



**Santa Rosa Junior College  
Public Safety Training Center**

**Fire Technology Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Time: 10:00 am**

**Date: 4/2/2024**

**Place: Zoom Video**

**Members in Attendance:**

Aaron Johnson	Rohnert Park Public Safety – Deputy Chief (Chair)
Geoff Belyea	American Canyon Fire Protection District
Justin Buckingham	Ukiah Valley Fire
Devon Gambonini	Sonoma County FPOs
David Levin	Training Chief
Eric Matson	Rohnert Park Public Safety
John Dicochea	Novato FD

**Members Attending as Proxy:**

Gabe Stirnus	Sonoma Valley Fire Authority for Spencer Andreis Sonoma Valley Fire Authority
Mike Taul	Novato FD for Jason Weber Marin County Fire

**Members Absence:**

Brad Caldwell	CALFIRE
Jeff Donaldson	Little Lake FD
Jason Hatfield	San Rafael Fire Department
Scott Westrope	Santa Rosa Fire Department

**Staff in Attendance:**

Linda Collister	Adjunct Faculty
Nicole Frantz	Academic Counselor
Megan Rhodes	Job Developer - SRJC
Kim Kinahan	SRJC Work Experience Internship
Ken Sebastiani	Director, Fire Technology
Rachel Smith	Director, Workforce Programs, CTE Grants, Career Education
Dan Bull	Coordinator, Firefighter 1 Academy
Nikki Soto	Administrative Assistant, Fire Technology

**Was there a quorum? Yes (9 of 13 members/proxys present)**

1. Call to Order & Quorum Established (Chair)
2. Self-Introductions (All)
3. Approval of Minutes (Chair): First motion, Ken Sebastiani, Second by Gabe Stirnus
4. Changes/Approval of the Agenda (Chair): NA
5. Public Comments Period (for business not listed on the agenda): NA
6. Old Business
  - CALFIRE – Wildland Academy, Scheduled for this coming May 2024. Planning stages - Linda Collister and David Levin. Once the Academy is completed the student will finish with FF1B and 1C
    - Cal Fire Wildland Academy / HM: We are working with LNU partners trying to get a wildland/hazmat academy course together to prepare students to be eligible to work on hand-crews. Currently working on the contract with CALFIRE. For the course to be put on, we will need at least 22 students on the roster. Chief Levin states that CALFIRE changed their requirements for hand-crews (need the hazmat/wildland training). This will be the first time putting on this course and if it goes well, they may add a structure component to the academy to complete the modular requirements for a Firefighter 1 and certificates.
7. New Business/Discussion Item
  - New Chair – Aaron Johnson
8. Updates
  - Fire Program (Program Director)
    - Out of the 8.5 million we received 1.5 million to work on the new training area for our new tower. built on the preexisting land on our campus
    - We have a rough estimate of 3.2 million to work on the tower build. Huge win training wise but, will still have issues with capacity.
      - Will finalize the cost estimate this week.
      - “old” tower will still be used by us and the different programs on the campus.
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> building going to be built on the half acre.
    - Plot of land between the land and the range.
      - Plan B is to get a metal or portable building to help with capacity
    - 2022/23 Grant update
      - Purchased an SCBA machine. We have a certified MSA technician
      - Purchased a storage container
      - CBA purchased 50 carbon SCBA bottles

- Purchased Battery operated – Our students will have experience using updated technology
  - Purchased new mannequins
  - Purchased Auto extrication simulator (\$25K - Ventex)
  - Sawzall's, batteries and updated equipment
  - Purchased live fire materials
- SFT Update
  - Updating their website
  - Updating their requirements for certification
  - Student instructor ratio has increased and is a little challenging, but we have been able to pull more instructors to meet the SFT mandates
  - Succession Planning
    - RVG funding instructor scholarships
      - RIO
      - CEET
      - Instructor 1
        - To become an instructor
        - AA degree and 6 years experience
- Fire waiver ending this year
- Bolster student enrollment
  - Need to continue filling classes
  - Looking to cut 750K
- Hybrid classes
  - Hazmat (IC) can be challenging getting students enrolled since they have to come in person for the 4 days needed
- Fire program scholarships
  - 1 application for all scholarships per student
  - 6k in scholarships given this year
- Fire Program Donations
  - Support for students
    - Every year there is a scholarship that pays for the full fire program for one student
- Fire Academy Update (Academy Coordinator): Dan Bull – 105<sup>th</sup> Academy
  - 104<sup>th</sup> 39/40 graduate
  - 105<sup>th</sup> 39/40 in the current academy
  - Demand is very high 65-85 applicants
  - Lottery done when over 40 applicants apply
  - Measure H
  - Received donations
    - 60 MSA- Masks from the Bakersfield FD
    - Hose – From the Petaluma FD
    - SCBA Wilmar FD
    - Healdsburg FD
    - Napa County Donation
  - Fire Academy Needs:
    - Fire Engines needed (Type 1)

- 14 or 25 ft ladders needed
- Work Days (105<sup>th</sup> Academy)
  - 2,500 dollars worth of material donated by Mead Clark
  - 2 maze props with limited space
  - Painted and cleaned up around the academy
  - Hose instructor would like to build a narrow hallway to simulate a hallway to benefit future academies
  - Space is limited and our props need more room
  - Looking for PE's to assist in FA training
  - Helps to have additional instructors
    - FC3 certification for live fire
    - Certified FC Instructor (needed)
    - Certificated FF Survival
    - SFT evaluators needed
    - FF1
    - 840 tests a day
    - Issues with evaluators and the rules if someone fails.
    - Opportunity to retest but SFT has so many regulations on who can retest the students
    - Running multiple tests at the same time.
- Academy has been very successful.
  - 20 + students in each class that have been hired by CALFIRE or other FD around northern California
  - Mock oral interview sessions
    - Number of business cards given out and job offers right out of the mock interview portion of the academy
      - Polygraph issues
      - Good candidates but not passing that portion
      - Deception being seen in the
      - Online class intro the FD – Linda Collister

## 9. Sonoma Training Officer

- Gabe Stirnus
  - Measure passing
  - Big ask of the academy to handle the capacity
  - County training calendar
  - Working with the SRJC to start working together to promote course
    - Investigator series
    - Hiring 2 more
    - Prevention positions
    - NFIC
    - Youth Fire Academy (held in February)
    - NFA instructors coming out to instruct
    - Women in Public Safety (Held in SR tower) 4.27.2024
    - All disciplines there
      - Demonstrations held

10. Roundtable/Announcements:

- Ken – Graduation coming up 5.3.2024 – 10am -12pm
  - Anale Burlew, CAL FIRE Chief Deputy Director Key Note Speaker at graduation
  - Sebastopol Fire Internship – on the SRJC website
- John Dicochea
  - FT Fire Inspector position open
- David Levin –
  - Getting a email list with all SRJC Fire program courses going to be held for the upcoming semester
- Dan Bull –
  - Combination EMS/Fire 4/23/2024 – Job Fair (1100 building) 11am-2pm
  - For students to have an opportunity to speak to different Nor Cal departments
  - Fire inspectors looking to add an estimated between 15-20 new jobs throughout the county

11. Adjournment: 11:24 am.

**NOTE: Next Fire Advisory Committee meeting time will be announced at a later date.**