

Wyoming Fire Chief's Association

Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2018

Riverton Volunteer Fire Station #1

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by President Hannum at 9:00 am.

Roll Call: Board members present were President Scott Hannum – Rawlins, 1st Vice President Chris Kocher – Worland, 2nd Vice President Byron Matthews – Cheyenne, and Secretary/Treasurer Gene Diedtrich – Newcastle. Twenty-three members were present.

Minutes of last meeting: Minutes were sent out from the January 12th, 2018, meeting,

Motion #1: Lanny Applegate motioned to accept minutes as presented.

Second: Donny Munger. Motion Carries.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Gene Diedtrich Reported the following for the dates of January 1st, 2018 through March 31st, 2018. Beginning cash \$61,174.92, Deposits of \$62,004.67, Expenses of \$74,984.26, leaving an ending balance of \$48,195.33.

Motion #2: Jerry Munger motioned to accept the treasurer's report

Second: Mark Young. Motion Carries.

Association Bills: Secretary Gene Diedtrich reported there are none at this time.

Presentations: Nothing Scheduled

Committee Reports:

Nominations & Elections: "Today is the Day" Gene Diedtrich reported that all of the elected officers are elected today, nominees are: 2nd Vice President Eric Quinney, 1st Vice President Byron Matthews, Chairman/President Chris Kocher, and 3-year Director of Missouri Valley Division Craig Haslam.

Nomination for Missouri Valley Division: Craig Haslam, President Hannum asked for any further nominations for MVD, second time any further nominations, **Motion #3:** Lanny Applegate motioned nomination cease, cast unanimous vote for Craig Haslam, all in favor for Craig Haslam continuing on 3-year term for Missouri Valley Division, motion carries.

Nomination for 2nd Vice President of Association: Eric Quinney, President Hannum asked for any further nominations for 2nd Vice President, Jeff Kehl requested Eric Quinney to give a speech on why he's seeking this position, Secretary Gene Diedtrich reported that the candidate has five minutes of the floor to give a speech according to the By-Laws. Eric Quinney would like to defer his speech to his campaign manager Jeff Kehl, Jeff reported that Eric is a good hand, has been around for quite a while, he's serves on the Vol.Fire/ EMS Pension Board, ran last year for this office and shows sincere interest. **Motion #4:** Jeff Kehl motioned nomination cease, all in favor of installing Eric Quinney as 2nd Vice President, motion carries.

Nominations for 1st Vice President of Association: Byron Matthews, President Hannum asked Byron Matthews if he had anything to say to the membership, he had nothing, President Hannum asked for any further nominations, second

call for any further nominations, third call for further nominations, having none, nominations close, **Motion #5:** All in favor of Byron Matthews as 1st Vice President of Association, motion carries.

Nominations for Chairman/President of Association: Chris Kocher, Chris reported that he appreciates the opportunity to be able to run the last 4 years as 2nd VP and 1st VP, this organization is a very strong organization, look to continue to bring additional membership, continue to have interactions with other agencies in the state to work to make us stronger for legislative and other needs, President Hannum asked for any further nominations for President, second call for any further nominations, third call for any further nominations, having none, nominations close, **Motion #6:** All in favor of Chris Kocher as Chairman/President of Association, motion carries.

Gene Diedtrich asked Chief Mark Young to swear in the new candidates. Chief Young swore in the new candidates. Congratulations.

Chief Kocher presented Chief Hannum with Past President Pin.

Missouri Valley Division, IAFC: Craig Haslam reports, there is a lot going on, Conference is coming up July 18-20, 2018, Davenport, IA, Good Conference, Flyers available. Craig would like to turn it over to Chief Jim Wamsley, Chief Wamsley reports that in 2019 Jerry Rhodes who has been the International Director of Missouri Valley Division will officially end his term, he no longer qualifies to continue in office, after discussions with the current leadership of the Missouri Valley Division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, he is formally announcing his candidacy to take Jerry's place, he states he has had some wonderful opportunities over the last four years being part of the leadership of the division being able to bring a lot of information back to both the Wyoming Fire Chiefs, and his home department in Rock Springs, Wyoming, he believes as the international director he will be able to further that and maybe give Wyoming's voice heard a little bit more loudly on the national stage, as well as being able to somewhat influence the future of the fire service moving further down the road, so moving forward the election will be held in Grand Junction, CO. Chief Haslam appreciates all that Chief Wamsley has done and for putting his name in the hat for the International Director of the Missouri Valley Division. Chief Haslam would also like to encourage everyone to try to attend the conference and become involved.

