

1 BEFORE THE STATE OF TENNESSEE
2 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE
3 COMMISSION ON FIREFIGHTING PERSONNEL STANDARDS
4 AND EDUCATION

5
6 BUSINESS MEETING

7
8 **TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS**

9
10 January 29, 2024
11 Nashville, Tennessee
12 12:05 P.M. C.S.T.

13
14 (revised May 24, 2024)

15
16
17 Commission members in attendance:

18
19 BRIAN BIGGS, Chair, Assistant Chief, Ashland City
20 Fire Dept.
21 DAVID WINDROW, Vice Chair, Fire Chief,
22 Nolensville Fire Dept.
23 WILLIAM SCOTT, Atoka Fire Dept.
24 JAY MOORE, Chief, Lawrenceburg Fire Dept.
25 MICHAEL HENRY, Firefighter/Paramedic, Franklin
26 Fire Dept.
27 STEPHANIE BOATRIGHT, District 1 Asst. Chief,
28 Sevier County Fire & Rescue
29 SHARROCK COBB, Clarksville Fire Dept.
30 TRAVIS SOLOMON, Chief, Oak Ridge Fire Dept.
31 KORY GREEN, Martin Fire Dept.
32 JEFF ELLIOTT, TFACA Executive Director
33 Service & Codes Enforcement Academy

34
35
36
37 State staff in attendance:

ORIGINAL

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39 SHANE CLARK, Firefighting Commission Director
40 GARY FARLEY, Assistant Commissioner
41 TIM SWANN State Wide Accreditation Manager
42 RICHARD GUARDINO West TN Region Coordinator
43 TED PADGETT East TN Region Coordinator
44 GREG DOSS Middle TN Region Coordinator
45 LEIGH J. FERGUSON Legal
46 MARABETH NICELY Legal
47 PAIGE DELOACH Administration
48 TINA BAKER Administration
49 ROB NORTHCUTT Administration
50 ROBYN BAIN Administration

1	TABLE OF CONTENTS	PAGE
2	Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance	3
3	Roll Call	3
4	Minutes	5
5	Guests	6
6	Communications	
7	East Tennessee/Ted Padgett	8
8	West Tennessee/Richard Guardino	9
9	Middle Tennessee/Greg Doss	10
10	Accreditation Manager/Tim Swann	11
11	TFACA/Jason Sparks	13
12	Legal Report/Leigh Ferguson	16
13	Assistant Commissioner's Report/Gary Farley	17
14	Director's Report/Shane Clark	19
15	Old Business/Shane Clark	23
16	New Business	
17	TFACA Classes/Jason Sparks TFACA	25
18	Reciprocity proposed changes/Scot Hughes	26
19	Rope prerequisites proposed change/Scot Hughes	33
20	Vector Solutions course addition	35
21	The Fire Academy brand change	35
22	Action Training Systems approval of classes	36
23	Middle and West TN audits	38
24	Testing limits/Director Clark	39
25	Testing events investigation/Marabeth Nicely	40
26	Spring Hill FD recruit class/Dominic Orlando	49
27	TN Suicide Prevention Network	51
28	EIP (added)	52
29	Public Comments (none)	55
30	Dates of Future Meetings	55
31	Adjourn	56
32	** Reporter's note: all name spelling phonetic unless given	
33	to the reporter - revision to page 15, lines 15 & 21, page	
34	16, line 3 from Chief Spann to Chief Sparks; page 15, line	
35	18 from trauma to driving.	
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Q & Q Court Reporting
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Franklin, Tennessee 37064
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1 CHAIR BIGGS: At this time I'll call the
2 Commission business meeting to order January 29th, 2024 at
3 the Davy Crockett Building.

4 At this time I'd ask everyone to stand.
5 Commissioner Windrow will give us a prayer then followed by
6 the Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Henry.

7 (WHEREUPON, the prayer and Pledge of Allegiance
8 were said at this time)

9 CHAIR BIGGS: Thank you, Commissioner
10 Windrow and Commissioner Henry.

11 Director, will you call the roll?

12 DIRECTOR CLARK: Commissioner Biggs.

13 CHAIR BIGGS: Here.

14 DIRECTOR CLARK: Commissioner Stephanie
15 Boatright.

16 COMMISSIONER BOATRIGHT: Here.

17 DIRECTOR CLARK: Commissioner Sharrock Cobb.

18 COMMISSIONER COBB: Here.

19 DIRECTOR CLARK: Commissioner Kory Green.

20 COMMISSIONER GREEN: Here.

21 DIRECTOR CLARK: Commissioner Michael Henry.

22 COMMISSIONER HENRY: Here.

23 DIRECTOR CLARK: Commissioner Jay Moore.

24 COMMISSIONER MOORE: Here.

25 DIRECTOR CLARK: Commissioner William Scott.

1 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Here.

2 DIRECTOR CLARK: Commissioner Travis
3 Solomon.

4 COMMISSIONER SOLOMON: Here.

5 DIRECTOR CLARK: Commissioner David Windrow.

6 VICE CHAIR WINDROW: Here.

7 DIRECTOR CLARK: TFACA Executive Director
8 Jeff Elliott.

9 DIRECTOR ELLIOTT: Here.

10 DIRECTOR CLARK: Assistant Commissioner
11 Farley.

12 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FARLEY: Here.

13 DIRECTOR CLARK: Mr. Chairman, we have a
14 full board.

15 CHAIR BIGGS: Thank you. I declare we have
16 a quorum.

17 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Mr. Chairman,
18 Commissioner Scott. I make a motion that we take a 20-
19 minute break at this time before proceeding with business.

20 CHAIR BIGGS: Motion been made to take a 20-
21 minute recess.

22 (multiple responses)

23 CHAIR BIGGS: Motion has been multiply
24 seconded. All those in favor signify by saying aye.

25 (all respond aye)

1 CHAIR BIGGS: Any opposed?

2 (no response)

3 CHAIR BIGGS: 20 minutes. We will return at
4 12:30.

5 (20-minute recess)

6 CHAIR BIGGS: All right, everybody's back so
7 we're going to get started. Has everybody had a chance to
8 look over April and July meeting minutes?

9 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: I did and I make a
10 motion that we accept both.

11 COMMISSIONER SOLOMON: I second.

12 COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry, who was motion
13 and second?

14 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Commissioner Scott.

15 COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

16 CHAIR BIGGS: I'll repeat them. Motion by
17 Commissioner Scott seconded by Commissioner Solomon. Any
18 further discussion?

19 (no response)

20 CHAIR BIGGS: Hearing none, all those in
21 favor of approval of April and July meeting minutes signify
22 by saying aye.

23 (all respond aye)

24 CHAIR BIGGS: Any opposed same sign.

25 (no response)

1 CHAIR BIGGS: Ayes have it.

2 Any announcements? Anybody on the...
3 Communications. Director?

4 DIRECTOR CLARK: To start off with
5 Communications I'd like to introduce the Fire Commission
6 staff. If everybody that works for the Firefighting
7 Commission would stand please so I can introduce you to the
8 Board.

9 So, first off, we've got Tina Baker. She's
10 basically over the VEIP, EIP program. Also, she's my
11 assistant so she does a lot within the office, office
12 management, and stuff like that. Paige DeLoach, she's
13 taking care of certification, making sure that our process
14 automation stays running and helps with some admin stuff as
15 far as accreditation goes. Richard Guardino, I think you
16 all know him, West Tennessee Coordinator. The new Middle
17 Tennessee Coordinator, Greg Doss, just started here a few
18 weeks ago. So, we now have a new Middle Tennessee
19 Coordinator. Our East Tennessee Coordinator, Ted Padgett,
20 I think everybody has probably met him in the past. Tim
21 Swann was our new Accreditation Manager but now has taken a
22 director spot in electrical. So, now we have an
23 Accreditation Manager position open. But Tim was very
24 fluent in getting us through our Pro Board reaccreditation.
25 Rob Northcutt is another one of the admins. He's pretty

1 much taking care of grading and reciprocity. Robyn Bain is
2 the latest admin, or almost the latest admin. She's pretty
3 much taking care of all registrations. So, just wanted to
4 introduce this wonderful team that, that I have with the
5 Firefighting Commission. A lot of you all haven't met them
6 at all so I just wanted to introduce you to the Board.
7 They are a very, very well oiled team and we're, we're glad
8 that we have this in place. And I think you're going to
9 see some good changes coming down the pike with them.

