

FIRE CHIEF'S MEETING - APRIL 6, 2003

In attendance:

Ron Smith, Ken Metzler, Bill Hitt, Larry David, Jim Noel, Jim Minchow, Cliff Smith, George Nomis, Mike Kennedy, Craig Haslam, John Myers, Margaret Cooper, Jeremy Binyaman, Bobby Johnson

The committee rose and started the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Brad Sarff called the meeting to order.

Speed Hartbank made a motion to approve the minutes; Jim Noel moved to second, minutes were approved as mailed.

Treasurer report

Gene Deitrich gave the report and reviewed the report that was sent out in February. December 18, 2002 through March 18, 2003. Started with a cash balance of \$8366.04, there was \$30.72 earned in interest, and a total of \$4,570.00 in dues received. The expenses that were paid out totaled \$6,358.54. A large part of expenses was the Recruitment and Retention training, which totaled \$2,4064. Gene also paid out \$3,000 to the Fire Advisory Board for expenses in Cheyenne. This leaves a balance of \$6,608.22, less the \$532.00 left on web site grant. This should be expended shortly. Mark Young made a motion to approve the treasurer's report with Randy Vickers seconding. Treasurer report was approved.

Service Award

Jim Noel presented John Meyers with an award of appreciation for his 50 years of service in the Lander Volunteer Fire Department. He thanked John for his dedication to the fire service and community. John thanked everyone and said that he was very humbled by the award.

Homeland Security

Kim Lee introduced the new Homeland Security Director, Joe Moore. Joe talked about Governor Fredenthal's new Homeland Security plan and that WEMA has been absorbed into Homeland Security. Homeland Security is now an office that will be directed by the Governor. He talked about the threat of terrorism, and that Wyoming is as vulnerable as any other state in the United States. He gave an update on the future plans for Homeland Security, and what he knows about the plan of the newly developed department. The governor has a real interest in homeland security and the money is available to get Wyoming up to speed.

Joe gave an update on a letter he sent to Governor for six regional response teams. In the letter he has requested that all law enforcement officers will have a Haz-Mat kit in their car, and Haz-Mat suits will be made available for hospital personnel. If the Governor approves this plan there will be call to the different departments to help implement the plan. The Homeland Security Department has been working on what will be needed for regional response teams.

Joe talked about the grants for 2002 and 2003. He said that 80% went to, or will go to municipalities. Currently there is 4.5 million dollars of grant monies available to fight terrorism.

Each Fire Department and Police Department in the state was sent a copy of the grant application, and he is encouraging the departments to put in for a grant. Eventually the Governor will make the final decision on how the funds will be dispersed.

Joe introduced Major Galbrath of the Wyoming Highway Patrol. The Major has been assigned detail with Homeland Security. Joe also announced that Larry Majerus would become coordinator for WEMA. There will no longer be a WEMA office, it will be incorporate into Home Land Security. Joe reviewed the different entities that play a part in the Home Land Security, and the Safety Act. He reminded everyone to treat every scene as a crime scene. The new law makes it possible to prosecute.

Brad Sarff had a question regarding the Letter of Intent. "Does it need to be sent in by a governing body or can it be done by individual departments"? Joe said that he thought that individual departments could put in for the money.

Joe is recommending the purchase of a bomb robot with the state portion of the grant. The state currently does not have one and he would like to see some of the money utilized to purchase the robot.

Mark Young asked, "Does money go to municipalities and counties"? Joe was not sure that individual fire departments could not put in for the grant. There were questions about an elected official having to apply for the grant. Joe said he would get clarification on who can apply for the monies. Joe will check on it and will clarify it, he will get the information to Jim Noel and Jim will e-mail everyone the answer to the question. Brett understood that the grant was for equipment that could be used by everyone, but the letter needed to be signed by someone in an official capacity. Joe said he would get it clarified. The grant letter went to all Fire Departments and Police Departments, he said that he will find resolution to the issue and then will let everyone know. Forest fires can also be an act of terrorism, he reminded everyone to keep that in mind.