Special District Association: Craig Haslam reports, went to Casper last month to attend the Special District Association meeting, had a pretty good discussion on a lot of things that are going on, kind of scary of the things they are trying to do to special districts, if you're in a special district and you're not aware of the things that have happened last year in legislature your already behind, there are 63 or 64 special fire districts in the State of Wyoming, 670 special districts in the state, including conservation, water, ditch improvement, road improvement, with that they made a pretty strong run at us, some of the things they are proposing would wipe out some of the smaller fire districts, Liberty Group behind this the strongest, they say that special districts are un-constitutional and that they should go away and they are doing everything they can to make this happen, American Transparency Group, should have got an email from them saying you have to report, you have to report, Employee Names, Current Salaries, Bonuses, that type of stuff, you have to do it, it says in the new statute you must make records available, if you don't you are not in compliance, encourage to google it, if you are getting these letters please take them serious, Districts in this area are already setting up a time to go meet with county commissioners to present our budgets to them. More Discussion followed. Please take seriously, we need everyone to support this at legislature. Interesting reading Gold Water Report (Book) page 58 talk about Special Districts, state wide special district meeting April 17th, 2018 Casper 10 am at Oil & Gas Conservation Commission Building. Get involved please, get with Craig if you need anything else.

Wyoming Council on Fire Prevention and Electrical Safety: Chief Dan Johnson reports, since last meeting no appeals and none pending, process of adoption of the rules, coming to end of 45 day public comment, ends on April 20th, once public comment period is over the board will meet to adopt the rules and then they get sent to the Attorney General's

Office, Secretary of State, Legal Service Division, after that they go to the Governor to sign, then locals have 6 months to adopt, looking at end of May first part of June.

IAFC VCOS: Ron Smith not present, Chief Haslam reports, get involved, Symposium in the Sun every November Clear Water Beach, FL, also symposium in the West now Phoenix, AZ, get involved.

National Volunteer Fire Council: Chief Eric Quinney reports, get involved, Gene forwards these emails out, AFG & Safer Grants, \$15.00 per member per year, right of that gives each member a \$10,000 AD&D policy, doubles to \$20,000 in LOD situation, benefits, training opportunities, if you have ideas, please let us know. Goal for Wyoming is to have 500 members, sitting at 486.

NFPA: Dennis Estes, not present nothing to report.

Wyoming Fallen Firefighter Memorial: Chief Mark Young reports, May 19th, 2018 Wyoming Fire Academy Memorial Grounds, planning team has met and will be meeting again, everything is coming together, Chief Watsabaugh will be Master of Ceremony, trying to get Mark Gordon for Keynote Speaker, not confirmed, larger service, surviving families, adding 5 names, 4 cancer related fire deaths: Captain Jeff Atkinson Casper, Captain Matt Trot Casper, Mike Sexton Wyoming Fire Marshalls Office, Captain Mike Tapey Jackson, also LODD Chief Paul Murdock Greybull. Look forward in honoring these folks, also like to reach out to Riverton, Lander, and Fremont County for your continued support for resources.

WFCR Residential Sprinkler Committee: Chief Mark Young reports, committee is ongoing, great effort, educating the public and fire service on benefits on home residential fire sprinklers, that is the group that is pushing the educational point out, uses the side by side fire sprinkler demonstration, no membership, it's just whoever wants to join these phone calls get up to speed on what's going on, let us know if you're interested and we will be there to help you out.

Wyo-Link Update: Chief Mark Harshmann reports, good news coming out of past legislation, renewed footnote within WYDOT Budget to pay for cost associated with Wyo-Link for next two years, funded fully for both years. Trying to find stable source of revenue to fund Wyo-Link. You will still see Ghost Bills, you can file them wherever you want to. State of Wyoming WYDOT Federal Transportation Funds for 16 additional Wyo-Link sites, contract has been signed with Motorola, should happen in next 24 months, fully funded for those 16 sites, formed group to address training, rolling out to learn and re-learn system, very much needed. Try to make people aware of advantages of the system, discussion on interim study for ongoing funding with WYDOT could pay in future, nothing at this point. 16 sites still intending to build, core sites to fill gaps within highway system, and the portable enhancement sites are within the communities. Core Sites are Alcova, Bonderaut Sublette Co area, Northern Goshen Co, Ten Sleep, Northern Big Horn Co, and Orin Junction, the portable enhancement sites are Rock Springs, Jackson, Evanston, Wright, Sundance, Newcastle, Buffalo, Greybull, and Lusk. We have asked WYDOT to give direction on implementation dates.

Legislative Committee: Jeff Kehl reports, 1 bill for forestry, went through and has already added funding, payment on bills in more timely manner to counties, responding agencies, before state collects money from feds. Jeff also reported on List of Standing Committee Requests of Interim Topic Studies, Jeff has a list of all that is reported. It's amazing the support that the Fire Departments give during legislature, all slots full for the roster. Thank you for helping with the Wyoming Fire Service.