10 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Director Clark,
11 Commissioner Scott. I want to say, I want to say thank you
12 and I appreciate you bringing your staff in today for us to
13 meet them. I've had the pleasure of meeting quite a few of
14 them while I've been on and off campus here recently. And
15 it's a far cry from the days where we only had two people
16 in the office. So, we're seeing a lot more coming, as
17 training officers, we're seeing a lot more being done and a
18 lot more, better communication taking place. So, I just
19 want to say thank you and welcome to all of you.

20 CHAIR BIGGS: Thank you, Director.

21 And thank you, staff.

22 I've been around too long. I remember when we
23 only had one person.

24 (laughter)

25 CHAIR BIGGS: We will continue on. We're

1 going to start with our Communications, Coordinator
2 Padgett.

3 MR. PADGETT: Yes, sir. I'm Ted Padgett,
4 East Coordinator, as he stated. Came in April 3rd of last
5 year. I sent a memo up through chain and maybe you all
6 have that but I just want to hit a couple of points.

7 My primary task was to be a circuit riding
8 preacher when I first came on to, to beat the highways and
9 hedges to, to get out and see the volunteers and paid
10 departments of East Tennessee. And I think that has been
11 accomplished many times over.

12 Practical skills and written engagements, they've
13 increased in certifications. That's on the rise with the
14 volunteers especially. Also, with the EIP and the VEIP
15 we've seen that come up with some things that we've done
16 to, to allow ease of transition, I guess, during this
17 period.

18 I have a couple of points that are primary focal
19 points that I'd like to bring to your attention. One is
20 the EIP and VEIP audits for the East Tennessee Region have
21 not been completed as of 4/20/23. We've had a number
22 scheduled but for one reason or the other, weather included
23 here recently, those have not been done. So, please keep
24 that on the back of your mind.

25 The state solicitation for the field reps was

1 completed January 5th. I met with the new, we have new
2 proctors, other than Mr. Hodges, in the East Tennessee
3 side. We have a gentleman, Henry Slusher, and a gentleman,
4 John Fife, that's coming in with our patriarch, David
5 Hodges. They've had their training; they've had their
6 equipment delivered; they're ready to hit the road actually
7 starting next week on their own.

8 And then we've had a potential at least of a
9 written exam. Some kind of malfeasance has been discovered
10 and that will be discussed later.

11 But overall we've had a positive at least eight
12 months and looking for better and better things. So, thank
13 you.

14 CHAIR BIGGS: Thank you, sir.

15 Any questions for East Tennessee?

16 (no response)

17 CHAIR BIGGS: West Tennessee? Coordinator
18 Guardino.

19 MR. GUARDINO: I provided you with a memo
20 because I really don't have a whole lot to discuss. We
21 completed our audits back in April, May, I believe. They
22 were submitted to Director Clark back in July for approval.
23 The Education Center program so far this year has come
24 along very well. We've had some new processes come out so
25 I've been answering a lot of calls and doing a lot of

1 mentoring on the new process on, on how to manipulate that
2 and get through it.

3 A lot of questions out there still about this
4 rulemaking, you know, current thing going out. When's it
5 going to pass? What are we doing with FAO? Et cetera, et
6 cetera. But nothing that we can't handle.

7 Outside of that just glad to be here. Thank you.

8 CHAIR BIGGS: Thank you, sir.

9 Any questions for West or EIP?

10 (no response)

11 CHAIR BIGGS: Alright, Coordinator Doss?

12 MR. DOSS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, members
13 of the Commission.

14 My name's Greg Doss. I was hired with the
15 Firefighting Commission on November 20th of 2023. Still
16 getting my feet wet. Just a brief bio, I, I'm a second
17 generation firefighter and I'm a retired lieutenant with
18 the City of Franklin with 28 and a half years.

19 In the Middle Tennessee Region there has been an
20 increase in test events scheduled over the last several
21 months with several departments hosting open testing events
22 monthly and inviting the neighboring departments to send
23 personnel to test. With the increase of testing events in
24 the Middle Tennessee Region we have been able to hire a
25 third contractor field representative to proctor testing,

1 Jeff Brown, from Hickman County in addition to Phillip
2 Grooms and Tony Scott. Chief Scott and Chief Grooms bring
3 a wealth of experience and knowledge to these positions and
4 have set high standards for the Commission testing in the
5 Middle Region. I'm confident they will train Jeff
6 accordingly.

7 Audits in Middle Tennessee were conducted on
8 December 19th, 2023 with Dickson, Springfield, and
9 Millersville Fire Departments and no issues were found.
10 There are several others slated for Middle Tennessee but
11 dates have not been confirmed as of now.

12 Thank you for the opportunity to speak and I look
13 forward to meeting each and every one of you.

14 Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

15 CHAIR BIGGS: Thank you, sir.

16 Any questions for Middle?

17 (no response)

18 CHAIR BIGGS: Thank you, sir.

19 Short timer.

20 (laughter)

21 CHAIR BIGGS: Accreditation, Chief Swann?

22 CHIEF SWANN: Thank you. Just wanted to say
23 a thank you to Director Clark for giving me the opportunity
24 to serve the short period of time I did on the Fire
25 Commission. I learned immensely a lot about the

1 accreditation portion of it. Director Clark give me a
2 specific instruction that we needed to get accredited
3 through Pro Board by the end of the year. And with the
4 team that we have sitting behind me we were able to
5 accomplish that. We also were instructed to go to one
6 book, one test, one curriculum out of that same book. So,
7 we were able to validate all of our tests over again and
8 get that completed by the end of the year. So, I
9 appreciate the help from the, from the team members, and
10 Director Clark, and Assistant Chief, excuse me, I want to
11 call you Assistant Chief, Assistant Commissioner Farley to
12 give me the opportunity to step up into another role. And
13 I appreciate that. And just want to say thank you for the
14 opportunity.

15 CHAIR BIGGS: Thank you, sir.

16 Any questions for Accreditation?

17 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Which certification did
18 we go to a single source on?

19 CHEIF SWANN: It's one of the textbooks.

20 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Yes, sir.

21 CHEIF SWANN: The list of all of the
22 textbooks that come from the book committee?

23 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: No, you just mentioned
24 that we went to a single source on one certification, I
25 guess, during the, I was just curious which.

1 CHEIF SWANN: I'm sorry if I insinuated
2 that.

3 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Okay, it's alright.

4 CHEIF SWANN: Yeah, I was just talking about
5 the books.

6 CHAIR BIGGS: Got you. Thank you.

7 Any further questions?

8 (no response)

9 CHAIR BIGGS: Alright, Tennessee Fire and
10 Codes Academy, Chief Sparks.

11 CHIEF SPARKS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

12 At the Fire Academy we have several things going
13 on I'll just make you aware of. So, the original 100 foot
14 platform that we have I've told you before that we're in
15 the process of replacing that. And we got a, last week we
16 got a projected delivery date, delivery time frame and
17 that's May of '25. So, that's pretty quick actually for,
18 for the time frame that we ordered it in.

19 We're still working on our new burn building
20 that's going to be placed on the drill field, which will be
21 a residential, or more like a residential burn building,
22 more liken to what you'll be searching in most residences.
23 So, that was, the bids were open and that was awarded in
24 December. And awarded to a general contractor. So, I
25 don't really know, we haven't been, we don't have a good

1 time frame but, hopefully, it's possible that we can see
2 that by the end of this year. Because it's a modular type
3 building so the construction of it is not going to be that,
4 that long of a time frame. It's just really the delivery
5 of the things.

6 And then the other thing we're still doing free
7 volunteer training in support of VEIP. We've done, the
8 count I have right now is around 1000, however, there's a
9 lot of rosters flowing in now all of a sudden when we
10 started doing in-service training. So, I suspect it's much
11 higher than that. But we've, we've had a large response, a
12 lot of requests for that. So, that's a good thing both for
13 you all and us.

