

**WYOMING FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION
MEETING MINUTES
NEWCASTLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
JUNE 16, 2021**

Call to Order: *President Byron Mathews called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.*

Pledge of Allegiance: *President Mathews let the group in reciting the Pledge.*

Motions from the floor: *All motions that were made during the meeting were passed unanimously.*

Attendance: *There were 19 in attendance, 15 in person and 4 virtually.*

Treasurer's Report: *Treasurer Diedrich reported the Statement of Cash Position for the period for the period April 1, 2021 through May 31, 2021. Beginning cash of \$23,897, deposits of \$42066, disbursements of \$24,181, ending cash of \$41,783. \$14,594 is restricted to the LAST checking account, leaving an unrestricted balance of \$27,189. Motion by Robert Munger to approve, second by James Curren.*

Missouri Valley Division, IAFC: *President Mathews reported that the annual conference of the Division will be held in Cheyenne, WY. August 30/September 2, 2021 at Little America's Hotel complex. Registration forms for the event can be procured online at cheyennecity.org, all are encouraged to attend.*

Special District Association: *President Mathews wanted to encourage all the fire districts in Wyoming to belong to the Association. Very important for all districts to meet the annual reporting requirements of the State, and pay attention to the feedback from the Department of Audit.*

IAFC VCOS: *JR Fox reported that the "Symposium in the Sun" is scheduled for November 11-14th, 2021 in Clearwater, Florida. Website has a lot of good information for the Fire Service.*

National Volunteer Fire Council: *Eric Quinney reported that plans are moving forward to host the Fall Conference in Jackson, Wyoming October 13-15th, 2021. This is the 45th anniversary year of the NVFC, haven't had a in person meeting in nearly two years. Information relative to the meetings and the content thereof, will be forthcoming from Eric. He urged all the Fire Service to join the NVFC and enjoy the benefits of membership and the valuable information from the Website.*

WFCRA Residential Sprinkler Committee: *Mark Young reported that the committee has been reorganized, currently have approximately 25 members. Have props available to assist in relaying the program statewide. Trying to promote the membership statewide, there's no fee for membership.*

307CRR: *Mark Young reported that the committee continues to move forward in its mission of installing check valves on all patients wearing O2 devices. The State Fire Marshal's office received a \$100K grant to purchase the devices, now the committee is*

moving forward and getting them installed. The Fire Service is the workhorse of the committee in that they are out in the field, promoting the devices and installing them. A supply can be obtained by your department by contacting the office or going online and ordering them. Have other states very interested in the program.

L.A.S.T. Team: *Mark Young reported on the LAST Team. So far in 2021 there have been 3 missions that involved the team. The remaining Commissioner's license donated to the team by Commissioner Ladwig was auctioned at the Wyoming Sheep Foundation banquet held in Casper on June 5, 2021. The license sold for \$20,500, the team received \$18,000 for their share. Total receipts for the 2 licenses were \$34,590, which will help fund the team and its missions for several years.*

Wyoming Fallen Firefighter Memorial: *Mark Young reported that the Annual Firefighter Memorial program is scheduled to be held at the Wyoming Fire Academy August 21, 2021 at 1300 hours, it's very possible that the Hall of Fame ceremony maybe held that same day.*

NFPA: *Nick Hudson reported that the information for the 2021 Fire Prevention week is on the internet at [FirePreventionWeek.org](https://www.firepreventionweek.org). He noted that there is a considerable amount of information available on the website. One thing he noted the availability of a weekly virtual training offering each week for a small fee available to the public via the website.*

WYO-Link: *President Mathews reported he visited with the retired Mark Harshman, Mark was aware of the County Commissioners Association request to form a WYO-Link committee.*

Legislation Committee: *President Mathews reported that Legislature's Joint Appropriation committee held a hearing on June 15, 2021 on The Wyoming Retirement's Plan A, which consists of the older career firefighters. It was a fact-finding mission to further visit the challenges of the Plan A problems.*

Wyoming Vol/Fire, EMT and Search and Rescue Pension: *Lanny Applegate reported that the current fund balance is \$96,264,925, monthly distribution to retirees and survivors totals \$577,659, have a total current membership of 2,426 and are paying 282 survivors and 1,342 retirees each month.*

