

WYOMING FIRE CHIEF'S  
MINUTES  
APRIL 6, 2002 - RIVERTON

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by President Brad Sarff and the Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Officers present were Brad Sarff, President; Gene Diedtrich, Executive Secretary; Don Huber, First Vice President; Jim Wingert, Second Vice President.

Roll call was taken with a roster. People were asked to sign up for committees.

Minutes of the January 4, 2002 meeting. Lanny Applegate moved to accept as mailed. Speed Hartbank seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report was given by Gene Diedtrich. Balance as of 3/19/02 is \$7,302.56 including grants. Unrestricted funds are \$4,314.01. Jim Wingert moved to accept. Jim Noel seconded. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

State Fire Council - Mark Young reported that there was no new business to report. The only issue is the code issue which died in the legislature.

Missouri Valley Fire Chiefs - Mark Young. Missouri Valley Exec Board met in Kansas City. They developed a modified and updated strategic plan which is on the website (mvafo.org). The conference this year will be in Castle Rock on July 10-12, 2002. Mark announced he is seriously considering running for office for Missouri Valley Fire Chiefs in 2003. He introduced Steve Westerman, the President of Missouri Valley Fire Chiefs. Chief Westerman gave a report on the International level. Nick Russo has retired from the Fire Service so they have no one as a candidate for 2nd Vice President. A mail ballot will be coming out. It will have a constitutional issue to vote on and a list of candidates. A statement from each candidate will be included in the ballot. The top vote getter will be appointed. Discussed inequities on the Fire Act grant proposals. Send suggestions for change by e-mail to Matt Spangler - mspangler@iafc.org. Discussed NFPA regarding new pamphlet on certification standard for Incident Commander. Missouri Valley continues to be one of the strongest divisions in the IAFC. Would like feedback from members. He commented they are urging Mark to run for office. He also announced that he is planning to run for International Director for Missouri Valley and he would appreciate the Chiefs' support. Brad thanked Chief Westerman for coming to visit the Fire Chiefs and speaking at the Fallen Firefighters Memorial.

Certification - Lyle Armstrong gave the report. The Fire Service Directory has been updated and is on the Fire Marshal's website. Discussed FAO - new test will go in effect as soon as printed. Old FAO test is finished July 1, 2002. There is a new task book for FAO which will give guidance and consistency. Firefighters will certify only for modules needed and then add new certifications as needed. A Driver Training course through VFIS is available. VFIS would do a TTT for the state's trainers with free instructor manuals and videos. The state would need to supply manuals. National Accreditation is an on-going process. We will continue working toward that. Recertification is the next big item to look at. It will be discussed at our September meeting and at the Trainers Conference. We reviewed the Crosswalk program from NFA and TRADE. We will try to work that into our certification. All written tests for Wyoming Voluntary Firefighters certification will be 80% instead of 70%. This goes into effect July 1, 2002. We reviewed Airport Firefighter. They have to attend 40 hours of accepted FAA training and now local airports do their training then have refreshers at larger airports. If they meet the FAA requirements we will accept. Reviewed Haz Mat Ops in Fire Investigation certification. We recommended Haz Mat Ops be included in the final Fire Investigator certification. We acknowledged WAAI courses be accepted for Origin and Cause recertification. Recertification is submitted through normal channels. We are sending out a letter to proctors and fire chiefs regarding the certification program. The Wyoming Firefighters Certification program needs your integrity to keep our system valid. Proctors need to be at the utmost level of integrity. Officer Development program was discussed. Jim Wingert added that the Fire Investigation committee expanded the Origin and Cause Technician Book 2 class from 9 hours to 12 hours which includes a practical of the state format for the fire investigation report.

Brad asked the VFIS representative if he wanted to address the FAO driving program offered by VFIS and he gave an overview. He discussed the liability issues that departments could face.