14 That's the end of our report. I'd be happy to
15 answer any questions you may have.

16 CHAIR BIGGS: Any questions for TFACA?

17 (no response)

18 CHAIR BIGGS: Thank you, sir.

19 CHIEF SPARKS: One thing I should mention,
20 you all had asked me. So, now I'm talking as Fire Chief.
21 You all had asked me about, because I submitted a
22 curriculum and for the reason of teaching folks that are
23 under the age of 18 years old back in the spring of last
24 year. So, we did one of those classes this summer, a 16
25 and 64 and I think I had seven folks that were under 18 at

1 that point in time. Two of those got hired this week as
2 full time firefighters. Because, you know, as soon as
3 they, the clock flipped and they turned 18; went to live
4 burn at the Fire Academy. Then we put them in HMA and HMO.
5 And pretty much all of them have successfully passed HMO
6 now, as well. And so, that put them in a great position to
7 flow right into the fire service. And so, a couple of them
8 were hired this week. And then last weekend, weekend
9 before last, I'm sorry, we had a large commercial fire in
10 my county and I got to see four of them from another county
11 that are active firefighters now with their volunteer
12 department. So, that was kind of neat and I just kind of
13 wanted to report back to you how well I think that went.

14 CHAIR BIGGS: That's great news, thank you.

15 CHIEF SPARKS: Thank you.

16 VICE CHAIR WINDROW: Jason, I have a quick
17 question. I've got, just because I thought of it,
18 utilization rate for the training tower and the driving
19 simulator, is that on the road all the time, or has it
20 slowed down?

21 CHIEF SPARKS: This time of year it is
22 busy. You may be looking at, at months out before you can
23 get it now. And we're probably already, well, I know we
24 are, we're already scheduled in '25, so. I'm not going
25 to say there's not a spot somewhere there that we could

1 work somebody in but it's busy.

2 VICE CHAIR WINDROW: Thank you.

3 CHIEF SPARKS: Thank you.

4 DIRECTOR ELLIOTT: Commissioner Windrow,
5 just since you brought it up, that driving simulator has
6 undergone about \$175,000 upgrade. So, it's not even the
7 original simulator it was when we got it. It has
8 completely been reworked as far as the software package.
9 So, people that's had it five years ago would get exposed
10 to entirely different scenarios now.

11 CHAIR BIGGS: Alright, Leigh, you have
12 anything for Legal or you want to do it in your report?

13 MS. FERGUSON: Well, from Legal I will
14 introduce Marabeth Nicely. She joined our office..

15 MS. NICELY: October.

16 MS. FERGUSON: - October and just rolled off
17 90 days this month, right? So, she's doing really well.
18 She'll be taking over as the primary attorney for the
19 Firefighting Commission. I'll help during the process of
20 transition. But Marabeth has a report to present, a Legal
21 report to present. She'll do that later.

22 CHAIR BIGGS: Thank you.

23 Assistant Commissioner Farley?

24 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FARLEY: Alright,
25 thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 I'd also like to reiterate how glad I am for the
2 team that we've got in place. They're doing an excellent
3 job and I really appreciate everything they do.

4 We actually changed some things when it comes to
5 the contract people. What we changed, we kind of
6 advertised for people that had the skill instead of letting
7 people be it, we advertised it, and, for the
8 qualifications. And we've gotten more people interested in
9 it. We had some to pick from and quite a few. In doing
10 that I actually approved and added an additional one in
11 Middle Tennessee and an additional one in East Tennessee.
12 And Rick had said something about that he felt like that
13 the two in West Tennessee would suffice. But if it comes
14 down to it he knows and Shane knows that if it gets to the
15 point we need to I'm willing to listen to that. I think
16 that's been great that we've done that.

17 The, let's see here, the only, I want to say
18 this, if you all would, because it can become a finding for
19 us, we need to get the audits done and they need to be a
20 priority to get those audits done in a timely manner.
21 Because once, once the Comptrollers get involved in doing
22 audits and stuff it can cause us some problems. So, if you
23 would make that a priority.

24 I do know this and I'm proud to say this that the
25 three coordinators have made it a priority to go out here

1 and sell the VEIP program. And that is something that I
2 think they all know that it's near and dear to my heart and
3 we get this, increase the numbers on that. Also, while
4 they're at it there are some career departments out there
5 that's not involved in it, to actually get those career
6 departments into the program, as well. So, the team is
7 doing great.

8 Also, I want, Shane knows this and Tim knows
9 this, during the interim even though Tim is in another
10 section now he's still a part of the State Fire Marshal's
11 Office. All sections in the State Fire Marshal's Office
12 we're not, we're not silos. We are a team in the State
13 Fire Marshal's Office. If Shane needs help in the
14 accreditation stuff until he can get somebody in place Tim
15 will, will be more than glad to help in that process as
16 well. So, we're not going to leave anybody hanging by no
17 means because it is a team and that's the way we're going
18 to treat it.

19 So, thanks for letting me say that and that's my
20 report.

21 CHAIR BIGGS: Thank you, sir.

22 Any questions for Commissioner Farley?

23 (no response)

24 CHAIR BIGGS: Thank you.

25 Director, turn it over to you.

1 DIRECTOR CLARK: Director Clark. There's a,
2 they've kind of touched on a lot of things that I was going
3 to bring up. But I am going to kind of clarify some stuff.

4 We did have our second visit from Pro Board. Our
5 initial one, we had a lot of work to do to get us fully
6 back up to accreditation. As this Board knows, we were
7 going down to one discipline with Pro Board, so, there was
8 a lot that had to be done to get us back up. We are now,
9 I'm happy to say Tim, and Paige, and I went to Orlando to
10 the Pro Board conference and got our recertification
11 certificate for 33 levels, which is even more than what we
12 had to begin with. We are adding additional ones.
13 Hopefully, we've got a couple of standard changes that's
14 got to be added. And we're adding, one of the things that
15 I've talked to TFACA about a little bit is the Health and
16 Safety Officer series to go along with Incident Safety
17 Officer. So, I think that's something we really need to
18 look at. So, we're going to be looking into that. And
19 then we've got the Live Fire Instructor and Live Fire
20 Instructor in Charge that we are wanting to add. These are
21 all new accreditations. So, we're looking at really
22 bringing it up to about 36 levels once it's all said and
23 done. So, it's really good that we're back and Pro Board
24 is very, very happy. I actually had a lunch with the
25 chairman of Pro Board and he was very excited that we were

1 able to come back and, and to get reaccredited up to those
2 33 levels. So, I'm very impressed with the staff that we
3 were able to do that.

4 So, thank you all, again, for everything you did.

5 I've already introduced the staff and Greg also.
6 We've already gotten by that.

7 One thing that I do want to mention is we were
8 unable to go to full membership just because of a budgetary
9 thing on what this Board approved. We are back to
10 individual where we send out the letter, application for
11 the individual to submit to Pro Board. One thing is Pro
12 Board went up from 17.50 per cert to \$20. So, just an FYI
13 on that if you get any questions.

14 EIP, form change. We've gone to a form
15 stack. In other words, there is no mailing in forms.
16 Everything is going to be electronic. We got rid of the
17 certified mail. We got rid of the notarized statement from
18 the chief as an attestation form. That's also, that you
19 print off, and get signed, and then add back in to the form
20 stack. Early on, it started on January 1, and we have
21 heard good things, and it's very easy for people to use.
22 And everybody has been excited about that new form stack.
23 So, I think we're going to be doing good as far as getting,
24 getting easier for these departments to participate, which
25 is exactly what we want to do.

1 Acadis testing. We have started the
2 implementation to move into Acadis testing. Don't know
3 what kind of time frame we're going to be looking at on
4 that. Sooner than later, I hope. But we have started that
5 process.

6 We will be starting, hopefully, with online
7 testing happening at TFACA to start with. And we'll be
8 doing paper testing everywhere else. And I have kind of
9 dictated it out to three phases. So, phase one will start
10 with TFACA and we'll identify some places in the regions
11 that we can do that. And, but we will still be doing paper
12 testing in most of the regional areas right now.