Wyoming Fire Academy Training Report: *Ian Kraft, Training Director, reported that the Academy has had a great start for 2021. Having just recently opened up the Academy for business, have held 53 classes so far, provided 769 hours of training, have had 30 Fire Investigations so far this year. Just recently completed a 6-day NFA class held back in May, which had 21 attendees. Eric Siwik is the Academy training Coordinator. Currently adding new props to the training ground, and converting the props from natural gas to propane. Planning to add another street and cul-de-sac to the layout at the Academy, hopefully in 2022. The online class offerings have been very well received. He noted there were 300-350 attendees at the Cody Fire School and are looking forward to assisting with the Wheatland school in September and the Riverton school in January of 2022. IF YOU DON'T HAVE THIS ONE CALL PHONE NUMBER **307-349-4993** FOR FIRE INVESTIGATIONS WROTE DOWN, PLEASE DO SO.*

2015 and 2019 SAFER Grants: Gene Diedtrich reported that the 2015 Grant had reached its end at April 30, 2021, with total expenditure of \$582,718. The 2019 Grant was received on November 22, 2021 and expires on November 21, 2024 in the amount of \$458,000. Approximately \$30,000 has been expended at this time, mainly on the Cody Fire School.

Wyoming State Firemen's Association: Robert Munger reported how joyously glad he was the 2-year journey was about finally over and the Convention in Newcastle had finally arrived. He invited everyone to stick around and enjoy the Newcastle hospitality and the firefighter competition. He noted the order of the future conventions would be Lander in 2022, Riverton in 2023 and Afton in 2024. There are 8 teams competing in this year's competition.

Wyoming State Rural Fire Association: President Mathews reported that he has proposed that the Chiefs' Association sponsor a 1/2 day educational seminar at the annual meeting of the Rural Association to be held at the Ramkota Inn at Casper November 30/December 2, 2021. The leader of the seminar will be the new president of the Missouri Valley Division of the IAFC. More information to follow, as plans are completed.

Wyoming State Forestry: Josh Van Vlack reported for the agency. Fire Season is in full bloom. Had a Type 2 fire here in the State on the weekend of the June 12 will be classed as a Type 4 on Friday the 18th. Resource fact sheets have been forwarded to all the Fire Wardens in the State.

Wyoming State Firemarshal: Director Reed presented the following. Currently working on filling a couple positions within the Agency. Have started to use Electronic Plan review software for the reviews, really works well and speeds up reviews. The pre1981 memorial walk at the National Fire Academy has been completed, pictures have been circulated, thank you to those that helped with the funding and the Wyoming design. Have started the Departments budget process for next year, the Governor plans to have his budget to the legislature by November 1. If you have unreported fires for 2020 you need to get them into NIFRS by June 30 to be reported in 2020. Plan on increasing all the fees of the office in the upcoming legislature, been 16 years since they were increased.

NEW BUSINESS:

Website: President Mathews reported that the site is up and running. If you have something you would like on the site, please contact Byron at this email address. bmathews@cheyennecity.org

Emergency Medical Services: Eric Quinney reported on the vast number of changes in the ambulance service providers in the state of Wyoming. Number of consolidations and acquisitions, the whole system is on the verge of collapse. Volunteer EMS is dissipating in the state and nation. Governor Gordon is aware of and is reviewing the situation. Theirs' a big need to have the problem fixed, a very critical issue.

Conference Grant Available: President Mathews reported that there is a stipend available To attend the Missouri Valley Division, IAFC Conference August 30/September 2 in Cheyenne. If interested contact him at the email address listed above.

Adjournment: Motion by Robert Munger and seconded by Jeff Bender at 3:25 PM.

FUTURE MEETING DATES:

- **NOVEMBER 30/DECEMBER 2, 2021 – CASPER, WY, RAMKOTA INN. IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE WYOMING STATE RURAL FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING.**
- **JANUARY 7, 2022 - WYOMING FIRE ACADEMY IN CONJUNCTION WITH RIVERTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS ANNUAL FIRE SCHOOL, MEET AT 12:30 PM APRIL 2, 2022.**
- **ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING, RIVERTON VOLUNTEER FIRE STATION NO. 1, 9:00 AM, WITH A NOON LUNCHEON FOLLOWING THE MEETING.**