Legislative - Lanny Applegate gave the report on this years session. Worked on supplemental budget items and were able to get \$355,000 extra in Fire Marshal's budget. Licence plate bill died. House Bill (HB) 108 died in Senate - would have allowed bordering states to provide resources. HB 184 - Haz Mat response died. The governor asked to have it brought up this year and it failed. WEMA hopes to get it passed next year. Senate File (SF) 12 special district reporting passed. Just a housekeeping file. SF 27 Emergency Fire Suppression Account failed but was added back on and got 1 million dollars. \$400,000 is indebted from last year. SF 41 Fire protection - new codes died in committee. May pass next year. SF 66 Plan B Firemen's pension passed. Interim study this fall in Appropriations on the Fire Suppression Account. Under Corporations they will study codes, home rule and fees. Transportation will study haz mat transporting, radio communications, homeland security issues, etc. Lanny thanked Chief Taylor in absentia for his many years of service. Also thanked Brad, Gene, Jim W., Mark Y., Bob S., Duane, Donny, Gary and all the chiefs who helped this year. Also thanked the ones at home who were helping.

NFIRS - No meetings so there was no report.

Fallen Firefighters Memorial - Report was given by Gerry Dewey that everything is in place for the service. Ken reported that \$1000.00 was donated to the memorial.

Constitution and By-Laws - No report.

Wyoming Fire Academy - Larry David reported the Academy is going well and we have lots of students this year. He thanked everyone for their help.

National Volunteer Fire Council - Ken Metzler reported Carl is in Denver at NVFC Council. They are active and working on the legislative scene as well as working with the National Fire Academy. The Public Fire Educators wrote a grant through NVFC through FEMA and it was accepted. PFEW received a check from FEMA for \$7,000.

IAFC VCOS - Gary Scott reported that fair labor standards in regards to volunteers are being taken care of. It took 7 ½ years to modify and it will protect the volunteers. There are a lot of issues nationally. It is close to being resolved. The Board is working on school safety issues. It has gone to the Dept. Of Education to look at schools and what role fire service plays. The board was asked to submit ideas to congress on what could be done for volunteer fire service. Creation of Office of Volunteer Fire Service Leadership under USFA will give volunteer fire service a focal point within the federal establishments. There is a movement to create a National Volunteer Firefighters Coalition. This would discuss health care, benefits for disability . He appreciated the state's support on the fair labor standards issue. Gave credit to Craig Thomas and Mike Enzi for their help and support.

Haz Mat - Don Huber. Discussed the 6 region program that is being worked on. Thanked everyone who has attended these meetings. Have had some positive steps and things are headed in the right direction. Jim Noel reported that EMS, Emergency Management and Law Enforcement have met with them and we are educating them and bringing them along. Six regional response teams are selected. The Governor can recognize these through their statute and then they are an asset. Fire Marshal received an Attorney General's opinion that his office can offer and recognize technician level training. Hazardous Material Regional Response legislation is on the horizon. Pre-September 11th the money comes from Dept. of Justice and most of money is kept at national level and they contracted out training. The money for equipment for Wyoming (first 2 years) 1 million 15,000 dollars and is in the bank in Cheyenne under Emergency Management - 3rd year is now 2.6 million. D-Con PPE, communications and one other area were eligible but now they have included trailers, etc. Rumors are that money will now come through FEMA but it is wait and see.

Recruitment and Retention - Jim Wingert reported that we need to get this committee revised. Volunteer departments have a problem with this and we need to develop programs to help with this problem. Asked for volunteers for the committee.

Nomination and Elections - moved to end of the meeting.

Wyoming Association of Arson Investigators - Cliff Smith, President reported along with Rick Jones, Campbell County. They had a meeting in March and discussed the problems with Fire Investigation. They are working with the Certification Committee and want to work with the Fire Chiefs. They would like continuity with certifications. Rick asked for a position on the Fire Investigation Committee. If you have any questions about WAAI, please contact them.