13 The other thing is we are a beta test for Agency
14 Connect. And what that is is Training Solutions that is
15 going to start talking to the Acadis database. So, anybody
16 that's using Training Solutions, hopefully, I don't know
17 what it's going to look like. We just started that
18 implementation too. Target Solutions, did I say Training
19 Solutions? Sorry. Target Solutions. And that's supposed
20 to be talking over to the Acadis database. Again, I don't
21 know how that's going to look but we are a beta state for
22 that. So, I'm very excited to see how that's going to help
23 the firefighters and help the Firefighting Commission
24 office as a whole, so.

25 Going back to what Chief Swann was talking about

1 as far as moving to one publication. So, one of the things
2 that we had to do to move into Acadis testing is so we
3 would own our own test banks. And so, in less than 30 days
4 we validated 15 different test banks across the region. I
5 want to thank Sevier County Fire, Williamson County Fire,
6 Murfreesboro Fire, TFACA, Coffee County EMA all helped out
7 with providing SMEs to get these tests validated. We now
8 pretty much have everything validated. It will be new test
9 banks going into Acadis. We will have to make new tests
10 out of that. But, which is a good thing because now there
11 will be no more dual publication tests. In other words,
12 there won't be anything coming out of the IFSTA and out of
13 Jones and Bartlett. It will be coming out of whatever
14 publication that was approved by the book committee and
15 this Board. We do have a little bit of clarification on a
16 couple of things that had to be changed and that comes up
17 in the Old Business.

18 I do believe that is all I have right now for
19 this Board.

20 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FARLEY: Mr.
21 Chairman, if you don't mind please, sir?

22 CHAIR BIGGS: Yes.

23 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FARLEY: I think you
24 all just got through hearing quite a few accomplishments
25 that this team has done. And I want to publicly tell each

1 and every one of the team members here how proud I am to
2 have them here and doing what we're, what we're doing now
3 in the Firefighting Commission. I think you all as a
4 commission you, you've heard it; you've seen it; and I know
5 you appreciate it as well. But I want to acknowledge that.
6 I also want to acknowledge too that the online testing that
7 the Director just talked about, I am on board once we get
8 this through the Academy if we need to buy technology to
9 get it out into the field, the online testing. Because
10 that was one of the goals that, that I actually set back
11 when I first became the assistant commissioner because
12 getting like where we can go out to the, to the fire
13 department and do the online testing. So, we're headed
14 that way but I'm committed to, to the technology once we
15 get it through the pilot program of doing it at the
16 Academy. So, we're heading in the right direction and this
17 team is heading in the right direction. Thank you.

18 CHAIR BIGGS: Thank you all.

19 Any questions for the Director?

20 (no response)

21 CHAIR BIGGS: Alright, hearing none, Old
22 Business, Publications approval. Director has some
23 recommendations for us.

24 DIRECTOR CLARK: So, I took the publications
25 and I had a conversation with Commissioner Henry that when

1 we were going through and making sure that all of them were
2 appropriate there was a couple that I had a question on.
3 One was Wildland and one I don't remember the other one
4 right off the top of my head, that it was just a different
5 edition. So, he said, yes, that was just a typo so I
6 included it in, I think, the publications are in there.
7 And if you all can look at those and I just ask for a,
8 another approval from this Board on those that way they're,
9 that's what we will be testing from.

10 COMMISSIONER GREEN: Do we have that list
11 somewhere?

12 DIRECTOR CLARK: Yeah, it's on this report.

13 COMMISSIONER GREEN: Oh, it's on the back.

14 DIRECTOR CLARK: Yeah, it's in there.

15 COMMISSIONER GREEN: Oh, okay.

16 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: I make a motion to
17 accept the book listing that's been supplied to us today.

18 COMMISSIONER GREEN: I make a second.

19 CHAIR BIGGS: Motion, motion's been made by
20 Commissioner Scott, second by Commissioner Green. Any
21 further discussion?

22 (no response)

23 CHAIR BIGGS: Hearing none, all of those in
24 favor signify by saying aye.

25 (all respond aye)

1 CHAIR BIGGS: Any opposed same sign.

2 (no response)

3 CHAIR BIGGS: Ayes have it.

4 We go into New Business. First on the agenda is
5 the Tennessee Fire Codes Academy classes. Chief Sparks?

6 CHIEF SPARKS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7 So, I have four classes total here. Three four-
8 hour classes that are in-service classes on behalf of the
9 Fire program. And then one that I submitted on behalf of
10 Codes program, which is also a four-hour in-service class.
11 Originally, I had submitted these back in October for the
12 October meeting that was cancelled. So, in full
13 disclosure, we are already teaching some of these because a
14 lot of them were scheduled. I talked to Director Clark
15 about that.

16 So, do you want to take these all as one or
17 however you want to take them. I'll be happy to answer any
18 questions.

19 VICE CHAIR WINDROW: I make a motion for
20 approval of all four.

21 COMMISSIONER SOLOMON: I second.

22 CHAIR BIGGS: Motion's been made by
23 Commissioner Windrow, second by Commissioner Solomon to
24 take all as a group and approve. Any further discussion?

25 (no response)

1 CHAIR BIGGS: All those in favor signify by
2 saying aye.

3 (all respond aye)

4 CHAIR BIGGS: Any opposed same sign.

5 (no response)

6 CHAIR BIGGS: Thank you, sir.

7 CHIEF SPARKS: Thank you.

8 CHAIR BIGGS: Next on the agenda is the
9 Williamson County Fire and Rescue reciprocity proposed
10 change.

11 Captain Hughes. Go ahead, sir.

12 CAPTAIN HUGHES: What we're wanting to do is
13 start a discussion on the possibility of changing
14 reciprocity. I understand this is a touchy subject because
15 we don't want to open a can of worms everywhere. We
16 finally got it to where IFSAC, Pro Board but I believe
17 we're limiting the ability of a large number of qualified
18 candidates who are coming to this state who happen to be
19 trapped simply because of the time that they joined the
20 fire service. They entered into the fire service prior to
21 IFSTA and Pro Board becoming the standard for their states
22 in some places like California are still self-certifying.
23 But I think we'd be foolish to say a California Fire
24 Officer IV shouldn't be able to fulfill the same role
25 within the state of Tennessee. So, what we're proposing is

1 that we look at accepting certifications that are issued by
2 State Fire Marshal Offices. And we're asking you to look
3 at them at a limited criteria of fire officer
4 certifications. We want to, we put forward a proposal to
5 say that the candidates for reciprocity should meet the
6 following: not out of service for more than three years;
7 have proof of residency. This matches current reciprocity
8 requirements in most cases. The State Fire Marshal Officer
9 accreditation must meet the requirements of the NFPA 1021
10 standard, which matches the current requirements. And yet,
11 in order to get that certification from the state they have
12 a provision in place, just like we have a provision in
13 place, that says they have to have proof of training. It's
14 very often that the states we're not accepting simply
15 because they don't have an IFSAC or a Pro Board seal
16 because of when they, the training was conducted at a
17 significantly higher training threshold than what we
18 require. My understanding is in order to be a Fire Officer
19 I in the state of Illinois you need north of 400 hours of
20 training in apprenticeship time. Our requirement is
21 significantly less than that. Now, this problem is
22 remedying itself in some cases because the younger
23 generation of people that are coming up, or most cases are
24 coming up in a system that already has adopted using IFSAC
25 and Pro Board as the accrediting agency. We're looking

1 simply to -

2 CHAIR BIGGS: Is that it? Is that your
3 letter?

4 CAPTAIN HUGHES: Yes.

5 CHAIR BIGGS: My personal opinion is I
6 understand the struggle but we have to watch Pro Board and
7 accreditation because we could get in trouble for losing
8 that if we start accepting anything additional, is that
9 correct still? It used to be that way.

10 DIRECTOR CLARK: There has been some open
11 discussion at Pro Board and IFSAC. I've been to both of
12 the conferences as of, as of recent. And it is coming with
13 discussion of doing some type of portfolio, some kind of
14 looking at how that state met the standard and stuff like
15 that. But, yes, they were self-certifying states and not
16 going through accreditation. So, there is some discussion
17 already in Pro Board and IFSAC on how this could be looked
18 at. Alabama, for instance, is doing it, Alabama Fire
19 College, they're actually doing it on a as-needed basis and
20 they're doing it based on, basically, a portfolio type
21 situation. So, no, we would not be losing our
22 accreditation or anything like that because Pro Board and
23 IFSAC understands that there is some discrepancies out
24 there from these states.