The office of Homeland Security is located in the Herschler Building and he invited anyone to stop by and see him, also if anyone has any ideas, to let him know. Homeland Security phone number is 777-8511.

State Fire Council

Chief Young had nothing to report since the snowstorm cancelled the meeting. The next meeting will be rescheduled for May but he was unsure of the date.

Missouri Valley Report - Chief Young reviewed the make up of the International Fire Chief's, and of eight states involved. He gave an overview of the Executive Board. Mark Young has been the Wyoming Vice President for the board. The Missouri Valley Board has been very involved in regional and national legislation regarding fire departments and the regulation of them. They are trying to reach down from the national level to the local level. In the future you will see more involvement with Missouri Valley at the Fire Chief's meeting. If interested in becoming a member let him know. Dues for the international membership are \$125. 00 per year.

Strategic planning in Kansas City, Brad Sarff attended the meeting. They modified strategic plan and mission statement. They have web site www.mvase.org. The strategic plan documents and mission statements can be found on the web site with links to the IFC Association.

The Missouri Valley Annual Conference will be held July 9, 10, and 11, 2003 in Kansas City Missouri. The Board meeting will be held on Wednesday the 9th. The IFC conference will be held in Dallas this year at the end of August. To register on-line you can go to their website IFC.com

There have been some changes in the Executive Board, Mark Young is running for Executive Vice President, but since there were no other candidates, Mark will be the new Executive Vice President. In July he will be sworn in as the Second Vice President of the Missouri Board, we will then need a fill the Wyoming Vice President vacancy. Mark felt that Brad Sarff would be a great representative for the state of Wyoming, and he was asking for support for Brad when the election occurs.

Certification Committee

Rich Huber reported for the Certification Committee; Rita Lee processed 306 tests and issued 98 certificates in the last three months. Rich introduced Jay Doyle as the newest member of Certification Committee. Bill Hitt will be on the Certification Committee as of the 16th of April. They approved 8 new task books, and their goal is to have a task book for every certification level. New Firefighter I and Firefighter II books are to the 2002 standard, but the tests are still the 1997 standard. It is the goal of the committee to have the tests updated by the end of the year. Lyle Armstrong has divided the committee into sub committee's to work on updating the Certification process. Rita Lee has the list of people on each committee.

The next meeting has been tentatively set for September 9th in Rawlins.

Legislative Report

Brad did a brief report since Lanny was not available. Brad felt that the session went fairly well and the committee accomplished some things that have been priorities. The license plate issue finally passed. The State Foresters job was changed from being under Public Lands to being under State Lands. Brad talked about the reorganization of Homeland Security and WEMA. He wanted all the Chief's to know that the effort to support and fund the people that go to Cheyenne goes a long way. Brad wanted to thank the people who spent time at the sessions, and to let everyone know that the effort has proven to be very effective.

Rich talked about how it was nice to have both rural and paid departments at the Legislative meetings at the same time. He felt that they should look to see when the legislators meet, and look at the possibility of having someone from the rural and paid departments available at the same time because some issues come up that concern the paid services versus the rural voluntary fire departments. Chief Young said the code issue was finally resolved. Brad Sarff talked about how using e-mail to let the Representatives know what your opinions are, and how it helped to get legislation passed.

NIFRS – Chief Sutton is on vacation so there was no report.

Geri Dewey reported on the Fire Fighters Memorial. She said it was ready, and she wanted to extend her thanks for all their help.

Constitution and Bi-Laws Report – No report

Academy Report

Larry David reported on the training that has been held at the Academy so far this year. Plans for the new addition are still in place and the planning process is moving along. The addition will be 70x70. It will have a large classroom and storage space.

Buffalo hunt tickets are still available, the drawing will take place during the annual Buffalo feed in Dubois and the hunt will be held the 25th - 27th of September.

