

FIRE TRAINING CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE: APRIL 21, 2021 1:30PM (ZOOM)

ATTENDANCE: MR. ROBERT POLK; CITY MANAGER DOUG LEWIS; MS. GABRIELLE BAIN; MR. TIM PILSON; MS. STEPHANIE CALVERT; MR. DALE KONING; FIREFIGHTER STERLING FIELDS; MR. JOSEPH BRUNI; MR. KERRY CARTER; DR. MATTHEW LIAO-TROTH; MARILYN BROWNE

ABSENT: MS. SANDY BROOKING; TRAINING CHIEF JASON HAYNES; FIREFIGHTER MICHAEL SERVIS

Topic	Discussion/Recommendations	Action
Welcome/Introductions	-Chairman Pilson asked members to introduce themselves	
<u>Additions/Deletions to Agenda</u> -Mr. Tim Pilson asked if anyone had any additions or deletions to the agenda		-None
<u>Agenda Item # 1. Old Business</u> -Chief Polk gave an update on all capital projects and needs at the Fire Training Center. -He started by talking about the classroom portables. The A/C are all updated, roof work and painting of the portables has been completed. -Chief Polk then talked about the purchase of personal protective equipment(PPE), with the help of grants we have purchased 42 sets of gear and new helmets. Student do no longer have to use donated gear, and with the new NFPA requirements, we are throwing out old outdated gear. -He then discussed the apparatus replacement. We purchased an Engine from Palm Harbor for \$80,000 that was paid by the SPC Foundation and a donor. We also received a donated	-None	-None

<p>Aerial Truck from Largo Fire. Chief Polk mentioned we are in the process of getting the Aerial ladder tested so we may start using it for trainings and in-service classes.</p>		
<p><u>Agenda Item # 2. Old Business</u> -Chief Polk gave an update on the Firefighter Academy and the Fire/EMT Combined Program. We are on track to run four academies this year, with the possibly of a fifth. Due to COVID and the College distancing requirements, we are limiting our classes to 25 students. -Chief Polk then talked about the in-service classes. These are back up and running, with limited capacity as well. -After Chief Polk asked if everyone on the board received the Fast Facts from 2019 and 2020. He wanted to make sure everyone saw the difference between the two years during the COVID shut down. He then asked if anyone had any questions on the information in those documents.</p>	<p>-Mr. Lewis asked if this would affect funding in the future.</p>	<p>-Chief Polk responded that due to state funding the College would be cutting funding across the entire college community. He indicated he did not think it would be a problem just would require tightening of the purse strings.</p>
<p><u>Agenda Item #3. Old Business</u> -Chief Polk gave an update on the Fire Academy Program Changes. The state has increased the minimum contact hours required to 492 hours. -He reported that most of the added hours are due to items added that we require as a pre-requisite. Due to requiring it before entering the academy we did not have to adjust our schedule.</p>	<p>-None</p>	<p>-None</p>

<p><u>Agenda Item # 4. Old Business</u></p> <p>-Chief Polk then talked about updates from the state on applicable subjects. He first talked about the change in textbooks. As of January 2021 we are using the 7th edition IFSTA textbook. This came with all new teaching materials as well as test bank.</p> <p>-Chief Polk then moved on to the new state performance objectives. The state is still working on them to make sure that they are in line with what is being taught between the three different approved textbooks that academies can use. He went on to say they estimate a release of January 2022.</p> <p>-Next Chief Polk talked about the site inspection. The state has changed their inspection cycle and now we will be inspected every February.</p>	<p>-Mr. Koning mentioned his high school program switched to the new book about a year ago. They've found a lot of mistakes in the test bank that they've had to fix along the way.</p> <p>-Mr. Koning responded that he's not a fan of the new book and how they've combined certain chapters together.</p> <p>-Mr. Bruni asked if the state found anything during their inspection.</p>	<p>-Chief Polk responded we've been reviewing the tests to make sure the questions are fair and equitable. The changes in the text have also required us to make changes in our schedule to accommodate.</p> <p>-Chief Polk agreed that he's noticed the changes and how the Haz Mat chapter are at a technician level for a recruit class.</p> <p>-Chief Polk responded no. Then explained that we're still within our five year engineer inspection. During those five years we're only required to do a self-inspection.</p>

<p><u>Agenda Item #5. New Business</u></p> <p>- Chief Polk talked about committee membership. He first mentioned that we need to turn in our roster for the 21-22 school year. He asked all members to email himself or Ms. Calvert and indicate if they would like to continue as a member.</p> <p>-Chief Polk then mentioned the Chairperson assignment. He asked if anyone was interested in the appointment to please indicate that to us and if no one was interested that Mr. Pilson was willing to continue.</p> <p>-After Chief Polk turned it over to Mr. Carter to discuss his hiring expo. Mr. Carter talked about an annual hiring expo he would like to start that includes Fire and EMS. He would like to host it at HEC three times a year, every February, May and September. He asked if the committee members wouldn't mind pushing out the info.</p>		<p>-Chief Polk told Mr. Carter if he needs help pushing out the info to the committee members to just let him know and he would be happy to send it out.</p>
	<p>-Chief Polk then asked if he could add one more thing. He indicated he wants to capture goals and objectives for 2021-22 school year. Such as alternative funding sources. To leave behind a legacy when we're gone.</p>	
	<p>-Mr. Pilson then asked if Chief Polk wanted to talk about the pass/fail rate.</p>	<p>-Chief Polk responded before students can take the state exam they must first pass the course. The course final written and final practical rate is about average. He also indicated some students drop out when they realize this isn't for them, so he doesn't include them in the fail out rate. As of late we have found a higher failure rate</p>

		<p>mainly from those fresh out of high school, because they aren't ready for the rigors of the academy. Testing policy is set by the BOT, passing score is an 80%. If you fail one test you get one retake if they fail the retake or any chapter test after that they are dismissed. We lost a large number from the last class about 50%. We usually loose about 10%.</p>
	<p>-Mr. Pilson then asked when our next meeting would be.</p>	<p>-Ms. Calvert responded it will be in September and that she would reach out to the committee members to find a date that works for everyone.</p>
<p>Adjournment 2:17pm</p>		