25 CHAIR BIGGS: Thank you. We definitely can

1 put it on the agenda for a work session to, to look at some
2 options in that, for sure. We can do that.

3 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FARLEY: Do we know
4 how many states are out there that issue their own
5 certifications?

6 DIRECTOR CLARK: I do not, not right off
7 hand.

8 VICE CHAIR WINDROW: Two big ones. Two
9 large ones for sure, California and Michigan.

10 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FARLEY: Florida
11 does. I think Florida does -

12 (multiple speakers)

13 DIRECTOR CLARK: Fire Department of New
14 York, they're self, they're self-issuing. Illinois was.
15 They are now IFSAC/Pro Board. But where we're coming into
16 what Captain Hughes is talking about is somebody that
17 retired from Cal Fire or retired from Illinois, somewhere
18 like that, and got all their certifications prior to that
19 state becoming IFSAC or Pro Board is, is what they're... And
20 they're moving here wanting to volunteer or wanting to
21 still be in the fire service but we are making them pretty
22 much start over from scratch because they don't have IFSAC
23 and Pro Board on any of their certs.

24 CHAIR BIGGS: Yes?

25 DIRECTOR ELLIOTT: I'm curious since you

1 referenced because Alabama stays quite aligned with DOD and
2 Pro Board. So, if they're doing it is there already a
3 template that's been approved by Pro Board?

4 CAPTAIN HUGHES: So, during the round table
5 discussions that I was in with Pro Board I actually talked
6 to Maryland and they're actually starting to do some kind
7 of evaluation thing. So, Alabama's really the only one
8 that I know of. And I did talk to Alabama and I am going
9 to be meeting with, with them on how they're doing it.
10 Because it is kind of up in the air on what are we looking
11 for exactly so that we know that they have met certain
12 criteria. And I think we're just going to have to, if this
13 Board wants to look into that, that we're just going to
14 have to find how said state did it back before they were
15 IFSAC or Pro Board. And I think that's, that's where we
16 got to start. It's not going to be an overnight fix by no
17 means.

18 VICE CHAIR WINDROW: Commissioner Windrow.
19 Captain Hughes, just for, because I've been through this,
20 what's, what's actually driving this? Let's begin with the
21 end in mind. Because I hired a California captain. He
22 didn't want to do the recerts but he had all the training.
23 So, I'm the AHJ. I accept his training on its face value.
24 Now, he knew and we made it clear when he got hired, if he
25 didn't do Firefighter II by the third year he no longer got

1 salary supplement. He didn't care. He was getting his
2 California retirement. So, are we driving this because we
3 want to use these people? There's nothing stopping a
4 department from using somebody with that much experience.
5 All they're cut out on is educational incentive. So, for
6 example, a Cal Fire guy doesn't really need the \$800 if
7 he's drawing his Cal Fire retirement. So, let's be
8 careful. What are we doing this for? Is this so he can be
9 hired as a fire chief? Well, the city manager can still do
10 that. They don't have to be certified. I know a couple of
11 cities in Williamson County have fire chiefs that don't
12 have Tennessee certification or any certification but they
13 have prior experience. And anybody can get credit for
14 that. So, I just want to get that out there. You know, if
15 we're going to make this a discussion item what are we
16 doing it for.

17 CAPTAIN HUGHES: Yes, sir, they can be hired
18 but I can't use a fire officer to manage, or proctor a
19 Commission testing event because he's not recognized as a
20 Firefighter II by that, the Fire Commission.

21 VICE CHAIR WINDROW: That's true.

22 CAPTAIN HUGHES: I mean, ultimately, we're
23 looking to generate a conversation. If we feel that, that
24 directly issuing them a Commission certification is too far
25 of a step can we get it to where we can use their existing

1 training from the previous state as the prerequisites to
2 allow them to challenge the state of Tennessee written
3 test?

4 VICE CHAIR WINDROW: That is a question for
5 the Director. Training is training, right? They don't,
6 that's why we took that out of the other rule a minute ago.
7 It doesn't just have to be TFACA. It could have been Cal
8 Fire. In my mind we already accept that as reciprocity as
9 equivalent training. They can still challenge the test.
10 Now, I may be wrong. That's my interpretation.

11 MR. GUARDINO: No, we do.

12 VICE CHAIR WINDROW: We do, okay.

13 MR. GUARDINO: So, somebody comes with
14 (inaudible) classes or Fire Officer classes from another
15 state, we upload them in Acadis as long as they're valid to
16 the current standard. If they're from 1978, you know, I
17 discourage that strongly.

18 VICE CHAIR WINDROW: But we are getting a
19 lot of them. So, it's worth the, I've hired 10 in over the
20 last four years, you know. California and Michigan and
21 it's problematic for them. I agree with you.

22 MR. GUARDINO: It's not always the retired
23 folks either. There's a lot of folks coming here with 15
24 years that are, you know, mid-career lieutenants or
25 something that still got to continue on.

1 DIRECTOR CLARK: Yeah, I agree that it may
2 be not just the retired, retirement but I think it is if
3 they don't have an IFSAC or Pro Board we're just saying no
4 to any kind of reciprocity. So, therefore, if they come in
5 here with Firefighter II that's as far as they can go
6 unless they want to start over. So, I think that's what
7 we're trying to look at. Again, I'm agreeing with Chairman
8 Biggs. I think we just need to put this in a work session
9 so we can actually look into it a little further.

10 CHAIR BIGGS: Any further questions or
11 discussion on this?

12 (no response)

13 CHAIR BIGGS: Alright, you also have a
14 second item on here, I think. The rope prerequisites
15 proposed change?

16 CAPTAIN HUGHES: Yes, sir.

17 CHAIR BIGGS: Alright.

18 VICE CHAIR WINDROW: I thought we already
19 discussed this because you don't just have firefighters on
20 these teams. That may not have made it in the rule.
21 Because we have Public Works guys that help. Our intent
22 was to take it out of the rule.

23 COMMISSIONER MOORE: Yes.

24 VICE CHAIR WINDROW: Can't do it now.

25 COMMISSIONER GREEN: But it can be added.

1 VICE CHAIR WINDROW: It can be added.

2 CHAIR BIGGS: You can go ahead with your
3 second.

4 CAPTAIN HUGHES: Yes, sir. What we're
5 asking is we realign the standards to match the 1006
6 standard that is current. Tennessee Fire Commission
7 standard states, Firefighter I, which implies that they
8 have to have HMA, HMO, and Firefighter I, which instantly
9 excludes a large number of the volunteer rescue teams and
10 other components. While I understand we are a firefighting
11 commission, we are a multifaceted service and yet we're
12 looking to grow the number of participations within the
13 volunteer programs. And that could be a possible gateway.
14 But ultimately the requirement in the 1006 is HMA.

15 CHAIR BIGGS: And, like Commissioner Windrow
16 said, that was, our plan was to fix that in the rules. We,
17 we're going to address it. It's going to be corrected. I
18 mean, it was everybody's intent was to have that fixed.

19 MR. GUARDINO: It will be 2034 but...

20 (laughter)

21 CHAIR BIGGS: Is there anything else?

22 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FARLEY: As soon as
23 we get this going, these rules, the other ones are going to
24 start.

25 CAPTIAN HUGHES: No, sir. Thank you for

1 your time.

2 CHAIR BIGGS: Alright, also before you you
3 have Vector Solutions course edition on fire alarm systems.
4 Has everybody had a chance to look at that?

5 VICE CHAIR WINDROW: Move for approval.

6 CHAIR BIGGS: Motion to approve by
7 Commissioner Windrow.

8 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Second.

9 CHAIR BIGGS: Second by Commissioner Scott.
10 Any further discussion?

11 (no response)

12 CHAIR BIGGS: Hearing none, all those in
13 favor of approval signify by saying aye.

14 (all respond aye)

15 CHAIR BIGGS: Any opposed same sign.

16 (no response)

17 CHAIR BIGGS: Ayes have it.

18 The next item on the agenda is The Fire Academy
19 brand change. Director?

20 DIRECTOR CLARK: Yeah, this is going to be
21 Vector Solutions also. They have changed their name from
22 The Fire Academy, which is great, to being known as Fire
23 Engineering Training. So, that's just a brand change that
24 they've asked to go before the Board that they're going to
25 change.