Gene Deitrich talked about the grant application for \$225 thousand. Mark and Gene have been working through the process with Joint Powers Board to get the application to the State Loan Board. The Academy is currently trying to get 15% match. Everything has been submitted. A meeting will be held June 19th for approval. Gene felt that they should have a decision by the time the meeting in Newcastle is held.

National Volunteer Fire Council

Ken Metzler said that there are a lot legislative issues. He talked about the grants that are currently in the works.

VCOS - Recruitment and Retention

- Ron Smith talked about both VCOS and Recruitment and Retention. The name has been changed to Volunteer and Combination Officers Section. It targets those chiefs and officers that manage volunteer or combination departments. There is a push to get membership at this time, it is a department of the IFC. Chief Young or anyone who is a member of IFC can help with getting information on membership.

Recruitment & Retention

- The seminar for Recruitment and Retention was held January 25th and there were 29 participants. Chief Jeff Scott from Tualatin, Oregon presented at the seminar. Ron felt that the feedback on the evaluation forms was positive and he hoped that everyone who attended got some useful information out of it.

Nomination & Election

The election of a new First Vice President and Second Vice President for the Missouri Valley IFC was discussed. Chief Wingert is in charge of it the election, he recommended that Don Huber be elected to the First Vice President and that Duane Stolns be elected to the Second Vice President seat.

Wyoming Association Of Arson Investigators

Cliff Smith reported that training was held in Thermopolis on March 14 - 16. It was a 12-hour class. The Primary instructors were agents from the Denver Bureau of Tobacco and Fire Arms. They brought their response truck from Denver. Everyone needs to know that the truck is available for Origin and Cause, it does not need to a multi-million dollar loss. They had live burn exercises with a mobile home, car and farmhouse. The investigation training was done as hands on. The Fall 2003 Conference will be in Fremont County but the logistics have not been figured out. Cliff will be representing Wyoming in Reno Nevada at the IAAI conference.

Public Fire Educators report

Cliff Smith had six items on their report

- Grant writing class was held at the Academy with a good turnout.
- Public Ed has two \$150. stipends that was not used so the \$300.00 will carry over to go back into the training account.
- They are looking at videos and brochures for public education. They are looking at NFPA videos and reproducing the videos so that they can be lent out to different agencies.
- They would like to host Pat Mazolla who does training on juvenile fire setters. The committee will try to make arrangements to get her scheduled
- The Public Ed committee has found that they need to look at educating people with disabilities, children, elderly and people with special needs. They are looking at a program of "Lock, Drop and Roll" for people confined to wheelchairs.
- Missouri Valley Fire Chiefs will be holding a Public Ed Conference "Power Tools For educators", no one in the Pub Ed group can attend June 11 - 13th in Topeka Kansas. If anyone knows someone who is eligible to attend let Cliff know.
- Next meeting will be May 30th

Fire Marshal's Office

Jim Noel thanked everyone for their support of the Agency and for him personally. Jim updated everyone on the legislation concerning the code and he said that it finally passed.

The council wants to make rules associated with the code. They are going to make a proposal that the council review the 2003 and start making them consistent with the 2003 International codes.

Number of vacancies:

Fire Prevention Program Manager

Plan Reviewer

Electrical Inspector - Open for the west - Big Horn Basin

Fire Trainer

Training

Ron Smith reported Haz-Mat/Terrorism training. The grant is coming is coming to end in September. The money has been shifted to Home Land Security. Ron said that in the last five years there have been 514 classes offered, with a total of 7,000 people attending the training. This year 40 classes have been held. He hopes he can tap into another source of money to continue the program.

The upcoming training is as follows:

Haz-Mat in May. The grant will pay for lost wage reimbursement and the meals and lodging if you are on a volunteer Fire Department. If interested get a hold of Ron Smith.

