

**STATE FIREMEN'S AND FIRE MARSHALS' ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS  
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

JANUARY 30, 2020

SFFMA State Office

**Meeting called to order at:** 08:36 a.m.

**by President: Tim Smith**

**Invocation given by:** Chaplain Ben Kennedy

**Roll Call of Board Members Present:** Secretary Brent Allen

**Board Members present on site:**

President Tim Smith  
1st Vice President Richard Van Winkle  
2nd Vice President Chuck Richardson  
4th Vice President Curtis Brown  
Immediate Past President Mike Richardson  
Secretary Brent Allen  
Assistant Secretary  
Chaplain Ben Kennedy

**Non-Voting Board Members Present:** Parliamentarian Rayford Gibson, Mascot Landon Flisowski

**Board Members Not Present:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Donny Boggs

**Non - Voting Board Members Not Present:**

**Office Staff Present:** Executive Director Tim Rutland

**Approval of Minutes from Secretary Allen:**

A motion to approve the minutes from Aug.1,2020, Oct.10,2020, Dec.10, 2020 and Dec. 16,2020 as presented.

Motion was made by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Richard Van Winkle and seconded by I.P.P. Mike Richardson  
The motion passed with 7 voting for the motion and 0 against and 0 abstaining.

**Guest present:** J. Pete Laney, Billy Tidwell, Paul Hamilton, Lang Flisowski, Kyle Stephens, Melissa Robinson

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** 8:38 a.m.

**Report from the Finance Committee:** Co. Chairman Melissa Robinson

- Purpose of the Budget being accepted and voted upon at 1.94 million.
- Travel Cost for 2 Conferences for NVFC CFSI where going virtual we will save a little bit of money there, may have a small fee.
- Possibility of Virtual training on our end.
- Replacing Growthzone with another Data Entry System.
- We would start with around 96,000 to start with for the Data Entry System
- The amounts that are in our checking accounts, we are insured up to \$250,000
- Director Rutland will be looking into having accounts in other banks.

Motion was made by I.P.P Mike Richardson to accept the 1.94 million budget for the coming year, seconded by 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President Curtis Brown.  
The motion passed with 7 members voting the motion and 0 against and 0 abstaining.

**Report from the Executive Director:** Tim Rutland

- We are in the middle renewal at this time.
- 10,000 members, 660 Departments, 37 Industrial, 13 other organizations and 28 sustaining members, that about 2/3 of the membership.
- About 10% of the membership takes advantage of the VFIS Insurance.
- Membership issues with inactive members, Growthzone has an auto drop system. So, we took advantage of that to help clean up records.
- As of now a 45day processing time for certifications, we are using the SFFMA Office and Brayton for testing at this time.
- Industrial Testing is moving forward.
- I'm in the pross of discussion with community colleges for testing centers around the state. I have two universities that expressed interest in this.
- Test Bank Validating TEEX Test process, We have upload HazMat and FF1 and FF2 Test Banks to Questionmark.
- Safer Gant used about 860,00 or about 60% of the total grant, 2500 applications, 16% of those were from women, 19% of veterans,
- Membership Dues Assistant, we had \$40,000.00, then got additional \$50,000.00 for a total of \$90,000.00 we have assisted 79 F.D.'s in the amount of \$86,850.00.
- 2020 Sales, 110 - 115 % projections, website advertising did very well this year.
- Facilities- No HVAC on south Side, waiting on a compressor and control board, bladder for the rainwater system needs to be repaired, has a leak.
- My public thanks to the staff for the work they do around here, you have a good staff here in this office.

**A&M Advisory Board Update:** Past President Gardner

- No Report

**Fire Chief Development Program Updates:** Past President Gardner

- No Report

Motion was made by 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President Curtis Brown to approve the Fire Chief Development Program Update, seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Chuck Richardson.  
The motion passed with 7 voting for the motion and 0 against and 0 abstaining.

**Data Management Update:** Executive Director Rutland

- Our current statis is waiting to get a non - discloser agreement between us and the Emergency Solution company.
- They are currently reviewing that at this time.

**Rio Grande Valley Appointments:** President Tim Smith

- To keep all the members the same positions

Motion was made by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Richard Van Winkle to keep the members of the Rio Grande Valley in their same positions, seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Chuck Richardson. The motion passed with 7 voting for the motion and 0 against and 0 abstaining.

**Assistant Secretary Appointment:** President Tim Smith

- To appoint Mike Richter as Assistant Secretary

Motion was made by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Richard Van Winkle to appoint Mike Richter as Assistant Secretary, Seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Chuck Richardson. The motion passed with 7 voting for the motion and 0 against and 0 abstaining.

