

**MINUTES OF THE  
WYOMING FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION MEETING  
April 7, 2001  
Riverton, Wyoming**

Association President, Russell Wenke, called the meeting to order at 2:35 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

•A roll call sheet was passed around for signatures of those attending today's meeting, which also included a slot to sign up for various committees for this year. A list of last year's committee's was also circulated.

•Bob Symons moved to accept the minutes from the previous meeting as written. Jerry Busby seconded. Motion carried.

**MOTION #1**

•Gene Diedtrich gave the Treasurer's Report for the period December 1, 2000 through March 31, 2001. The beginning cash balance was \$7,687.12; deposits of \$5,058.01; expenditures of \$3,692.05; resulting in an ending balance of \$9,053.08. Part of that money is a couple grants that were received earlier. On the recruitment and retention grant there is still \$2,481.93 to expend and on the web site grant there is still \$1,222.12. Unrestricted funds of \$5,349.03 remain. Speed Hartbank moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Lanny Applegate seconded. Motion carried.

**MOTION #2**

•A head count was taken for that evening's banquet. The hospitality hour begins at 6:00 p.m., with dinner following at 7:00 p.m. Entertainment will also be provided prior to dinner.

•Mr. Wenke mentioned that Bo Rathbun's widow had made a quilt that she would like to raffle off. The money raised from this raffle will be used to purchase PPE for the neighboring fire departments. All money collected from the ticket sales should be forwarded to Larry David at the Wyoming Fire Academy.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**State Fire Council:** Russ Wenke reported that a meeting had been scheduled during the Legislative Budget Session in Cheyenne, but due to bad weather it was cancelled. A workshop was held with the Electrical Board before the State Fire Marshal's Conference in Casper on March 28th and we discussed several recent opinions rendered by our Attorney General's representative and we are waiting on additional information before we carry on with that.

**Missouri Valley:** Chief Robert Taylor reported that they are on track for the conference, which will be held in Casper on July 11-13, 2001. There will be a golf tournament on Wednesday. American LaFrance will hose a barbeque. There will be a rodeo and barbeque at Ft. Caspar and then a banquet the last night. The registrations are forthcoming in the mail. Make your reservations at the Parkway Plaza. There is a block of rooms set aside with a special rate. There is also a special one-day pass this year. The Wyoming Fire Chiefs are again hosting the hospitality room. They may need additional assistance on running this room. Mr. Wenke suggested up a table at Cody Fire School with registrations and brochures, etc.

**Certification:** Chief Bob Symons reported they had met this morning and discussed the Arson: Origin and Cause Technician issue. He stated that Chief Wingert would talk about that a little later in the meeting. Chief Symons said they did more clean up on other certifications so we stay current with the standards.

**Legislative:** Lanny Applegate presented a list of updated bills (copy attached herewith). This list does not include all bills that we helped other agencies with, such as the Restaurant Association, State Forestry and the State Fire Marshal's Office. Chief Brad Sarff stated the Haz-Mat bill came out of committee and was pared down extremely from where it was 2 years ago. We were looking at liability and cost recovery. There were some issues, real or perceived, raised from some of the industry, but we hope to get their support. There have been a couple meetings where the trucking industry sat in with us and they are beginning to get a clearer understanding of what we are trying to accomplish.

Chief Taylor added that one thing he did not cover under his Missouri Valley report, was that he will submit a letter of resignation from Missouri Valley at the July conference. He has spoken with Chief Mark Young (Casper) about filling this vacancy and he said he would be willing to take this position. This has to be approved by the Chiefs' Association. If the Chiefs decide to approve Chief Young, he will include that statement in his resignation letter to the executive board of Missouri Valley. This vote will be done as part of today's elections.

**WFIRS:** Elaine Codianne reported that there are now 84 departments using the Firehouse software that was distributed by Wyoming State Forestry and the State Fire Marshal's office. At the January meeting it was reported that out of the first set of 50 site licenses there were about 27 departments that were not actually using the software report. That number has now been decreased to about 12. There will be a WFIRS 5.0 class at Cody Fire School in May. If one-on-one training is needed, Elaine stated she could provide that. Don Huber asked if Firehouse could print out instructions for export/import procedures. Elaine stated she would type that up and distribute it.

**Fallen Firefighter Memorial:** Gerry Dewey stated that Morris Monument and Davis Funeral Home put the names of last years two fallen firefighters on the memorial at no charge. She read off a list of sponsors in Riverton that were responsible for bringing the families of the two firefighters to today's memorial. She asked that if anyone had

suggestions on how to improve or change the memorial, they should just let them know. Ray Weidenhaft suggested writing a letter to thank the sponsors. Gene Diedtrich suggested a motion should be made if funding was short for bringing in the families. Lanny Applegate made a motion that the Chiefs' Association would make up the difference in donations and what was spend on expenses to get the families here. Speed Hartbank seconded. Motion carried.

**MOTION #3**

**Constitution and Bylaws:** No report.

**Officer Development:** No report.

**Wyoming Fire Academy:** Larry David reported that there have been 230 students year to date. Gene Diedtrich summarized the strategic planning session that was held in Thermopolis. The Vision State has been approved. The plan is still being worked on by the facilitator of the session. Chief Sarff read the Mission Statement and Vision Statement. Gene stated he has received positive feedback from the Foundation Board on the session. We will be meeting with the Governor later this summer after we receive the completed plan. Gene mentioned that Emergency Management had donated \$3,000 toward the cost of the facilitator.

