

**UTAH STATE FIRE PREVENTION BOARD  
JANUARY 14, 2020 MEETING MINUTES  
APPROVED**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Vincent A. Newberg, Board Chair  
Craig Humphreys, Vice Chair  
Brian Cottam

David Olsen  
Frank Park  
Mike Phillips

**BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Jared Larson  
Jared Poulsen

Eric Miller

**STAFF PRESENT**

Coy Porter, State Fire Marshal  
Ted Black, Chief Deputy Fire Marshal  
Lynda Viti, Assistant Attorney General  
Jana DeMille, Board Secretary

**OTHERS**

Members of the public and the fire service were in attendance at this meeting. The attendance log is kept with the full record of the meeting.

**Item #1**, Board meeting called to order by Board Chair Vincent Newberg at 8:30 am at the South Salt Lake City Hall, Council Chambers. Mr. Newberg excused Board Members Larson, Miller, and Poulsen. There still being a quorum present, the meeting continued.

**Item #2**, Approval of the November 12, 2019 board meeting minutes. Motion made by Board Member Humphreys to adopt the November 12, 2019 meeting minutes. Seconded by Board Member Park. Motion passed.

**Item #3**, Report to the Board by Chief Scott Spencer, Chair, Utah Fire Service Certification Council. Chief Spencer was unavailable and the report was given by Lori Howes.

- The Council is working on creating levels for Officer 2, 3, and 4. They hope to have those completed by March to May.
- Continuing work on Hazmat.
- There are 3 vacant positions on the Certification Council. Names will be presented for approval at the next Board Meeting.
- Preparing for IFSAC site visit in April for reaccreditation.
- Preparing committees for Firefighter 1 & 2 update using the IFSTA 7<sup>th</sup> edition. This should be completed by June.
- The Council will be meeting tomorrow, January 15, at 10 am at UFRA. These are open meetings and Board Members are invited if they are available.

**Item #4**, Report to the Board by, Chair, Hazardous Materials Advisory Council. Chief Deputy Ted Black reported.

- The Council continues to work on the standards for the new Hazmat Ops curriculum.

**Item #5**, Report to the Board by Robert Dekorver, Chair, Fire Service Standards and Training Council. Mr Dekorver was unavailable and Chief Deputy Ted Black reported that the Standards and Training Council meets regularly.

**Item #6**, Report to the Board by Brad Wardle, Director, UFRA, regarding a permanent funding source.

- We are working with Senator Wayne Harper on drafting legislation for a legislative fix of the restricted account for the Fire Academy and the Fire Marshal's Office. We hope to get an update this week.
  - State Fire Marshal Porter will send a briefing sheet on the budget. The Governor's Office of Management and Budget made a decision to fund UFRA at \$4.2 million again this year. There was discussion to add an additional \$200,000. This was also approved and moved forward by the GOMB, with the caveat that there must be money from the insurance premium tax to cover it. This is the Governor's budget and will still need legislative support.
- UFRA is currently managing the class load. They have determined the exact cost of each class and are able to better manage their resources; however, it has been necessary to cancel some classes. Also, there is no money for props depreciation.

**Item #7**, Report to the Board by Coy Porter, State Fire Marshal, concerning the 2020 Legislative session.

- Session begins Monday, January 27.
- Fire Marshal Porter gave a quick overview of some bills and will send out a spreadsheet with the legislative bills being watched by SFMO. Some items of interest are:
  - Senate Bill 49 by Senator Harper deals with small airports & air parks and building code requirements. Anything less than 5000 sq ft may be allowed to have modified code requirements. Representative Schulz has HB29, Building Code Amendments. This bill primarily covers swimming pools and spas, but has one line about the airport hangar issue.
  - Senator Harper has the UFRA funding bill. It is not yet numbered.
  - Representative Snyder has a bill called "Building Construction Amendments" which deals with the mass timber construction and tall wood buildings.
  - Senator Thatcher has a "Code Enforcement Notice Amendments" bill.
  - HB66 by Representative Albrecht deals with Wildland Fire Planning
  - HB92 by Representative Snider is "Fire Amendments" and deals primarily with the ability to do prescribed burns and mitigation efforts even when there might be a conflict with air quality.
    - Board Member Cottam provided additional information on the Fire Amendments bill:  
Representative Albrecht from Richfield has been working with Power companies. There are 2 parts to this bill. First, a statutory requirement for power companies to do wildland fire planning. This is to include clear expectations on how the power companies will implement those plans. This should also include working with local government and working with the division. Second, is the question of liability for power companies should their equipment or actions cause a wildland fire. Unless there are instances of clear negligence, if a power company has a plan and they are