1 CHAIR BIGGS: Does it need our approval?

2 DIRECTOR CLARK: I don't know.

3 CHAIR BIGGS: I'm not clear. I don't know
4 that we need to take action on a company changing their
5 name.

6 VICE CHAIR WINDROW: I don't think we have
7 any approved programs. Do we?

8 DIRECTOR CLARK: Yeah, that's the reason,
9 and it doesn't necessarily mean you all have to, it was
10 more of a they are changing their name kind of thing. So,
11 just bring that before the, this Board that they have
12 changed their name so you understand because we do have
13 classes that are approved.

14 CHAIR BIGGS: Yeah, I would say if the
15 classes didn't change then they shouldn't have to bring it
16 back.

17 COMMISSIONER GREEN: So, Director, the ones
18 that are attached to this e-mail, the different classes,
19 that's the ones that are already pre-approved, right?
20 Nothing's changed with them?

21 DIRECTOR CLARK: Yeah, that's correct. The
22 ones that are already, that are attached to this name
23 change.

24 CHAIR BIGGS: Alright. Also, we have Action
25 Training Systems looking for approval of classes. I mean,

1 it's several, wasn't it?

2 DIRECTOR CLARK: Yeah, it's a, it's a bunch.
3 I also have a jump drive with everything that they have
4 offered. It's all online again. They've contacted me
5 multiple times. I've had some, some meetings with them and
6 they just asked if, if they could get approval. I told
7 them the process. They were going to try to make it here
8 but I thought, unless there's a lot of discussion, that I
9 just told them that I would present it and then present any
10 questions from this Board back to them. So, they've
11 submitted kind of an overall and a memo to go along with
12 it. But I do have a full library here that is on a USB
13 drive. It was just, it's copyrighted so I couldn't make
14 copies of it.

15 COMMISSIONER SOLOMON: Chairman, I make a
16 motion for approval.

17 CHAIR BIGGS: Motion by Commissioner Solomon
18 for approval.

19 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Second.

20 CHAIR BIGGS: Second by Commissioner Scott.
21 Further discussion?

22 Vice Chairman.

23 VICE CHAIR WINDROW: Commissioner Windrow.
24 Director, do these have, for lack of a better term,
25 correlation? I mean do they, they say NFPA standard but

1 this is, this is just a summary, this is abstract. You
2 have the depth?

3 DIRECTOR CLARK: That's correct. I have
4 looked into it and they do go by the latest standard and
5 the latest NFPA, so.

6 CHAIR BIGGS: Any further discussion?

7 (no response)

8 CHAIR BIGGS: Hearing none, all those in
9 favor signify by saying aye.

10 (all respond aye)

11 CHAIR BIGGS: Any opposed same sign.

12 (no response)

13 CHAIR BIGGS: Ayes have it.

14 Okay, the next item on the agenda is item G, and
15 that was the Middle and West Tennessee audits. But I
16 believe we've already approved the West.

17 DIRECTOR CLARK: We did.

18 CHAIR BIGGS: Okay, we'll take the Middle
19 Tennessee audits. The ones that have been done has just
20 been three. We have some more to complete. And we will
21 get on that.

22 Dickson, Springfield, and Millersville all was
23 completed. And there was no findings. There was a few
24 things that we suggested for better paperwork and better
25 tracking but overall it was three good clean audits that

1 day. So, I'll take any questions on the audits. I've done
2 them with myself, and the Regional Coordinator, and Chief
3 Swann, and Director Clark.

4 COMMISSIONER HENRY: I make a motion to
5 accept all three of them as stated.

6 CHAIR BIGGS: Motion by Commissioner Henry.

7 VICE CHAIR WINDROW: Second

8 CHAIR BIGGS: Second by Commissioner
9 Windrow. Any further discussion?

10 (no response)

11 CHAIR BIGGS: All those in favor of passing
12 all three signify by saying aye.

13 (all but one respond aye)

14 CHAIR BIGGS: Any opposed?

15 (no response)

16 CHAIR BIGGS: One abstention. I abstain.

17 Alright, testing limits. Director.

18 DIRECTOR CLARK: As I discussed this, in the
19 rulemaking hearing if we could put this on a work session
20 to where we can look at testing limits for how many times
21 somebody can actually take the test.

22 CHAIR BIGGS: Any further discussion? If
23 not, we'll move it to the work session.

24 (no response)

25 CHAIR BIGGS: Alright, that's two items off

1 of here for work session.

2 Next item on the agenda is training, excuse me,
3 testing events investigation.

4 Leigh, is that you?

5 MS. FERGUSON: Marabeth.

6 CHAIR BIGGS: Marabeth, alright.

7 MS. NICELY: I'm Marabeth Nicely, Associate
8 Counsel.

9 We have four separate testing events that we
10 believe may rise to the level of testing violations. The
11 first complaint this individual took part in a proctored
12 Firefighting Commission test. This individual participated
13 in the HazMat Tech test. During the scoring of the answer
14 sheets it became apparent that two HazMat Tech answer
15 sheets were identical. It has been confirmed that these
16 individuals were sitting near each other during the testing
17 event. These individuals admitted to helping each other on
18 the test. The Proctor has confirmed that the students
19 we're not told that they could help each other. Our
20 recommendation is to propose an agreed order to disallow
21 the individuals from participating in any Firefighting
22 Commission testing events for two years.

23 CHAIR BIGGS: Go ahead.

24 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Since this has been
25 something that's kind of on the rise what has been the

1 precedent that we have already set in the previous ones?

2 Has it been two years of testing or has it been a full

3 suspension of Fire Commission?

4 CHAIR BIGGS: Two years of testing on an
5 agreed order of testing forward is what we have done in the
6 past. Now, if it goes to a hearing -

7 MS. FERGUSON: I think the question is
8 Commission approved programs, which is also included in the
9 EIP or VEIP. It includes testing but also the any
10 Commission approved.

11 CHAIR BIGGS: For two years?

12 MS. FERGUSON: Right, yeah, yeah.

13 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: That's what I wanted to
14 get the clarification of.

15 MS. FERGUSON: But, Chairman Biggs, you're
16 right, it was two years if there's acknowledgement -

17 CHAIR BIGGS: And then you can choose to do
18 something -

19 MS. FERGUSON: Right.

20 CHAIR BIGGS: - greater or equal to if they
21 go for a hearing, like we've done in the past.

22 So, the suggestion from Legal is two years on an
23 agreed order, correct?

24 MS. NICELY: Yes.

25 CHAIR BIGGS: And what that means is they've

1 done their investigation from the Legal side. They will
2 submit a letter to the individuals and see if they agree to
3 it or they can proceed with the hearing.

4 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: I make a motion that
5 Legal sends a letter to both individuals at this time for
6 that.

7 VICE CHAIR WINDROW: Second.

8 CHAIR BIGGS: Motion by Commissioner Scott
9 and seconded by Vice Chair Windrow.

10 Director, will you call the roll?

11 DIRECTOR CLARK: Commissioner Brian Biggs.

12 CHAIR BIGGS: Yes.

13 DIRECTOR CLARK: Commissioner Stephanie
14 Boatright.

15 COMMISSIONER BOATRIGHT: Yes.

16 DIRECTOR CLARK: Commissioner Sharrock Cobb.

17 COMMISSIONER COBB: Yes.

18 DIRECTOR CLARK: Commissioner Korey Green.

19 COMMISSIONER GREEN: Yes.

20 DIRECTOR CLARK: Commissioner Michael Henry.

21 COMMISSIONER HENRY: Yes.

22 DIRECTOR CLARK: Commissioner Jay Moore.

23 COMMISSIONER MOORE: Yes.

24 DIRECTOR CLARK: Commissioner William Scott.

25 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Yes.

