Certified Fire Investigator Board Meeting NC Department of Insurance – OSFM January 2, 2019

Attendees: Freddy Johnson Scott Merritt

Kevin Oliver Jeff Key

Matt Davis Lee Newcomb

Ken Hair

Staff: Kim Williams Mike Williams

Derrick Clouston Jessica Lashbrook

Greg Palmer

Guest: Ken Andrews

Chairman Freddy Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Mike Williams gave the invocation.

Agenda Topics:

Approval of minutes from the June 27, 2018 CFI Board Meeting suggested by Freddy Johnson. Scott Merritt motioned to approve. Matt Davis seconded the motion. Motion approved. No additions or discussions of the minutes were noted.

Barry Overman was absent from the meeting to attend to duties regarding his impending retirement.

CFI Application Committee update and discussion led by Matt Davis. Matt provided feedback from discussions on the recertification application with Kim Williams and Barry Overman and proposed reviewing and deciding upon whether to continue with the recertification mandate or to go to a one-time certification with no necessary recertification like OSFM general certifications.

The feedback from board members was in favor of recertification for reasons including changes in building structure and content, changes in the chemical makeup of furniture and fabrics, updates in laws and codes, changing fire scene details, and the necessity of staying up to date and participating in fire investigations.

Feedback opposed to recertification included in inability to participate in fires due to lack of fire scene availability, time off from regular job not possible, as well as the precedent of CFI being the only course requiring recertification.

Derrick Clouston proposed an upgrade class, much like Chief 101, as an additional means of earning hours or points for a fire. The recertification committee will discuss how an upgrade for CFI would work and if credit would be given for attendance only or if one must test and pass.

Jeff Keys delivered the Training Committee Update and Discussion. Jeff has spoken with the IAAI president regarding working together with the Office of State Fire Marshal to help provide training, instructors, etc. Jeff would like to see the IAAI and OSFM partner.

Old Business:

Recertification application updates and recommendations to be further discussed at next Board Meeting when Barry Overman is present.

Automated Recertification applications were brought up and noted that only Certification applications are currently automated. Automated Re-certification forms are not yet available.

Update from Kevin Oliver and Jeff Key on NC IAAI's FIT equivalency proposal. Jeff Key discussed the FIT matrix and terms of 1033 compliancy. He noted that 1033 does not require a specified number of hours and questioned whether the board would approve a 40 to 60-hour class. The current NC FIT certification is 80 hours.

Derrick added that the standard was set at 80 hours because feedback from the pilot classes was that the classes were way too fast when only one week as opposed to two. Guest Ken Andrews proposed a FIT equivalency course and addressed the Board from the position that R206 was not intended as a separate class and that the FIT class fills a niche however the Jones and Bartlett class goes above and beyond what is necessary in NFPA 1033 and described the benefits of his proposed FIT course.

Derrick presented that his staff currently had seven requests for FIT classes pending and plan to go from offering four classes per year to seven or eight.

OSFM currently has two qualified CFI/FIT instructors as well.

No appeals were presented at this meeting.

By-Laws and Rules Committee update was tabled until next meeting.

Training Committee Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 26, 2019 @ 10:00 am in Raleigh, NC to review the NC IAAI equivalency request.

Training Committee will present FIT equivalency information at next CFI Board meeting on April 3, 2019 @ 10:00 am in Raleigh, NC.

Introduction of new OSFM Certification Specialist Greg Palmer by Kim Williams.

New Business:

Finalization of CFI Certification and Re-Certification packets.

Applications submitted:

	<u>Certifications:</u>	Re-Certifications:
Approved:	7	17
<u>Denied:</u>	0	1
Pending:	2	2

Total packets submitted: 29

Motion to approve certifications proposed by Jeff Key and seconded by Lee Newcomb. Motion to approve re-certifications proposed by Lee Newcomb and seconded by Scott Merritt. Certification and Re-certification packets approved.

The next CFI Board meeting is set for Wednesday, April 3, 2019 @ 10:00 am in Raleigh, NC.

With no further issues to discuss, Jeff Key motioned to adjourn the meeting. Lee Newcomb seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.

Respectfully Submitted, Jessica Lashbrook