

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

March 24, 2021

ZOOM Meeting

**Meeting called to order at:** 6:00 p.m.

**by President:** Tim Smith

**Invocation given by:**

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

**Board Members present on site:**

President Tim Smith  
1st Vice President Richard Van Winkle  
2nd Vice President Chuck Richardson  
3rd Vice President Donny Boggs  
4th Vice President Curtis Brown  
Secretary Brent Allen  
Assistant Secretary Mike Richter  
Chaplain Ben Kennedy

**Non-Voting Board Members Present:** Parliamentarian Rayford Gibson

**Board Members Not Present:** I.P.P. Mike Richardson

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

**Office Staff Present:** Executive Director Tim Rutland, Heather Lundy - Events

**Approval of Minutes from Secretary Allen:** None

A motion to approve the minutes from \_\_\_\_\_ as presented.  
Motion was made by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ and  
The motion passed with 0 voting for the motion and 0 against and 0 abstaining.

**Guest present:** Leslie Nixon

**Old Business:** 6:01 p.m.

President Tim Smith- I like to welcome Assistant Secretary Mike Richter to the Executive Board, sure glad to have you.

Assistant Secretary Mike Richter- Thank you, Glad to be here.

President Tim Smith

**McAllen Convention 2021**

- Received many phone calls about folks very nervous about attending a conference in McAllen.
- It ranges from Past Presidents to current members and even members of the Rio Grande Valley District Association
- Part of the problem is COVID, they are running 300 to 400 cases a day.
- Immigration issues (Violence) they are having down at the border.
- They have stopped testing for COVID at the border.
- They countless numbers of undocumented cases a day.

- But you can say that about every city in the U.S.
- We did tell our membership we would make a decision by the end of the month in March.

President Tim Smith - His recommendation is to pull the plug on McAllen and do it fairly quickly. Tim, can you enlightens anymore?

Tim Rutland – Well, I tell you the conversion that I have had are kind of the same, in terms of people that I have been visiting with lately, lay have all said the same thing. The have expressed real concerns going and basically said, they won't go. Because of the concerns that they have down there. In terms of logistics, part our decisions and part of your decisions is going to have to be the potential of penalties or possible penalties for pulling the flag on this. Of course we haven't had any discussion with anybody down there or any of the officials down there, or with the hotels any thing like that. Its something we will have to keep in mind. No positive feedback. There's a lot of concern out there, no doubt.

President Tim Smith – Exactly, I will tell you part of this started with a Past President Tommy Anderson, which he is doing so much better, he able to stand on his own. He expressed some concerns, we are definitely walking into a lion's den, he has made mention if we have it in McAllen a large percentage Gulf Coast/Tri Rivers District would not be there. It's just for simple safety sake.

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Donny Boggs - Their fear is exactly what has been stated, and they if we continued to have it at McAllen they will not be there. So, I do believe a decision has to be made for the safety of our members and to be able to conduct business. My recommendation would be if we have an opportunity to relocate it we do that. Hope that McAllen understands we are not abandon you for ever but right now is not the best time for them.

Secretary Brent Allen – I see the point, me personally you have that you have SWAT Teams down there, with that many problems, me I'm kinda like Mr. Boggs I don't believe I would like to be down there if they are having that many problems along that issue, I sure we can find somewhere to go. Hopefully, maybe somewhere.

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Richard Van Winkle – You know I love the valley, I love going down there but I don't think I would not feel very safe for my wife or my grandkids to by themselves. I think it would be best if we move it.

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Chuck Richardson - I agree with Richard, I think of our families safety is of most important. Maybe we try to find some other place.

Chaplin Ben Kennedy – I talk to a friend of mind vada valley with the same situation, blatantly cutting barb wire fences, walk across like they own the place. Going into towns treating it like they own it, if you leave your car unlock it will be gone. I do not want to go to that at this time.

President Tim Smith - At this time we have No Contract with Embassy Suites

Charles – May be able to get out with all the problems the area having.

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Donny Boggs made the motion to cancel the conference of McAllen and seconded by Ben Kennedy.

The motion passed with 8 voting for the motion and 0 against and 0 abstaining.

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|---|---|
| Roll Call Vote: President Tim Smith- yes              | 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President Richard Van Winkle - yes |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President Chuck Richardson – yes | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice President Donny Boggs - yes        |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Vice President Curtis Brown – yes     | Secretary Brent Allen - yes                             |
| Assistant Secretary Mike Richter - yes                | Chaplin Ben Kennedy - yes                               |

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Donny Boggs made the motion to have a conference in Lubbock and seconded by Ben Kennedy.

The motion passed with 8 voting for the motion and 0 against and 0 abstaining.

Roll Call Vote: President Tim Smith- yes  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Chuck Richardson – yes  
4<sup>th</sup> Vice President Curtis Brown – yes  
Assistant Secretary Mike Richter - yes  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Richard Van Winkle - yes  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Donny Boggs - yes  
Secretary Brent Allen - yes  
Chaplin Ben Kennedy - yes

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Chuck Richardson made the motion to suspend the standing rules of the Constitution and By-laws for Business Meetings and Conference Agendas for a 3- day conference and seconded by Curtis Brown.

The motion passed with 8 voting for the motion and 0 against and 0 abstaining.

Roll Call Vote: President Tim Smith- yes  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Chuck Richardson – yes  
4<sup>th</sup> Vice President Curtis Brown – yes  
Assistant Secretary Mike Richter - yes  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Richard Van Winkle - yes  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Donny Boggs - yes  
Secretary Brent Allen - yes  
Chaplin Ben Kennedy - yes

**New Business:** None

**Audience Comments:** None

**Board Comments:** None

The next scheduled meeting is

There being no more agenda items

A motion to adjourn was by 3<sup>rd</sup> Donny Boggs and seconded by 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Chuck Richardson the motion passed with voting for the motion and 0 against and 0 abstaining.

President Smith ended the meeting at 6:43 p.m.

**Respectfully Submitted by,**  
**Brent Allen**  
**SFFMA Secretary**  
**04/10/2021**