request)
 - Chris Parsons motioned to fully fund the sauna study, Rick Loveland second motion
 - Chris Parsons commented that the sauna study is very worthy and we are seeing more researchers of higher learning taking an interest in studying firefighter health. They are doing it pro bono and these studies cost money as well as time to complete. If we invest in the study it would have downstream affect where other studies will come along if they know there is possibilities of getting some type of funding
 - Ed Hoffman commented that this is a worthwhile study, but as the Doctor commented many donate their time to the studies and if the \$60,000 would be more beneficial for the programs we currently have funded, such as MnFIRE that has had a big impact across the state

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- Robert Hawkins would like to add that the feedback has been very positive on the MnFIRE program that was funded last fiscal year and would like to see the \$60,000 go to that program. The ongoing training they deliver is very important in regards to the health of the firefighters across the state
- Mark Kulda commented that when they had the presentation from the doctor he said the study would get done regardless if they received funding. Is there something in the breakdown list of MnFIRE that would have a bigger impact and be more beneficial to use the funding toward
- BJ Jungmann commented that the study is important and will be beneficial long term, but given the limited funding, we need to go back to our presentation policy and the five priorities to consider existing programs. The sauna study will get done regardless and we should look at putting the funding toward MnFIRE with the impact it has shown across the state
- Lisa Laliberte commented that maybe there are grants through other entities such as; Minnesota Cancer Alliance, that could help them with funding the sauna study
- Mark Windschitl believes the sauna study is beneficial, but we have heard such good results about the MnFIRE training and would like to see them get some funding
- Chris Parsons would like to amend the motion to give \$10,000 to the sauna study and \$50,000 to MnFIRE for training, Mark Kulda second motion, motion carried to amend the motion
 - Ed Hoffman would like to see the \$60,000 go to MnFIRE as the impact will be greater
 - Mark Kulda commented giving some to the sauna study shows that we do care and it is worthwhile study
 - Mark Windschitl would like to see the funding used for training and not administrative costs
 - George Esbensen commented that they will work diligently to train a quarter of what they did last year given the limited funding
 - Roll call vote unanimous, motion carried

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- Bylaw Discussion
 - Vision of the committee – to update
 - Chad Weinstein came in a couple years ago and maybe revisit doing this again
 - Rick Loveland commented we have new members and would be a good idea to address this every couple years
 - BJ Jungmann will work with Marshal West on setting up a meeting again
 - Move the vision to a policy and take out of the bylaws
 - Add to presentation policy
 - BJ Jungmann would like to propose to add a date for base budget change requests to have time for legislative changes to be addressed
 - June designated for one time funding presentation meeting
 - August of even year designated as base budget funding presentation meeting
 - The committee will vote on next meeting after send out revision proposal of the policy to committee members
 - Remove “secretary” position
 - BJ Jungmann would like to remove “secretary” from the bylaws as Margaret Koele has done this position
 - BJ Jungmann motioned to remove the word secretary and renumber sections from bylaws, Rick Loveland second the motion
 - Ed Hoffman commented to address the bylaw for 30 day notice, table to next meeting to vote on this change
 - There is no Executive Committee and maybe that should be amended as well if cleaning up the bylaws
- Approve the 2020 calendar
 - Rick Loveland motioned to approve the calendar, Jim Fisher second the motion, motion carried
- MBFTE 1001 requirements discussion – BJ Jungmann
 - Discussion at the MN Chiefs Association meeting was in regards to the additional funding that was given to the MBFTE for one time appropriation,

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last fiscal year, for the NFPA1001 program, where we put a stipulation that the student had to complete the course and pass the certification

- MBFTE is back to their base budget this year and the certification board had sent out a letter regarding concerns around that program, also some concerns from rural folks over the certification requirement
- The Chiefs Association would like to see us remove the certification requirement and go with a completion certificate from the provider for completing the class of 1001 requirements. We had found out last year when there was an audit that about 20% that we were paying for that never completed the class. With MBFTE going back to their base budget this would free up funding to get more people through the FFI and FFII classes. Looking for what the feelings are about changing this requirement. The MBFTE reimbursement would be based on completing the course and not requiring the student to take the certification
 - Rick Loveland would be opposed to the idea, as there is a standard that we have set through a third party independent testing process where we are actually certifying people, similar to law enforcement. We would be lowering the bar rather than maintaining the professionalism we have set. The testing shows there is competency verses completion
 - Ed Hoffman agrees with Rick Loveland as we used to have it where you could take the test and it did not matter if you passed or failed, then we made a decision they have to pass the test, this would be going backwards to not taking the test at all
 - Jim Fisher believes that they should be able to go through the course and get the certification included, you do not go to college and pay for the degree separately
 - Steve Flaherty, Executive Director MBFTE, commented that the funding that was set aside for the NFPA1001 program was already in motion in FY19. The board already had put parameters over the funding for FFI & FFII with certification, following the recommendation of this committee that the students had to complete the course and pass the certification in order to get reimbursed out of that one time appropriation funding. Students in the system that have not completed the course from FY19, have been given to the end of FY20, by our board to complete the course and pass the certification to get reimbursed from that program.

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The MBFTE board will be setting budget for our new fiscal year next week, but there are no stipulations on the base budget funding the board receives and it ultimately goes back to the board's authority to appropriate those funds as they see fit. There are no one time appropriations from this committee this fiscal year. If there is a one-time appropriation request next year for FFI & FFII funding, then the committee can certainly have the discussion to put requirements on how that funding should be reimbursed

- Add this discussion to the January meeting
 - Marshal West commented that MN state licensing requires FFII certification to get licensed as one of the requirements
 - BJ Jungmann wanted to clarify that it does not have to be current certification, just certified by IFSAC to get licensed
 - Marshal West replied, yes that is correct
 - Dave Schliek, MFSCB, replied that the new folks that join the licensure rank have to take the test and present a current FFII certification to get licensed
 - Margaret Koele, MBFTE License Coordinator, commented that the license does not have to be "current" it just has to be a FFII Pro Board or IFSAC certification

Public Comment

Marshal West commented that the washer/dryer grant applications are being put together now

Old Business

Mark Kulda commented that the new hands free law took effect, so remember do not hold the device. Make sure to get a Bluetooth or hands free device.

Adjourn 11:22 a.m.