1 DIRECTOR CLARK: Commissioner Travis

2 Solomon.

3 COMMISSIONER SOLOMON: I recuse myself from
4 the vote, sir.

5 DIRECTOR CLARK: Commissioner David Windrow.

6 VICE CHAIR WINDROW: Yes.

7 CHAIR BIGGS: Motion carries. Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER HENRY: There's more.

9 MS. NICELY: Sorry. So, that will cover the
10 first two testing events. And then we have a separate set
11 of two testing events.

12 So, number three, event number three would be
13 this individual took part in a proctored Firefighting
14 Commission test. This individual participated in a
15 Hazardous Materials Awareness test. During the scoring of
16 the answer sheets it became apparent that two Hazardous
17 Materials Awareness answer sheets were identical. It has
18 been confirmed these individuals were sitting near each
19 other during the test. The individuals have, and this is
20 actually outdated, the individuals have now been
21 successfully contacted and both denied any testing
22 violation. The Proctor has confirmed that the students
23 were told that they could not help each other. Our legal
24 recommendation would be the same to bar the individuals in
25 an agreed order to participate in any Firefighting

1 Commission events for two years.

2 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: I make a motion that we
3 send a letter to those two individuals also. Commissioner
4 Scott.

5 COMMISSIONER GREEN: I'll second it.

6 CHAIR BIGGS: Motion by Commissioner Scott
7 to send an agreed order letter seconded by Commissioner
8 Green. Any further discussion?

9 COMMISSIONER HENRY: I have a question. So,
10 we have the first two people, let me get this straight.
11 They admitted to doing this and we're giving them two
12 years. These gentlemen are, deny, or ladies, are denying
13 the accusations made against them, is that correct?

14 MS. NICELY: Yes, the first two admitted to
15 the violations. The second two have denied the accusation.

16 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FARLEY: What they
17 can, what they can do is when this agreed order is sent to
18 them they can still deny but they can ask for a hearing.
19 And then once the hearing comes in place, hear the facts
20 and if you, you can actually raise or lower it depending on
21 the facts.

22 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: January 2023.

23 MS. FERGUSON: You can also refuse to accept
24 the offer of an agreed order and just move to a formal
25 hearing if you want to skip that offer settlement. We can

1 just bring the firefighters in to have a formal hearing.

2 COMMISSIONER HENRY: Yeah, I don't want to
3 send them a letter. Let's bring them here.

4 MS. FERGUSON: Okay.

5 CHAIR BIGGS: The motion on the floor is
6 send them a letter?

7 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: I will resend my motion
8 and change it to..

9 CHAIR BIGGS: We can vote on it. Unless he
10 wants to withdraw his second.

11 COMMISSIONER GREEN: I can withdraw. I'll
12 withdraw.

13 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: I would like to make a
14 new motion to formally send them a letter inviting them to
15 a hearing in front of the full Commission along with their
16 fire chiefs.

17 COMMISSIONER GREEN: I'll second that one.

18 MS. FERGUSON: It would only be for numbers
19 three and four.

20 CHAIR BIGGS: I don't know that we can
21 require their fire chiefs to be here.

22 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: No, it's a request.

23 CHAIR BIGGS: Okay, a request. Maybe remove
24 require.

25 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FARLEY: Strongly

1 encourage.

2 (laughter)

3 MS. FERGUSON: So, technically, if it is a
4 formal hearing the Commission would have the power of
5 subpoena. So, you could require them but you would, I
6 would imagine the Fire Chief would voluntarily come. But
7 you do have the power of subpoena.

8 CHAIR BIGGS: So, the new motion is to have
9 a hearing for these last two individuals, correct?

10 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: That is correct.

11 CHAIR BIGGS: And that motion was made by
12 Commissioner Scott and seconded by Commissioner Green.

13 COMMISSIONER GREEN: Yes, sir.

14 VICE CHAIR WINDROW: We have discussion,
15 we'd appreciate discussion before we kill the first motion.
16 Consistency. Because once we send them this letter they
17 may, that may be the end of it. We may be complicating
18 something that doesn't have to be complicated yet. Just
19 thinking out loud.

20 MS. FERGUSON: What do you mean?

21 VICE CHAIR WINDROW: If we send, if we send
22 the letter saying you're suspended -

23 MS. FERGUSON: No; no; no; no. The letter,
24 are you talking about the first two?

25 VICE CHAIR WINDROW: The first two.

1 MS. FERGUSON: That's the agreed order.

2 VICE CHAIR WINDROW: The second, no, the
3 ones we're on right now.

4 MS. FERGUSON: Then they'll come before you.
5 We'll, we'll schedule a formal hearing.

6 VICE CHAIR WINDROW: I know but we might not
7 have to. If we send them a letter saying you're suspended
8 for two years that might be the end of it.

9 MS. FERGUSON: No, we're not doing that
10 though.

11 VICE CHAIR WINDROW: But we could. We had
12 that motion.

13 MS. FERGUSON: Yeah, that's correct.

14 VICE CHAIR WINDROW: You know, we don't know
15 that they won't fold.

16 MS. FERGUSON: You can't, so, you can't do
17 that before you have an opportunity for notice and a
18 hearing. So, the first two we're offering a settlement to
19 say if you agree to this then we won't do, you won't -

20 VICE CHAIR WINDROW: A hearing.

21 MS. FERGUSON: - have five years. Right.

22 CHAIR BIGGS: We don't say that in the
23 letter.

24 MS. FERGUSON: That's correct.

25 CHAIR BIGGS: Yes.

1 MS. FERGUSON: We don't say that but that's,
2 that's the -

3 VICE CHAIR WINDROW: We could send the same
4 letter to these next two.

5 MS. FERGUSON: Yes.

6 VICE CHAIR WINDROW: Is that our normal
7 procedure? Do we jump right to a hearing? I want to be,
8 back to that consistency over the years and workload.
9 Because if we send the letter saying you're suspended and
10 they don't fight it it's over.

11 MS. FERGUSON: So, I believe we have reason
12 to believe that there's not going to be an agreement?

13 MS. NICELY: We have reason to believe that
14 they would not willingly -

15 MS. FERGUSON: Okay.

16 VICE CHAIR WINDROW: Okay, I was just
17 wondering. I was trying to cut, you know, if we're cutting
18 a step out then... I wanted it simple. I'm from the
19 country. Keep it short and simple.

20 CHAIR BIGGS: I just want to keep the
21 standard, the fairness that we've done in the past as well.
22 I was with you.

23 MS. NICELY: That would be the end of the
24 Legal report. Well, I guess we have to vote.

25 CHAIR BIGGS: Motion on the floor to bring

1 in the last two individuals for a formal hearing. All
2 those in favor signify by saying aye.

3 (all respond aye)

4 CHAIR BIGGS: All those opposed, aye.

5 (no response)

6 CHAIR BIGGS: Motion carries.

7 And the next item on the agenda is the Spring
8 Hill Fire Department Recruit Class. Is Chief Orlando here
9 to address this?

10 ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FARLEY: Mr.
11 Chairman, while he's comes up Leigh and I need to step out.

12 CHAIR BIGGS: Okay, thank you.

13 (Assistant Commissioner Farley and Ms. Ferguson
14 leave the meeting)

15 CHAIR BIGGS: Chief Orlando, go ahead.

16 ASSISTANT CHIEF ORLANDO: Good afternoon and
17 thanks for letting us come in and talk.

18 As you all know, Spring Hill is a growing
19 community. In the last couple of years we've gone from
20 like 50,000 to 60-something thousand people. And with that
21 fire service is growing. In March we had a grant that we
22 were able to hire 13 and adding two more to that simply
23 because we're losing two firefighters to part time. So,
24 we'll have an academy of 15. We're trying to put together
25 an academy that we're hiring full, pre certified,

1 firefighter certified and then those that are not. Right
2 now we're looking at eight certified firefighters and seven
3 non-certified. So, therefore, we have to put on some type
4 of academy. And it was not as lucrative as we thought to
5 send them off to get, get their firefighter certification.
6 So, we decided that it would probably be best if we set up
7 our own program. And what we did was designed a 568 hour
8 Firefighter I and II and HazMat Awareness and OPS academy.
9 That would start April 9th and run through July 30th.

10 CHAIR BIGGS: Thank you, Chief. Everybody
11 had a chance to look over Spring Hill's request? Is there
12 any questions?

