

WYOMING FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION

MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 2, 2022

RIVERTON VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT – STATION 1

Call to order – Pledge of allegiance: Meeting called to order by President Mathews at 9:01 am. With the pledge of allegiance recited.

Roll call: There were 24 members and officers present, 19 present and 5 joining virtually.

Motions – All motions made and seconded were unanimously passed.

Minutes of last meeting - meeting minutes of the January 7, 2022 meeting were approved as emailed to the membership. Motion by Jim Wamsley seconded by Jerry Munger.

Treasurer's report – Gene Diedtrich reported the Statement of Cash report for the period January 1, 2022 through February 28, 2022. Beginning cash of \$45,056, deposits of \$44,111, disbursements of \$31,146, leaving an ending balance of \$58,031. With the following 2 restrictions, \$12,332 for the 2019 Safer Grant and \$16,637 of the L.A.S.T Fund. Leaving unrestricted cash of \$29,062.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Election of Officers – Gene Diedtrich nominated the present officers, President Byron Mathews, 1st Vice President Eric Quinney and 2nd Vice President to serve in their present capacities for the ensuing year, there were no nominations from the floor. Motion Donny Munger, second by Jim Wamsley. Jim Wamsley administered the Oath of office to the newly elected officers.

Missouri Valley Division, IAFC – Craig Haslam reported the division if very busy, check out the website. July 13 – 15, 2022 is the annual conference to be held at Independence, Missouri. There will be a stipend available for this meeting as there was for last year. Encourages all chiefs' members to get involved. Chief Wamsley represents the division on the IAFC board. Encourages all to take advantage of the purchasing group.

Special District Association – Craig Haslam reported that the next board meeting will be April 8, 2022 at Casper. Craig is currently serving as the interim president of the association. The group has joined the National Coalition and has received a lot of support from our Wyoming Senators. Encourage all to get involved.

Wyoming Council on Fire Prevention and Electrical Safety – Dan Johnson reported that there has been no business since the last meeting and that there is nothing pending.

IACF – VCOS - JR Fox reported that there was a January meeting. The group is advertising for members to fill committee vacancies. Asked all to complete the on-line survey, takes about 10 minutes.

National Volunteer Fire Council – Eric Quinney reported that he was traveling to DC next week to attend the annual meeting. The council is offering this summer, with scholarships available to the membership. The Wyoming membership in the NVFC is currently about 450 members.

Wyoming Fallen Firefighters Memorial – President Mathews reported for Mark Young that the service will take place on August 20th at 1:30 pm at the memorial grounds of the Wyoming Fire Academy in conjunction with the Wyoming Fire Service Hall of Fame ceremony which starts at 10:30 am at the Academy. Ian Kraft is leading the planning efforts in coordination with Wyoming LAST.

WFCRA Residential Sprinkler Committee – President Mathews reported for Mark Young that the group is led by Mark and Kathy Clay. The group is active and meeting once a month. Looking for opportunities to have the side-by-side presentations at your community, reach out to Mark Young. The next meeting is scheduled for April 21. If interested, please contact Mark Young.

Wyo-Link Update – Mark Harshman reported the WDOT received 35 million in funding from ARPA and that the Wyoming Legislature is funding the local cost share for the next biennium. The Wyo-link committee is being increased from 11 to 13 members by the legislature

WFCRA Legislative – President Mathews reported that the session that just ended was very challenging, he reviewed all the bills that the committee worked on during the recent session.

Wyoming Volunteer Fire, EMT and Search and Rescue Pension Plan – Report by Eric Quinney that the board met last evening at Hudson. He reported that the plan has 2,399 active members, monthly payments to retirees and beneficiaries amounts to a little under \$600,000 per month. The total fund balance at December 31, 2021 was \$108,686,819. The fund overall had 17.1% earnings increase during 2021. Fire Chief Dennis McDonald from Afton was appointed to the board to replace former member Alan Sessions, who passed away in August of 2021.

Wyoming Fire Academy Training Report – Ian Kraft reported that training had more than doubled for the recent quarter compared to last year, and attributed the increase to having a full staff of trainers at the academy. He reported that the academy is working to put together training to tie in with the national system for the new CDL requirements. Trying to make it simple. The plan is to register as a training provider with the Federal DOT, and will provide instructors for both the theory and hands on portion of the CDL training. Current plan is to register to take care of the CDL requirements for the fire service and emergency services. Goal is to have the program in place and be able to start the training by October 1, 2022.

