



Iowa Firefighters Association

January Board Meeting
January 9, 2022 – Iowa Falls Fire Station

President Jason Barrick called the meeting to order at 9:00 am

Board Present: Jason Barrick, Chuck Raska, Roger Carr, Aaron Clemons, Kent Brix, and Mike Kime.

Guests: Executive Director Taylor Moore, John and Cindy Pederson, Dan Wood, John Kramer, Kati Woodley, Jami Schroeder-Carr, Brittane Deeringer, Andrea Kime, Jeff Gore, Tony Whitmore, Jack Runge, John Tjarks, Denis Barrick, Eric Thoms, Kirk Rice, Ray Reynolds, David Zimple, Tom Campbell, Rob Edgar, Leon Abels, Aiden Crowley, Lee Williamson, Ed Tibbott, Mike Ryan, Mike Reuman, Scott Hagenson, Gene Schipper, Rusty Hockman

Guests:

Fire Marshal: Dan Wood mentioned that it was another busy year. He mentioned that they were over 100 explosive cases. They are replacing an inspector up in Northeast Iowa later in May. They had another record year with building permits and codes. With the legislative session coming up next week, he will forward any bills that effect the fire service, so everyone can stay up to date.

FSTB: Jon Kramer reported the training bureau conducted 738 training across the state last year, they had just under 11,000 students for the year, and conducted 2,300 written exams. They have made great progress on filling their coordinator position. He reminded everyone that the Iowa Fire Chiefs Association spring conference will be March 26th at Camp Dodge. He reported that the FSTB has received their Pro-Board Accreditation, which they had lost a couple years ago.

Approval of Minutes: The board reviewed the minutes from the November 7th meeting in Granger, IA. **A motion was made by Chuck Raska and seconded by Roger Carr to approve the Mid-Year meeting minutes. All approved.**

Approval of Financial Report: Taylor gave a brief financial report. **A motion was made by Roger Carr and seconded by Kent Brix to approval the financial report. All approved.**

Executive Director Report:

Taylor reported that since the last meeting Kelsey and her have been working hard on membership renewals. They have sent out 3 reminders so far, and she plans to put a list of the delinquent departments in the next months newspaper. The office has also been collecting posters for the Poster Program, which we will vote on later today. Taylor has also been working with John and Cindy to get the Firefighter Day on the Hill tri-fold and flyers updated for the event on January 18th.

Officer Reports:

Chuck Raska: Chuck reported that he is happy that the 2021 year is behind him. He was sad he was unable to make the States Networking Event due to health issues. He was able to make it to Tom Campbell's retirement party. He is looking forward to the upcoming year.

Roger Carr: no report

Aaron Clemons: no report

Kent Brix: no report

Mike Kime: Since my last report things have been quiet. I attended the funeral of fallen brother Don Westendorf Jr. of Maynard Fire Department. I also presented years of service awards to the Hawkeye Fire Dept. Receiving the awards were Jim Patrick 40 years, Dave Ungerer 40 years and Wayne Schroeder 40 years of service. It was great to be able to present these years of service awards to a neighboring fire department. The service awards represent a dedication from each firefighter to their community over the years. I am looking forward to firefighter day on the hill at the state capital. During which time we will talk with state legislators and share ideas to bring additional benefits for the firefighters of Iowa.

Nick Riley: Nick Riley was unable to attend the meeting.

Jason Barrick: Jason reported that since the Granger meeting, he has been working a lot with John and Cindy to get the legislative agenda in order for this year. Jason was also able to make it to Tom Campbell's retirement as well. Jason mentioned that we had a board work session yesterday from 10:00 am – 5:00 pm and was able to put a proposed budget together for 2022-23. We also met with 3 financial advisors yesterday and the board was able to decide on one advisor.

Committee Reports:

NVFC: Neither Roger or Marv were able to join the meeting. Jason mentioned that they ended up going to the Fall Conference in Wyoming and had some great Networking. Steve Hirsch with Kansas is the new NVFC Chair and he will be attending our Mid-Year meeting in March.