implementing that plan, it will remove responsibility to do fire cost recovery if their equipment causes a wildland fire. It's a good bill.

Also, the Fire Amendments bill is to exempt some pile burning and some other types of burning from the air quality limitation, but it also provides some additional relief for prescribed fires.

- There are currently four funding bills that we are watching. They are not yet numbered. There should be additional information available at the next Fire Prevention Board Meeting.

**Item #8**, report to the Board by Fire Marshal Porter concerning vacant and expired Fire Prevention Board positions. This is still in process. Because the appointment process is so lengthy, there has been discussion on reducing the number of appointments the Governor makes and letting some Department heads make Board appointments. Mr. Porter asked for Board Members' thoughts on appointments being made by the Commissioner of Public Safety instead of the Governor's Office. Chair Newberg asked for comment. Vice Chair Humphreys stated he would rather have the seats filled earlier to have the benefit of all members working together. There was agreement from Board Members Cottam, Phillips, and Olsen. Chair Newberg stated general consensus from the Board that this is acceptable. Fire Marshal Porter will forward this information to the Governor's and Commissioner's offices.

**Item #9**, Old Business: there was none.

**Item #10**, New Business: Chair Newberg invited members of the public and fire service to bring any items forward.

- Fire Marshal Don Buckley, Draper City Fire, representing the Fire Marshals Association. He extended an invitation to the Board for the FMAU conference Jan 20-23 in St. George. They will meet Monday evening, with classes on Tuesday and Wednesday. Tuesday is a class on cannabis, and Wednesday is a class on legal aspects of the code.
- UFRA Director Brad Wardle reminded all of Winter Fire School January 24-25 and extended an invitation to the Board. Registration is now over 800. Last year, registration was in the 700s, so there is a lot of demand for this.
- Fire Marshal Porter had some informational items:
  - Firefighter License Plate Grant - \$132,000 has been allocated for the license plate grant program. The firefighter license plate program has generated more than what was allocated to spend. There are excess funds, but they can't be spent because they were not allocated. They are working with GOMB and our finance departments to make sure the funds are allocated so they can be spent next time. Also, every few years license plates must be purchased when supplies run low, and it is necessary to do so now. That is also paid out of this grant fund and \$16,400 will go toward the license plates. This grant also funds the fire museum.
  - Staffing Changes - The SFMO has had staffing changes and is down three inspector/investigator positions. Two people are currently attending POST for inspector/investigator positions, and we are interviewing for a third person.
  - Medical Cannabis – NFPA Chapter 1 has been adopted. There are 8 facilities that have been granted a license by the Department of Agriculture to be growth

facilities. SFMO has spent some time developing a spreadsheet with the applicable code references from IFC and NFPA 1, along with a generic checklist. While the growth facilities fall under local jurisdiction, the State Fire Marshal's Office is offering training to assist the locals. Most of these facilities are located in small communities. There will be training with the FMAU on Monday at the annual meeting to provide information and what is legal in the State. After Winter Fire School, a power point will be posted on the SFMO website, along with the documents that local departments and building officials may utilize. We are hoping for consistency from one facility to another.

- Chair Newberg informed the Board that Unified Fire has a new Deputy Fire Marshal, Stewart Gray.

**Item 11.** Motion to Adjourn by Vice Chair Humphreys, seconded by Board Member Olsen. Meeting Adjourned.

Next meeting is Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 8:30 am, South Salt Lake City Hall, Council Chambers, 220 East Morris Avenue (2430 South).