There will be an Officer Development class sometime in May or the middle of June. This class is a 12 hours class with a series of 2-hour classes on different topics such as budgeting, liability and different items. Tentative instructors will be Chief Scott from Campbell County, and Ken Farmer from North Carolina.

June 7th - 13th a Command and Control class is scheduled at the Academy. The instructors will be Gene Chandler from Fort Collins, Colorado and Wayne Bendis from Connecticut. This is an equivalent for the MCTO series classes. All the meals and lodging will be paid for. This training is open to all departments. Contact Ron Smith if you are interested in attending.

Ken Metzler talked about the Urban Search and Rescue program. Ken is currently reviewing what the State Fire Marshal's office will be doing for training in regards to search and rescue training at the Academy. The Academy is looking at expansion as far as adding in some concrete pads and a building collapse portion to the academy for lifting and shoring. Ken is looking at the National Fire Academy training on Rescue Systems I. This class was developed by the state of California. Looking at around \$90K for training and then some off-site recertification classes to keep the skills up. Looking at developing in each county a US&R light team level team and a heavy team in at least three counties. He is currently working on equipment lists and costs lists.

Ken is working on Forestry Wild land firefighting classes and getting those scheduled for 2004. There have been some changes made to insure there is a coordinator in each class so that there will be an instructor available and scheduled in advance.

Forestry -

Rich reported that EFS funded to a million and a quarter and the million paid the bills from last year. There are about 250 thousand left for this year. The State Forestry is now at will to the State Land Board and not the Director.

Bill Hitt was introduced he will be new trainer for Forestry.

The Rural State Fire Advisory Board will meet 10th of April at Fremont County in the Fire Conference Room. Two new members, Russ Wenke from Cody, and Ray Request from Newcastle. The new board has been assigned. Chuck Downey has expressed that this will be his last term. He looks forward to the new board and is hoping for great things. Hopefully everyone will be better informed. Chuck will try and groom Russ Wenke to take his place on the board.

Old Business

Brad Sarff reported on Missouri Valley and the IFC strategic planning meeting that he attended. He said that the IFC and the Missouri Valley Planning are trying to align their strategic plans and that one is supporting the other. He said that he would like to see the Wyoming State Chief's

come up with a plan in support of the IFC and Missouri Valley Plan. Missouri Valley has adopted the IFC logo with tag underneath it that says "Missouri Valley Division".

Brad wanted to thank the Fire Chiefs' Association for paying for his airfare and providing him with the opportunity to attend the meeting.

New Business

Brad Sarff - July 9th, 10th & 11th. Talked about hospitality room in Kansas City that was talked about smoozing but Mark Young felt that there wasn't a reason to make much of an effort, since no one is running against him. It was felt that a one-night hospitality room would be sufficient. Gene made a motion to do a night one-night hospitality room in honor of Mark Young and to make Wyoming visible. Don Huber seconded motion. Motion carried.

Mark Young, talked about Missouri Valley Pub Ed, and that they do have a stipend available. When the Pub Ed Committee is looking at training, they need to check with Missouri Valley to see what is available.

Kenny King is now the training officer in Mark Young's Department in Casper. Kenny is a good trainer and they would like everyone to know that he is more than willing to do training.

Ken talked about US&R in local areas. He talked about getting together with all departments so when tools are purchased they can be purchased at a bulk rate, which would help get the cheapest rate.

Election of officers:

Nomination by Chief Weingert for the new officers for the organization, President - Don Huber, 1st Vice President- Jim Weingert, 2nd Vice President - Duane Stolns

Mark Young made the motion to nominate Brad Sarff for Missouri Valley Wyoming State Vice President with Speed Hartbank seconding.

Kim moved that motion to nominate cease, seconded by Jim Noel. Nomination passed.

Brad Sarff thanked everyone for the support and opportunity to be the President of the organization.

Next meeting June 18th Newcastle 4:00 PM at the Newcastle Fire Hall.

Meeting Adjourned