Legislature:

John and Cindy gave the following updates:

- A big thank you to Taylor for all her hard work on all the printed materials she pulled together for Firefighter Day on the Hill and the Legislative agenda tro-fold!
- The chili cook off invites will be on the legislators desks on Wednesday
- Jason and Kent are coming to the Governors Condition of the State address on Tuesday.
- The board reviewed the legislative package and discussed posting the expanded talking points on Facebook and other social media platforms. Taylor will post this information in hopes those members who can't attend Day on the Hill will still email their legislators asking for support on Tuesday Jan 18th and continue to contact them throughout the session.
- John and I have attended many pre-session fundraisers to visit with legislators and have 4 more to attend tonight. PAC checks from IFA were delivered.
- John, Aaron and Kent are working on the spring golf outing at Briggs Woods golf course in Webster City in May.
- We also were asked by two legislators if firefighters get grain bin training. The answer is YES! This info was relayed back to these two legislators.
- Session begins on Monday Jan 10th.
- As always let us know if you have questions or concerns and we will keep you informed of what is happening at the Capitol weekly.

Old Business:

Firefighter Day on the Hill: This year's event is scheduled for Tuesday, January 18th. Cindy thanked Taylor for getting everything printed and ready for the event. There will be 4 or 5 people bringing chili for the chili cook-off. Jason has encouraged each board member to drag a couple members from their departments to the FF Day on the Hill. He has encouraged members to join as well.

2022 Legislative Agenda: Jason gave a brief update on the big items we are going after this year. After speaking with other surrounding states, we are looking at adding legislation to get volunteer firefighters one set of tires at government pricing. We are also looking at possibly having every member of the IFA become an NVFC member, paid by the state. Below are this year's talking points:

- Length of Service Award (LOSAP)
- Tire Program for Volunteer Firefighters
- Personal Residence Property Tax Deduction
- Emergency Response Districts
- Fire and Public Safety Training Facility
- Emergency Responder Bill

Bylaws: There were a couple little items discussed at the board work session, but we are going to hold off until Convention. Jason and Jack Runge talked about doing a dry run at mid-year, that way we can work up any kinks in the new electronic voting.

Drills: Chuck went over some of the Drills rules that needed to be cleaned up a bit. We will get those changes published in the paper and posted on the website.

Long-Range Planning: Jason mentioned that we reviewed the Long-Range plan that was put together back in 2017 or 2018. He is wanting to put together another committee to start looking at a plan for the next 3-5 years.

New Business:

Investment Strategy: Jason touched on this a little bit during his officer report. But the board is looking at pulling all of our money out of the CDs since we are only earning about .006% in interest. We are looking at investing around \$50,000 to see if we can get a better return on our savings. Taylor is going to reach out to County Bank to see what kind of interest rate we can get if we move all of the funds from our CDs to a money market account.

Golf Fundraiser: Aaron Clemons along with John and Cindy Pederson are working on organizing a golf fundraiser.

Convention Electrical Boxes: Ed from Manchester asked if there were any plans in updating the electrical boxes for convention. Jason mentioned that we are looking into it, but currently we are not in dire need of new boxes. They are going to see if they can have some ideas ready to go by the convention meeting at mid-year. There was a suggestion to add a donation line item to the convention camping registration

A motion was made by Don Scott and seconded by Roger Carr to purchase 20 radios for Convention Drills. All Approved.

Good of the Association:

Jack Runge and Mike Reuman pointed out that we have a line item in the budget for Memorial Service expenses for \$500. We are going to take that out of the general budget.

Jason also mentioned that we received 2 Fire Department nominations and 2 Firefighter nominations and one scholarship application

California Casualty: A representative from California Casualty joined us to present the winner of their annual giveaway. Roger Carr was the winner of their giveaway.

Next Meeting: Mid-Year Meeting, March 19th at 10:00 am in Ames.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Chuck Raska and seconded by Aaron Clemons to adjourn at 11:26 am. All approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Taylor Moore
Executive Director