2019 SAFER Grant – Gene Diedtrich reported that we're currently about 1/3 of the way through the grant time period. Have spent \$124,159, have a remaining balance of \$333,841, have spent 78% of the training money. Have an amendment pending with FEMA to try and reclassify part of the money that was allocated to student tuition to the training group.

SECTION REPORTS:

Wyoming Firefighters Certification Committee – Jake Ribordy reported on all the current committee Projects. He stated that there is a vacancy on the committee, that needs filled. If you are interested, you need to have your application in by April 30, 2022.

Wyoming Association of Fire Marshalls – President Mathews reported that the next meeting of the group will be held in Casper on May 4-6, 2022. The business meeting is on the 4th.

Industrial Fire Chiefs – President Mathews reported for Ryan Wells. There are no new updates on the group, currently waiting on the 1081 curriculum. Nothing new on foams, they continue to do research.

STATE FIRE ASSOCIATION REPORTS:

Wyoming State Fireman’s Association – Jeremy Bingaman reported that on behalf of the WSFA and the Lander Fire Department he would extend an invitation to anyone who would like to participate in the convention this year. Dates for the convention is June 16-18, 2022. Lodging is filling up fast. Have a bunch of great prizes for the annual raffle, should be a great time.

L.A.S.T. Team Update – Dan Johnson reported that they have supported several missions and the Governor’s prayer breakfast so far this year. They are adding 4 names to the memorial wall. Commissioner Rael with the Game and Fish commission has donated a pheasant hunt to be raffled by the Team. It’s for a 2-day hunt for 2 adults and 2 youth hunters. Tickets are \$20 a piece. Hunt will be at Cowley, Wy. The fireman that sells the most tickets also gets a day’s hunt. Commissioner Roberts has donated a commissioner’s license to the team for 2022. The sheep foundation has agreed to sell the permit at its banquet on June 4, 2022.

307 CRR – Director Reed reported that the group meets on a regular basis, Mark Norford is in charge of the group, contact him at 307-777-7288 if you have questions, want to get involved, or are in need of more devices.

STATE AGENCY REPORTS:

Wyoming State Forestry – Director Crapser reported that the agency is alive and well. He introduced Jerod DeLay the new fire manager officer for the State. He reported that there are a number of vacancies within the agency, having trouble finding trained personnel. He reported the legislature treated the agency very well in the last session, the fire suppression account was increased and the 537-account used to reimburse costs incurred by departments called out to fight fires was also increased. There are also new monies coming available from Federal legislation in the near future. The Fire Advisory Board is considering adding a 12% fuel surcharge for 2022 to the hourly rate of engine reimbursement.

Wyoming Fire Marshal – Director Reed reported that the access project that has been in process for the last 4 years, at the Academy making the area more accessible and taking care of the drainage problems has just received a \$1.3 million budget item to complete the project in 2023. He reported the one call system currently being used to obtain fire investigators is working very well and reported that calls for investigations has doubled. He reported that they are at full staff at the academy. Mark Young is hosting a virtual conference to develop a statewide fire inspector checklist. Joyce Knapp has been working very hard on the fire reporting process, and she has increased reporting to over 80%. He reported that the City of Laramie’s honor guard performed at the Governor’s prayer breakfast this year in Cheyenne and was very well received.

CONTINUIG BUSINESS:

2020 SAFER Grant Application – JR Fox reported that an application has been submitted for a 2021 Safer Grant, in an effort to obtain additional training funds for the Volunteers. He recognized Ian

Kraft and thanked him for putting the grant request together. He discussed an Individual that gives training in harassment, discrimination and anti-bias by the name of Mike McCall, Mike can be reached at Mikemjconsulting@tx.rr.com or his cell is 214-415-8121.

President Mathews recognized Mark Young's service as the L.A.S.T. team director for the past 11 years and gave him a big thank you.

The vacant position on the National Volunteer Fire Council was discussed, conditions that the members representing the Wyoming Fire Service on the board needed was an individual and department membership to the NVFC and financial support to pay the travel expenses of the appointed director. Green River is in the process of meeting those requirements. Chris Kocher nominated Fire Chief Larry Erdmann from Green River to fill the vacant position, seconded by Mike Bournazian

Meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:30 AM.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

June 15, 2022 – 3:00 PM in conjunction with the Wyoming State Firemen's Association annual convention and tournament, June 16-18, 2022 at the Lander Volunteer Fire Department Station.

November 30 through December 2, 2022 in conjunction with the Wyoming State Rural Firemen's Association annual convention at the Casper Ramkota Inn.

January 6, 2023 – 12:30 PM in conjunction with the Mid-Winter Fire School January 6-8, 2023 at Riverton. Meeting is scheduled for the Wyoming Fire Academy.