Fire Marshal's Office - Jim Noel reported. He thanked the people who worked on the Advisory committees. He thanked the Legislative committee for helping gain his department the money. Fire Marshal's Office ended up in the budget with 5 new people. New fire inspector in Green River, new electrical inspector in western part of state (Big Horn Basin or possibly Pinedale), new plan reviewer to deal with school capital construction, new trainer and staff support in Riverton. The agency visited 23 counties last year and that was helpful in communicating to our customers as to what we do. Hope to cover all 23 counties in next 2 years. Mentioned Interim Study on fire code issues. Homeland security was discussed. Master Mutual Aid Agreement for the State, EMAC - Mutual Aid Agreement with other states, Hazardous Materials, Victim Compensation, are all being studied. Wireless communication is being worked on. Nancy reported on the training division. She thanked everyone for their support with the Fire Marshal's Conference and asked the Fire service to give us ideas for future conferences. Complimented Elaine for chairing the Fire Marshal's Conference. The visits to the counties were good and fire service was beneficial to those meetings. Thanks for support on the budget. Fire Chiefs were beneficial in gaining funding. Hopefully support staff and trainer will be in place by July 1, 2002. She discussed the FEMA assistance to firefighters grant program. We contacted the departments in Wyoming to offer assistance. Brad Sarff, Randy Johnson and Nancy will go back to work on grants. Fire Investigations have gone up with the addition of an extra fire investigator and because of the training programs more are reported.

Lanny added that the Fire Marshal's Office and Forestry have also been a tremendous help to the Fire Chiefs.

Wyoming State Forestry - Paul Morency gave the report. Thanked the Chiefs for all the hard work and especially the help from the legislative committee. They really helped on the Fire Suppression account. The wildfire seasons have been worse so the money is needed. The new rules are out for public comment on the Emergency Suppression Account. The national fire plan - main thrust is for Urban Interface grants. Approximately 1.8 million asked for by counties in grants. Honor Farm Inmate program is up and running. They are short one crew but have 14 inmates at this time. They are fire trained and are working on saws and physical fitness. Interagency Agreements are in the process of being signed. Training is at a full level in wildland classes and we need more classes. Lanny reported that on the Fire Suppression Account there will be an interim study. He asked everyone to discuss this account with their senators and representatives to help at the next session. Ken Metzler thanked Paul and the Honor Farm crew for all their help to clean and spruce up the Academy. Jim Noel shared that Bob Taylor and Ken Sutton were working on getting an audit for State Lands down through State Forestry. It could be a very positive thing for State Forestry.

WEMA - There was no report.

Public Fire Educators - Bob Symons reported that they met during the State Fire Marshal's Conference. They are trying to recreate their group and would like the Chiefs' support. The Fire Safety House program has been done away with and Rawlins Fire Department purchased the Wyoming Fire Safety House. The Association is going to send out a needs assessment. Will ask Fire Chiefs for help on the mailings and for support for the organization.

#### Old Business

There was none.

#### New Business

Chief Westerman, Missouri Valley Fire Chief brought up about membership in IAFC. Contact him if interested. Also attendance at FRI conference in Kansas City in August. President Bush and Mayor Juliani have been invited. No definite answers yet. Asked for endorsement from Wyoming Fire Chiefs for his banner for his campaign in July. He is the only candidate to contact us since the campaign started in February. Jim Noel moved we support his candidacy. Jim Wingert seconded. Motion carried.

Brad stated that information from IAFC was on the table by the window if anyone is interested.

Jim Noel brought up that the State Fire Marshal's Office is required under statute to enforce Uniform fire, mechanical and building codes. The WCBO has taken the position to adopt International codes.

Gary Scott moved that the Wyoming Fire Chiefs endorse Mark Young if he decides to run for 2nd Vice president of the Missouri Valley Fire Chiefs. Bob Symons seconded. Motion carried.

There was no more new business.

Election of Officers - Jim Wingert reported that there were no nominations received. Nominations were asked for from the floor. Asked for a motion to cast a unanimous ballot. Jim Noel moved we re-elect the current officers - Brad Sarff, President; Don Huber, 1st Vice President; Jim Wingert, 2nd Vice President; and Gene Diedtrich, Executive Secretary. Speed seconded. Motion carried.

The banquet will be tonight at Fire Station #1. A headcount was asked for. Times will be 6:00 p.m. for cocktails and eat at 7:00 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on June 12, 2002 at 4:00 p.m for E-Board and 4:30 p.m for Chiefs at the fire hall in Wheatland. The Fireman's Association meeting and competition will follow.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m.