**TCFP Report/Update:** Past President Paul Hamilton

- Five Members going off in February Tommy Anderson, SFFMA, Carlos Cortez, Harlingen, Kelly Douster Frisco, Robert Moore, TEEX, Steve Tall, Waco
- Top 25 Chiefs trying to eliminate the seats of the SFFMA on the TCFP board.
- Term limits for all committees
- Texas A&M Fireman Training School spot was selected David Brianne.
- Firefighter Advisory Committee Antonio Ramos out of Houston was selected.

**Legislative Update/T-Flag Update:** J Pete Laney

- Weird, Slow the wheels are still moving.
- Senate has named their committees.
- Drew Springer is now in the Senate, Vice Chair of Ag and Rural Affairs Committee.
- They required everyone to have a COVID test.
- Very, Very Hard to See Members
- They may try to modify a Marshal's seat or public seat.
- List of Bills are out, looking at 47 bills that may impact us.
- House Bill 553 related to the approval of the Commissioner Courts of annual budgets of ESDs It gives the Commissioner Courts authority over the budget of the ESD's. (SAFD opposes)
- Grant Program, it is a Dedicated Account, 38 cents come off of Homeowner Policy, the account has 60,000,000 or 70,000,000 we going to ask again to gives us all that money.

**Certification Board Update:** Brian Scheffer

- Upset about Testing problem, several did not pass Haz-Mat Test
- The test that came out was right.
- Hazmat has basically four components which Awareness, Ops, PPE, Product Control, if you fail any one of those components, you must retest.
- Now we have 2 components Awareness & Ops. You only retest the test you did not pass.
- They are looking at the test and it may be regraded.

**Retired Membership Category:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Donny Boggs/ Paul Hamilton

- Keep retirees involved in the association.
- Possible by- law change
- Not be able to vote or not hold an office.
- Let the district take care of the members and make them life members.

**Conference Events:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Chuck Richardson

- Ideas for individuals members to offset amount of money spent at conventions.
- Fundraiser's, Donations, Jack King did this back in the day fund to defray the costs of hotels for members to hopefully help with cost.
- Fishing Events or tournaments.

**Conference Update/Planning:** President Tim Smith/ E.D. Tim Rutland / Heather Lundy

- June 25<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>
- Heather, handed out the 2020 Lubbock schedule, would like for board members to look at it.
- Opening Early for Registration, Middle or Mid – February
- Try to get online registration, the earlier the better, we are trying to limit our paper registration.
- Speaker Selection, will have enough time before registration starts, it may be little hard to get that in place, getting classes approved, a lots of unknowns to be determined.
- Exhibitions, leave the why it is, basically the talked about having 2 hours on Friday evening to aloud the vendors to have people who come early to go to the convention center, so they could have more time to spend with the customers, And then till 1 or 2 on Saturday.
- Sargent of Arms Committee has some concerns about the COVID protocol, how is it going to be enforced, are you comfortable with hospitality events. We just do not know right now.

Enter into Executive session at 11:12 a.m.

Exited out of Executive session at 11:37a.m

And report that the following action will be taken,

I.P.P. Mike Richardson to President Tim Smith,

I would like to make motion that the board authorize an additional position within the administrative offices and authorize the Executive Director pursue that position and make the changes of policy as necessary as acquired to the position, seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Chuck Richardson.

The motion passed with 7 voting for the motion 0 against and 0 abstaining.

**Audience Comments:** 11:38 a.m.

Billy Tidwell – I would like to thank President Smith and the board to allowing me to be here. Y'all doing a great job. It's been a trying year. We all have accomplished a lot things we never thought we would. Y'all doing great job behind the scenes. We haven't had meetings like we normally get to, and a lot

members think a lot of stuff is not going on, but there is, Y'all are doing great. I'm still run for 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President.

Kyle Stephens – I just to thank the board for your dedication. It's been said, a lot of talk, that nothing be done, but obviously there is, you just need to look around to see it. I appreciate the way you're working it, in these hard times. Keep it up, move forward. Good lord willing, will see Y'all in McAllen.

Melissa Robinson - None

Paul Hamilton - Appreciate the board if I can help you in any way. Anything you need from me, just give me a whistle, I'll be knocking on your door. I what to bring up this county assistant program, none of you are using this, you need to use this, holler at me has to do with your sales tax. I give you the information to pull it off. I did 4 years ago in Potter County, in 25 months we had \$5,200,000 off 2% sales tax.in the unincorporated areas Its only for fire, law enforcement, road & bridge, and economic development. We are going see in McAllen.

J Pete Laney – None

Chief Steve Love – Spoke that he was running for 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President.

Frank Joe Salinas - That he is running for 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President.

Harvie Cheshire – Appreciate everything that y'all do, during this pandemic. Just what to say Thank You.

Dallas Renfro – Today is 299 and tomorrow is 300, Tim Rutland is a good ally, Chuck's idea that would be a good mission for the Past President. I miss y'all, it's so sad not be sitting side by side. Our organization is still very strong, we have great leadership.

