



Iowa Firefighters Association

June Board Meeting
June 10, 2023 – Tiffin Fire Department

President Chuck Raska called the meeting to order at 9:00 am

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

Guests: Executive Director Taylor Moore, Kirk Rice, Don Scott, Dan Wood, John and Cindy Pederson, Tiffin Fire Members.

Guests:

Fire Marshal: Dan Wood reminded everyone that the governor reworked the Fire Marshal's office eliminating a couple departments. They are running around the same number of fire deaths as last year. They have a couple new agents starting and a few retirements happening this year.

FSTB: Jess Dunn was not able to attend but Dan mentioned that they are in the hiring process for a new fire service technician. He also discussed the additions to the training facility. Dan also mentioned that they are staying very busy with putting on classes and fire schools. Fire School is scheduled for January 27-28, 2024.

Approval of Minutes: The board reviewed the minutes from the meeting in Radcliffe, IA. **A motion was made by Rick Schmidt and seconded by Jason Barrick to approve the meeting minutes. All approved.**

Executive Director Report:

Taylor reported that since the last meeting she worked on finalizing the NVFC travel plans and setting up meetings with our legislators out in DC. Taylor also worked with Gene Evans on contacting the Poster Program award winners and collecting those RSVPs. The grave markers were finally finished and picked up by Roger Carr. We will be selling the grave markers for \$45 apiece. Taylor also mentioned that she has applied for a DUNS number for the IFA so we can hopefully apply for a SAFER grant this fall. Next Taylor mentioned that she needs to work on getting convention information over to Iowa Falls for the convention booklet.

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.**

Officer Reports:

Roger Carr: Roger thanked Tiffin Fire Department for hosting the meeting this morning. Since the last meeting Roger has had the honor of presenting 9 length of service awards. He also had to attend a couple funerals. Roger touched on the DC Trip that he took with Marv and Chuck and he feels their presentation was well received.

Aaron Clemons: Aaron was not present, he had a golf tournament to attend for his department.

Kent Brix: Kent thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He reported that he was able to get his 2026 Mid Year contract signed, which will be March 19-22, 2026.

Mike Kime: Mike reported that the PAC Golf Tournament went very well and they are considering moving it to the end of June next year. He also presented several length of service awards as well as a couple firefighter funerals. Mike ended by speaking about the importance of our mental health and the need to keep a look out for each other.

Rick Schmidt: Rick thanked Tiffin for hosting the meeting this morning. He touched on attending the Poster Awards Luncheon that was held in Jewell, he wanted to commend them on the great job. He mentioned the program is a great way to promote fire prevention.

Jason Barrick: Jason spoke about all the work Cindy and himself have been doing regarding the new tire bill. Jason is going to work on putting together a Q&A for the tire bill. Jason went on to explain how the tire program will work for firefighters to receive government discounted tires.

Convention Report – Jason mentioned that Iowa Falls was trying to think of some new things to get people involved in drills. He mentioned that they are trying to put together a challenge coin for the drill participants. He also mentioned that they will be meeting in Iowa Falls in the next month or so to review the new drills locations.

Chuck Raska: Chuck thanked Tiffin for welcoming the board this morning. He mentioned that it is always great to visit new fire departments and tour their stations to see their set ups and the way they do things. He has also attend a couple awards banquets since the last meeting. Chuck gave a brief recap of their Washington DC trip. He is excited to head back to Iowa City for year number two for the 2024 IFA Convention. He also mentioned that we are still looking for a town to host in 2025.

Committee Reports:

Legislature:

The 2023 legislative session came to a close on Thursday, May 4th around the noon hour.

While it was a difficult session we did manage to get one bill through the process. Much of the focus this session was used on passing the Governors priorities of school vouchers, book bans and LGBTQ issues and the legislator's priorities of tax reform. The House and Senate left 17 pages each of policy bills on the table and since this is the first of a biannual legislative year you will most likely see those bills back next session.

While LOSAP failed to get through the full Appropriations committee, the last stop before debate on the floor it made it farther than ever before. The Senate approps committee did not like using lottery funds to support LOSAP. They instead choose to use 10% of the funds from the Automatic Traffic Enforcement (ATE) fines. There was a desire to change up the way these fines are collected so a bill was drafted and LOSAP was designated to receive a portion of the fines collected. This would have garnered more than the million dollars we were offered by the lottery funds. However, when Sen. Klemish proposed this bill to his Ways and Means committee there was too much controversy over the ATE language itself that the Republican caucus could not agree to run the bill.

This last minute act to pull the bill from the Senate Approps committee agenda was disappointing. Back to the drawing board on finding the correct funds for LOSAP.

The following bills were discussed:

- **HSB 19/ HF 193/HF 340**
- **SENATE SF 272/ SF 447**
- **HF 418/HF603 VOLUNTEER TIRE PURCHASES** (Transportation)
- **HF 531 VOLUNTEER TAX CREDITS** (Jacoby) (Ways & Means)
- **SF 505**
- **HF 687**
- **SSB 1124/SF 356 Property Tax Levy Limits (Ways and Means)**
- **SSB 1125/SF 550 TAX BILL**
- **SSB 1001/SF 183 Maximum age**
- **SF 41/SF 352 Funding of EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**
- **HF 126/HF 546 Funding of EMA**
- **SF 263 EMS SALARIES** (Salmon) (Ways & Means)
- **SF 113 /SF 555 PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT FOR VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY PROVIDER**

As always, if you have questions, please contact us at: pedersonconsulting@gmail.com or call us at 515-229-4748.

If you have ideas for items you would like to see us work on for next year please contact a board member or let us know. Have a great summer!

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO ADVOCATE FOR YOUR FIRE DEPARTMENT AND BENEFITS FOR YOU AS A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER. PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO MEET YOUR LEGISLATORS THIS SUMMER AND ASK THEM FOR SUPPORT AT THE CAPITOL!

Memorial: Mike Reuman sent a report to Chuck. He mentioned that he will need help setting up for the candle light vigil and memorial service this weekend. He wanted to thank everyone in advance for their help.

NVFC: They had a great trip out to the Spring meeting out in Washington DC. They were not able to sit in on all of the meetings due to the schedule. But they were able to meet with all of our legislators and had great discussions.

Old Business:

New Business:

Merchandise: Jason Barrick wanted to know if we can start giving away the tie clasps and pins to promote the association. The board is going to work out some details on what items should be free and what items should be handed out to new members.

Convention Challenge Coins: The board is on board to help pay for the challenge coins. Iowa Falls is going to get some pricing together so the board can make a decision.

Good of the Association:

Chuck mentioned that Bill Erb and Ellen Hagen both applied for the EMS Council and Ellen was approved.

Rick wanted to know if we could notify the membership when a past president passes away.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Rick Schmidt and seconded by Mike Kime to adjourn at 10:30 am. All approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Taylor Moore
Executive Director