

**South Carolina Fire Academy  
Advisory Committee Special Meeting  
Meeting Minutes – December 17, 2009**

**Members Present:** Will Vaigneur, Phil Elliott, Skip Hannon, John L Melton, Chris Nunnery, Karl Ristow, Alan Sistare, Jim Still,

**Members Absent:** Bill Addis, Bryan Beason, Bruce Burding, Joel Rogers, Shannon Tanner, Mitch Trammel

**Alternates Present:** Steve Curry, Wesley Williams

**Non-Voting Members Present:** Joe Palmer, John Reich and Ed Roper

**Visitors Present:** Dixon Odom, Cindy Brazell, Russ Friar, Phillip Russell

Chairman Vaigneur called the meeting to order. Ed Roper advised that a quorum was present.

Chairman Vaigneur stated the reason for the meeting was to discuss goals needed in order to make the State fire service better. Chairman Vaigneur asked everyone to represent their association and voice the opinion of their association.

- 1.) Where do we want to be as a state fire service with standards?

Ristow stated that we need to determine what the standards will be. We need to answer what is available now and the decisions have to be data driven.

Three basic questions to be resolved are:

1. Minimum requirements to enter the fire service
2. What is the minimum standard
3. How do we get there

Palmer stated that the Firefighter's Association could give an estimate of the number of new firefighters (members) in the state.

Roper stated that federal credentialing is coming and will require a 3<sup>rd</sup> party credential (IFSAC or ProBoard).

Standards and credentials are just different paths.

- 1- Take the class to meet the standard
- 2- Then take the IFSAC exam to be credentialed

Nunnery stated that the standard is NFPA. The method of how to get there should be determined.

The following was written on the white board as the processes were discussed among the members.

- A) What is a (new) firefighter?
  - a. 18 years old
  - b. GED/ High School Diploma
  - c. Criminal background (meet the State Firefighter Registration Act)

- d. OSHA physical fitness requirements
- e. Meet NFPA 1001

B) What standards are required for minimum training?

- a. For firefighters -- NFPA 1001
- b. For Fire Officers – NFPA 1021

Chris Nunnery made the following motion:

***All firefighters should meet NFPA 1001 as a minimum training standard with the OSHA physical being the minimum for physical requirements.***

The motion was seconded by Karl Ristow.

Discussion: This would only be new firefighters entering the fire service. Current firefighters will have to be grandfathered.

A roll call vote was taken by Secretary Roper and the results were as follows:

Steve Curry	(Professional FF)	Yea
Phil Elliott	(Fire Marshal Assoc.)	Yea
Skip Hannon	(Instructors Society)	Yea
John L Melton	(Fire School Committee)	Yea
Chris Nunnery	(Fire School Committee)	Yea
Karl Ristow	(Higher Education)	Nay
Alan Sistare	(Fire Chiefs Assoc.)	Nay
Jim Still	(Fire School Committee)	Nay

The final vote was 5 in favor of the motion and 3 opposed. The motion passed.

Karl Ristow made the following motion:

***All fire officers should meet NFPA 1021 as a minimum training standard with the OSHA physical being the minimum for physical requirements.***

The motion was seconded by Steve Curry.

Discussion: There was concern with the path to get here and how it effects smaller volunteer departments.

Karl Ristow amended his motion as follows:

***All fire officers should meet NFPA 1021 as a minimum training standard with the OSHA physical being the minimum for physical requirements, with provisions included for grandfathering or equivalents.***

Steve Curry, who had seconded the original motion, accepted the amendment.

A roll call vote was taken by Secretary Roper and the results were as follows:

Steve Curry	(Professional FF)	Yea
Phil Elliott	(Fire Marshal Assoc.)	Nay
Skip Hannon	(Instructors Society)	Yea
John L Melton	(Fire School Committee)	Nay
Chris Nunnery	(Fire School Committee)	Yea
Karl Ristow	(Higher Education)	Yea
Alan Sistare	(Fire Chiefs Assoc.)	Yea
Jim Still	(Fire School Committee)	Yea

The final vote was 6 in favor of the motion and 2 opposed. The motion passed.

- C) Research / decision making
- a. Equivalency / grandfathering
  - b. Training mediums
  - c. Implementation/ obtainment schedule (timeline for firefighter to complete training.
  - d. Costs
    - i. Departmental
    - ii. State
    - iii. Administer
  - e. Tracking
  - f. Effects on current legislation

Chairman Vaigneur stated that each group should breakout and develop a timeline of completing items and doing research and be ready to report back at the January quarterly meeting. We need to project how many NEW firefighters will be entering the fire service. What will be the standard for current firefighters and the standards for new firefighters? Think about limits on grandfathering – 15-20 years +. Each subcommittee should work separately in its own group.

### **Adjourn**

The next quarterly committee meeting is scheduled for Jan. 13, 2010 at 10 a.m.

With no other business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectively submitted,

Ed Roper  
Recording Secretary