**National Volunteer Fire Council:** No report.

**International Association of Fire Chiefs:** No report.

**Haz-Mat:** Don Huber stated that in lieu of legislation not making it through this year, they are taking different avenues to try to get it brought up again next year. Under SERC, a sub-committee called the Technical Committee was set up. They will cover all the details from training standards for a technician to how the system will work. It has to be decided how to disperse the DOJ grant across the state in order to make it most effective. They are concentrating on the emergency response team and hope to have a plan completed by June 30<sup>th</sup>. In regard to the state emergency response commission, there appears to be a real need for one common incident command system. We will take a look at various incident command programs and try to develop a 4-hour course.

**Recruitment and Retention:** Gene Diedtrich stated there is currently still about \$2,300 left from this \$10,000 grant. He suggested maybe the Chiefs would want to direct some of these funds to assist the Foundation Board with classes. He also stated we should cancel the 800 number at the Academy. Mr. Wenke asked if response to the 800 number had been good. Chief Wingert said the volume on this number had been very low. It was decided to talk more about this issue at the June meeting.

**International Association of Arson Investigators:** Don Taylor of the Wyoming Chapter stated they are here to help. He also spoke at the Certification Committee meeting today.

**State Fire Marshal's Office:** Jim Noel thanked everyone for his or her support of our office. He introduced Randy Vickers, the new Chief for Laramie Fire Department. The SFMO has two vacancies. Interviews were held this week for the fire inspector position. The other position is for an electrical investigator. This person will do electrical inspections, as well as fire investigations. With reference to the Fire Act, he stated there is now \$100 million in grants available. The period of time to complete the grant application is until May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our agency is going to help smaller departments to get their applications in. We are now in the process of developing a budget, around the needs of our customers. House Bill 229 is a housekeeping bill to adopt codes other than the Uniform Codes. The Uniform Codes are no longer being published and we are into the International Codes. Because of the way statutes are written, we cannot adopt current codes. House Bill 229 was stuck in a Senate committee, chaired by Sen. Kinnison and it died in committee.

On a side note, Chief Symons expressed thanks for the SFMO Conference last week in Casper. He stated it was very well done.

**State Forestry Division:** Ray Weidenhaft thanked everyone for their support for their supplemental budget bill during the legislative session. As a result of these efforts, we were real successful in recouping a lot of excessive costs for wildland fire suppression last year. They were able to come up with a new program at the Wyoming Honor Farm, which will be operated similarly to that of the Wyoming Conservation Camp in Newcastle. They will hire a program manager, 3 conservation camp supervisors and a secretary. State Forestry is also passing on information for the Fire Act. There has been a lot of confusion between the Fire Act money (\$100 million) and the National Fire Plan (\$1.8 billion). The National Fire Plan takes care of funding for excessive fire suppression on a national basis, to provide funding for mitigation in the urban interface, provide for training, equipping, organizing and communication. Throughout this process there has been an incredible amount of money available, with no clear direction of where this money was going. Forestry received \$38,500 from the National Fire Plan to distribute to Wyoming counties. Ray sent out applications to each of the 23 Wyoming county fire wardens. He then summarized the process for applications for each county's part of the \$38,500. Ray suggested applications be made for state and BLM grants. On June 11<sup>th</sup> the applications will be reviewed. Russ Wenke stressed that we should take advantage of these grants.... that if no one asks for this money, it will most likely not be available next year.

**WEMA:** No report.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

**Arson Task Force:** Chief Jim Wingert stated they have a finished product for Origin and Cause certification. There is now a 2-book instructor guide that will be going to the

Academy and SFMO and will be used for the Train-the-Trainer. A Validation Committee was formed with Chief Jerry Busby; Chairman and committee members appointed by Jim Noel are Chief Duane Stolns (Rawlins), Chief Mark Young (Casper), Lyle Armstrong (Rock Springs) and Chief Bob Symons (Sheridan). They will start on Fire Investigator certification next. Another field will be the fire problem in Wyoming and particular, the juvenile fire setter intervention programs. Jim Noel thanked the group for working on this task force. Chief Sarff suggested making a motion to approve the finalized version. Chief Wingert stated they have a Preface in the student manual and instructor guide that he would like to have the Chiefs approve. Chief Taylor asked with these signatures, does this designate ownership (no liability)? Jim Noel stated he is statutorily responsible with his signature. Chief Sarff read the Preface and names of those that endorse the course. Chief Symons made a motion the Chiefs' Association endorse the Cause and Origin course as written. Chief Taylor seconded. Motion carried.

**Motion #4**

The general consensus of the Arson Task Force is that they are all willing to stay on and continue with this issue.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Nomination of Officers:** Don Huber stated the Nominations Committee recommended the following: 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: Jim Wingert; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Don Huber; President: Brad Sarff. Chief Taylor nominated Chief Mark Young as representative to the Wyoming Missouri Valley Fire Chiefs Association, for the balance of his term, effective on Chief Taylor's written resignation. Chief Sarff seconded this nomination. Chief Symons moved that nominations cease and all nominations be approved. Jim Noel seconded. Motion carried.

**Motion #5**

**NEXT MEETING:** June 13, 2001, at 5:00 p.m. in conjunction with the Fremont County Firefighters Convention. Location will be determined at a later date.

Chief Wingert moved to adjourn at 4:00 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Elaine Codianne, Wyoming State Fire Marshal's Office.