13 VICE CHAIR WINDROW: Just for clarity in my
14 head, they're, all of them are going to sit through 10
15 weeks, go whatever together, just so that they all have the
16 Spring Hill way -

17 ASSISTANT CHIEF ORLANDO: Yes, sir.

18 VICE CHAIR WINDROW: That's what, you're not
19 trying to have two?

20 ASSISTANT CHIEF ORLANDO: No, sir. It will
21 be to the TFACA's, Jones and Bartlett training. But, yes,
22 sir, it'll be 12 weeks of the intensive firefighter
23 training.

24 CHAIR BIGGS: Any other questions?
25 Everybody looked over the packet? Pleasure of the

1 Committee?

2 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Make a motion to
3 accept.

4 CHAIR BIGGS: Motion by Commissioner Scott.

5 COMMISSIONER SOLOMON: Second.

6 CHAIR BIGGS: Second by Commissioner
7 Solomon. Any further discussion?

8 (no response)

9 CHAIR BIGGS: All those in favor signify by
10 saying aye.

11 (all respond aye)

12 CHAIR BIGGS: Any opposed same sign.

13 (no response)

14 CHAIR BIGGS: Ayes have it.

15 Thank you, sir.

16 ASSISTANT CHIEF ORLANDO: Thank you,
17 appreciate it.

18 CHAIR BIGGS: The last item on the agenda
19 under New Business is the Tennessee Suicide Prevention
20 Network. Is anybody here from...? Brady gone?

21 Alright, has everybody had a chance to look over
22 that curriculum?

23 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: I make a motion to
24 accept this.

25 CHAIR BIGGS: Motion by Commissioner Scott

1 to accept.

2 COMMISSIONER SOLOMON: Second.

3 CHAIR BIGGS: Second by Commissioner
4 Solomon. Any further discussion?

5 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: I'd like to speak on
6 this. This class was held at the Tennessee Fire Safety
7 Inspectors session closing ceremony this past year and I
8 had the privilege of sitting through it. And it is, I feel
9 it will be very beneficial to our firefighters in this
10 state towards their mental health. And it, it was a very
11 animated and very thorough class for this. And I, I think
12 it would be just very beneficial.

13 CHAIR BIGGS: Thank you, sir.

14 Any further discussion?

15 (no response)

16 CHAIR BIGGS: All those in favor of approval
17 signify by saying aye.

18 (all respond aye)

19 CHAIR BIGGS: Any opposed same sign.

20 (no response)

21 CHAIR BIGGS: Ayes have it.

22 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Mr. Chairman?

23 CHAIR BIGGS: Yes?

24 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: I'd like to see if we
25 could add something to the agenda that was overlooked.

1 CHAIR BIGGS: Alright, what you got?

2 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Historically, in our
3 first meeting of the year we discuss the previous year
4 payouts for EIP. And since we're not meeting again until
5 June we need to address that please. I'm sorry, May.

6 CHAIR BIGGS: So, you're asking to add under
7 New Business letter L as EIP payouts? Is that what you're
8 asking to add to the agenda?

9 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: That is correct.

10 CHAIR BIGGS: Need a motion, motion's been
11 made by Commissioner Scott to add EIP payouts to the
12 agenda. Need a second to add it to the agenda.

13 COMMISSIONER GREEN: I'll second.

14 CHAIR BIGGS: Second by Commissioner Green
15 to add EIP to the agenda. Any further discussion?

16 (no response)

17 CHAIR BIGGS: All those in favor of the
18 addition to the agenda signify by saying aye.

19 (all respond aye)

20 CHAIR BIGGS: Any opposed same sign.

21 (no response)

22 CHAIR BIGGS: Ayes have it. It's on the
23 agenda, sir, go ahead.

24 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Thank you.

25 Historically, like I said, our first meeting of

1 the year we discussed the approvals of the first batch of
2 recipients to the Commission office for payment. What I
3 would like to do is make a motion that we allow the
4 Commission office to go ahead and process those payments as
5 they come in moving forward. And be able to do the payout
6 on -

7 CHAIR BIGGS: What's approved by the
8 Commission.

9 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: - what's approved by
10 the Commission office. That's correct.

11 CHAIR BIGGS: Alright, that was a long
12 motion but the motion was to pay out the EIPs once approved
13 by the Commission office. Motion being made by
14 Commissioner Scott. Is there a second?

15 (multiple responses)

16 COMMISSIONER HENRY: Second.

17 CHAIR BIGGS: Multiple seconds, I heard
18 Commissioner Henry. Any further discussion?

19 (no response)

20 CHAIR BIGGS: No further discussion. All
21 those in favor signify by saying aye.

22 (all respond aye)

23 CHAIR BIGGS: Any opposed same sign.

24 (no response)

25 CHAIR BIGGS: Ayes have it. Thank you.

1 Anything else under New Business?

2 (no response)

3 CHAIR BIGGS: This is the opportunity for
4 the audience to make comments or ask questions of the
5 Commission regarding the actions taken at today's business
6 meeting. Is there anyone from the public that would like
7 to address the Commission?

8 (no response)

9 CHAIR BIGGS: Alright, hearing none.
10 Our Dates of our Future Meeting. Our next
11 meeting will be in spring at the Tennessee Fire Chief's
12 Association May 14th at the Gatlinburg Park Vista. Our
13 summer meeting will be in West Tennessee. That date and
14 location is to be determined. And then our fall meeting in
15 October will be in Kingsport, Tennessee at the Marriott.
16 That is the dates of our future meeting. Any further
17 discussion? And then our May 14th meeting we will probably
18 meet for a work session and a business meeting that day,
19 so.

20 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: Same day?

21 CHAIR BIGGS: Probably start May 14th at 9:00
22 AM and then we'll do it all in the same day probably.

23 COMMISSIONER SCOTT: I make a motion to
24 accept that date.

25 CHAIR BIGGS: Motion to accept the dates as

1 submitted. May 14th in Gatlinburg for a work session
2 starting at 9:00 AM with a business meeting following the
3 same day.

4 COMMISSIONER HENRY: Second.

5 CHAIR BIGGS: Seconded by Commissioner
6 Henry. Any further discussion?

7 (no response)

8 CHAIR BIGGS: All those in favor of May 14th
9 in Gatlinburg signify by saying aye.

10 (all respond aye)

11 CHAIR BIGGS: Any opposed same sign.

12 (no response)

13 CHAIR BIGGS: Ayes have it.

14 Alright, anything else?

15 VICE CHAIR WINDROW: Make a motion to
16 adjourn.

17 CHAIR BIGGS: Motion by Vice Chairman
18 Windrow to adjourn.

19 (multiple responses)

20 CHAIR BIGGS: Seconded by Commissioner
21 Moore.

22 Any further discussion?

23 (no response)

24 CHAIR BIGGS: All those in favor signify by
25 saying aye.

1 (all respond aye)

2 CHAIR BIGGS: Any opposed same sign.

3 (no response)

4 CHAIR BIGGS: Thank you very much for coming
5 today.

6 (meeting adjourns 1:35 PM)

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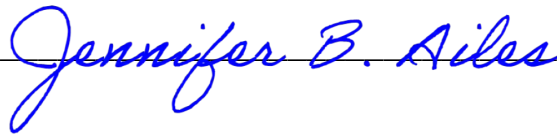
1 REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

2
3 STATE OF TENNESSEE, to wit:

4 I, Jennifer B. Ailes, Licensed Court
5 Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of
6 Tennessee, do hereby certify that I reported by means
7 of voice writing the foregoing proceedings; that
8 later the proceedings were reduced to computerized
9 transcription by me; and the foregoing pages contain
10 true and accurate transcript of the proceedings heard
11 in this cause to the best of my knowledge, skill, and
12 ability.

13 I further certify that I am neither of
14 counsel nor related to any of the parties of said cause, nor
15 in any manner interested in the result hereof.

16 Given under my hand this 19th day of
17 February 2024.

18
19
20
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22 

23
24 Jennifer B. Ailes, Court Reporter
25 TN License No. 118 expires June 30, 2024
26 Notary Public, State of TN at Large
27 My commission expires July 6, 2025.
28

29 ** Revised 24th day of May 2024.