Billie Smith - Nope

### **Board Comments:**

President Tim Smith – It has been a tough year, an we are moving forward, we will continue to move forward everyday Curtis Brown said there a lot of things that goon behind the scene that folks don't know. And we try to convey that stuff out. Several times this weekend can put out what you are doing or what the convention is going to look like or what happens if we cant have it, we afraid to do that, we don't want a message to get out, of what we are to do and it does not happen. The message in the world today, the convention is going to happen. We're an association that trains firefighters, and the convention is something you do. Austin staff, second to none. Y'all did a great job this weekend, you do a great job every single day. You never disappoint us. I do want to say regardless we do in June, we work as a whole group, from a line to hospitality Suite, in June we have to keep moving, if a dozen of us sitting in the room or meeting somewhere else than McAllen, we have to move forward. There is somebody behind me says we are going to move forward. It's going to happen. It is somebody else time. I wish Boggs was with us today, he was disappointed today, I'm disappointed we could not be there with today. That all I have, I'm hesitate to set the next meeting, maybe closer to end of March. We may have to meet to finalize our event or plan something different.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Richard Van Winkle – For the first time in a long time my frustration level is gone. I'm excited about what's going to happen on the board for the next two years and I'm looking forward to it. Tim, you have got a great staff, I knew when we brought you on, you where the right guy you have continued proving that every day, everything y'all do down here is appreciate, Heather never thought any

body would fill Gabi's shoes, but you have done it. I think things are going in the right direction, I'm glad to be part of it again. I'm really looking forward for the next few years. Thank You.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Chuck Richardson – We had a good series of meeting this weekend, as we muddle along though this, we have filled some gaps we found in the system, like everybody has said the machine is not broken, its just moving a little slowing than it used to be, will be bringing that backup and convention in McAllen will bring that backup, look forward to seeing you then, thank you all for being here, staff y'all done a fantastic job this weekend, y'all do a fantastic job for this organization. Thank you very much.

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Donny Boggs

4<sup>th</sup> Vice President Curtis Brown – Sure missing President Boggs this weekend, prayers continue for his family, in their time of loss. Thank you to the staff here, you guys do an excellent job, you are not overlooked. Excited to be on this board we're moving forward, sometimes it doesn't look like it, a lot goes on behind the scenes, we keep moving. Look forward to McAllen, think it will happen, my daughter Hannah is running for Mascot this year. Thank y'all.

I.P.P Mike Richardson – Good to see everybody, you think about it, it's been 16 months since my injuries of September of 2019 by the time I was somewhat recovered from that, covid hit, this has been the first thing I've been to, It's good to be here, Look forward to us having convention in June I'm coming off this board one way or another Enjoy it, good see all of you, look forward to good things happen.

Secretary Brent Allen – Just glad to be here, glad to see everybody here, see everybody healthy just appreciate that has happen for us. We all healthy, I'm sure some have had Covid and stuff, at least we are and we able to do our job.

Assistant Secretary

Chaplain Ben Kennedy - It's been a rough year for everybody, we have gone through a lot, we have learned a lot, I think we are going to learn some more, I do believe that perseverance and what we're doing and who we are doing for this association will continue to grow we continue to be a great force in this great state of ours. Pete, we appreciate all your efforts, it hasn't been easy on you up there on the hill. But, thank you for all your efforts. Staff we appreciate all of y'all please lets those not here know, thank you for everything.

Parliamentarian Rayford Gibson – Echo, some the things that Ben said I certainly appreciate the staff, appreciate J Pete working at the capital , this guy Past President Kyle Stephens that mentioned that there is a perception that the association is failing, that's just not true, having people here today to witness this, can go back out there and tell we are not dead in the water and we are still moving forward, it may not be the traditional ceremonial way, but we're still moving. Plug the holes in the boat and keep afloat. I appreciate the opportunity to be here and be apart of this process, think we will have a great convention in McAllen.

Mascot Landon Flisowski- With the pandemic a lot of stuff was cancelled but, raise \$2,000.00 M.D.A.

Executive Director Tim Rutland – The only thing I ask, at this point. As we go into spring, number one if you hear of spring meetings reaching out making sure we got those, work hard as a board. Be out there as much as they will let us. So, we can talk about things we are doing. I heard a couple times, people are wondering what we are doing. Nothing better than face to face communications. The more we get out there and let folks know what we are up to.

Heather Lundy - Thank you for having me, thank you pushing your own mute button sometime, Don't have anything important to say and we are not serving lunch today, so y'all can get on the road.

The next scheduled meeting is to be announced.

There being no more agenda items,

A motion to adjourn was by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Chuck Richardson seconded by I.P.P Mike Richardson the motion passed with 7 voting for the motion and 0 against and 0 abstaining.

President Richardson ended the meeting at 12:13 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted by,**  
**Brent Allen**  
**SFFMA Secretary**  
**02/20/2021**