

Wyoming Fire Chiefs' Association
Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2000
Lusk, Wyoming

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Gene Diedtrich at 2:06 p.m. at the fairgrounds in Lusk.

Members present were: Gene Diedtrich, Newcastle; Ken Sutton, Jackson; Bob Taylor, Worland; Lanny Applegate, Lander; Brad Sarff, Rock Springs; Jim Wingert, Cheyenne and Don Huber, Gillette.

Guests present were: Ray Weidenhaft, Cheyenne; Jim Noel, Cheyenne; Larry David, Riverton, Russ Melton, Lusk. Elaine Codianne, State Fire Marshal's Office is the Minute Taker.

- ***Open Conversation:*** Mr. Diedtrich began the meeting by saying we need to endow ourselves with revenue sources for Training. Get the legislature geared in that direction. Mr. Noel agreed to the need to generate revenue for Fire Fighter I through the Academy, which would also help fire training in the state. Do Cause/Determination classes with contract instructors. Mr. Huber stated we could take money we have and match it with grants. There was a brief discussion concerning new monies being distributed by FEMA. Mr. Noel stated that at a recent TRADE Conference in Thermopolis, both state agencies and metro's thought the money would be coming through FEMA. Wyoming will have available \$3 million for training on domestic terrorism through the Department of Justice. Mr. Applegate asked whether there was any chance of getting tobacco money. Mr. Noel and Mr. Weidenhaft said they did not know. Mr. Huber stated the Department of Health received a large sum of money for terrorism training. Mr. Noel mentioned the State Fire Marshal's Office had distributed \$80 thousand in terrorism money to provide Haz-Mat training throughout the state, for Awareness, Operation and Incident Command levels. Mr. Sutton stated that the next legislative session is not the time to go after new money, we need to wait until the next Budget session. Mr. Diedtrich made a motion to draft a bill that would plant a seed with legislators to tap revenue for training. Mr. Noel seconded. Motion carried.

Motion #1

Mr. Taylor recommended getting a dollar amount tapped to one agency for training and run it through the academy. Mr. Noel asked what his training division should deal with. He said he has the staff, but Forestry got the money. Mr. Sutton stated we need to have a plan....have answers as to what we need to do. Mr. Applegate said the new Speaker of the House will probably be Rick Tempest from Casper, and he will not be a friend of the fire service.

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- **Fireworks Tax:** Mr. Applegate asked whether we should consider a tax on fireworks. Mr. Sutton stated it wouldn't work and sited the example of the State Fire Marshal's Office coming up with the plan review fees and how they ended up going into the general fund. Mr. Noel said since the legislators channeled the plan review fees into the general fund, perhaps we could suggest to them to now help us generate training money.
- **Fire Fighter License Plates:** Mr. Sutton circulated color pictures of what the proposed license plate would look like. He suggested we check with the Wyoming Department of Transportation to see if we are on the right track. Mr. Diedtrich made a motion to get Re. McComey to sponsor the license plate bill. Mr. Taylor seconded. Motion carried.

Motion #2

- **Other Issues:** Mr. Noel briefly mentioned the statutory need to support the Uniform Code, which will become the International Code. The NFPA will develop their own building code in 2003. The code needs to be modified to more meet our needs. We need to identify the problem areas. The affected codes are Mechanical, Building and Fire.

Secondly, Mr. Noel discussed services relating to Arson. The State Fire Marshal's Office only has 1 investigator, Rich Hallcroft, for the entire state. He will be moving into the Training Division on July 1, 2000 and may better serve our customer base. Mr. Sutton asked what documentation do we have to support more investigators. Mr. Noel stated we don't. He said Nancy Kubalanza, Training Manager, will seek grants that will fund additional investigators. Mr. Applegate suggested adding individual "home" investigation numbers with that of the state. Mr. Noel stated we would develop the pro's and con's of what position we should take on the issue.

- **Haz-Mat Legislation:** Mr. Sarff stated we need to decide what it is we want, strike out the negative areas and look at what is important to us. Mr. Huber suggested to go with the bare minimum. Mr. Sutton agreed to make it short and simple. Mr. Sarff will send out the current revisions he has made to the legislation via E-mail.
- **Volunteer Fireman's Pension:** Mr. Applegate stated he would be in favor of a pay increase for the Volunteer Fireman's Pension.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Elaine Codianne