Wyoming Volunteer Pension Board: Tracy Brown reports, as of March 31st, 2018, 7476 participates, 2558 terminations, 382 deaths, 256 Survivor Pensions, 1188 Retirees, Smallest Pension \$44.88, Largest Pension \$719.70. There has been 5 Refunds, 17 Retirements, and 5 deaths, Total Fund Balance \$80,920,125.11.

Wyoming Fire Academy Training Report: Ian Kraft reports, since last meeting training is ongoing, spring and fall blending learning courses numbers are up, blended online courses, book work done at home and online, Hands on can be completed at WFA or at departments with state fire trainers. Emergency Reporting System, as of 1-1-18 no longer accepting firehouse submissions, just had a training in Rock Springs with 20-30 folks, will have another training soon at the WFA. 2017 Facility Maintenance Plan has been approved, drainage system on the store front of academy to deal with water issues, wraparound current parking lot on East side, new commercial style gutters, HVAC upgrades, seal all windows and some other projects. 2018 Facility Maintenance Plan, will be meeting with Capital Construction next week, putting in for new street project, repaving old street and new curb and gutter, as well as a new street between County Headquarters and WFA burn building with a cold sack, that will help with different training scenarios, apparatus operation training, approaches and so on. As well as a few more projects.

Traveled to Casper last week met with several Industrial Fire Brigade Chiefs along with Chief Zent from Rawlins Fire, met with Sinclair, Wyoming, and Frontier Refineries. Looking into a place to send their folks to train for industrial fire training, training for them is getting too expensive elsewhere. These fire brigades are willing to donate props, time, and money to WFA to turn into states premiere fire brigade training facility, more meetings to come.

Also, will be upgrading classrooms, tech upgrade, new audio and visual, network upgrade, will be installing fiber to the academy. Cody Fire School is upcoming first weekend in May, will have grant for next 2-3 years and encourage everyone to go back to their departments, districts and push to attend these conferences for good trainings, attendance is down for these fire schools, and while the grant is in place it is a good time to send folks out to these trainings.

More discussion on industrial fire brigades, partnership with refineries, finding value to cross train with these folks to help both the structural firefighters and the industrial firefighters throughout the state, great start to a very successful relationship partnership. Fuel supply that industrial brigades offered, currently the fire academy is on a natural gas system, industrial trains with propane and they would be willing to truck propane in on a needed basis to provide for trainings. There will also be a walk through at the academy on May 15th at 9 am with some of the fire brigade chiefs, and everyone is welcome to attend if you would like to meet that day.

Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment and Retention Grant Update: Gene Diedtrich reports, current safer grant period December 3rd, 2016 – December 2nd, 2020, we're currently about 1/3 through time frame, have expended about ¼ of the grant. Spending per budget line is Travel 28%, Physicals 10%, Scholarships 23%, Administration 25%, leadership symposiums 52%. Need to spend the grant or will lose it. 8% short of being on track with spending or about \$80,000.00, Gene took over administration duties of grant back in January. Still have upcoming schools but need to get more people to attend these trainings, scholarships will help with spending the remainder. Ian Kraft reported adding types of training to include wildland will help increase utilization of Grant, this body needs to look at including more eligible training classes, this topic will also be addressed later in the meeting.

Section Reports

Wyoming Firefighters Certification Committee: Aaron Zent reports, committee was unable to meet yesterday, next meeting is scheduled for May 18th, the Friday before the Firefighter Memorial, Hazmat Tech Certificate has been redone to meet cert requirements to follow NFPA 1072, changing to a 3-year process rather than a 2-year, hope to adopt at that meeting. Also, will be reviewing updates on Hazmat Awareness and Operations. Also, still work to be done on Fire Officer III.

Wyoming Association of Fire Marshall's: Sam Wilde not present, Mark Young reports, the 1st annual Wyoming Association of Fire Marshall's will be May 16-18 in Casper, WY at the Ramkota, have already sent out save the date via

email, conference this year will focus on Community Risk Reduction and Public Education, and a couple other code classes. Will have National Instructors: on the 16th Jim Crawford with Vision 20/20 4-hour class on Community Risk Reduction, on the 17th Jeff Donahue from NFPA, ABC's of messaging, multi generation of homes addressing fire safety challenges, planning and implementing a successful smoke alarm program, and hording for the fire service. Afternoon of the 17th, John Swanson Deputy Director Minnesota State Fire Marshalls Office, Code training on fire alarm acceptance training, code official role in reducing unwanted fire alarms, Shane Gickcome from Hixa, IFC requirements, radio coverages in hospitals, and then Jeff Donahue again on Building and engaging presentations, remembering fall prevention for older adults and NFPA learning not to burn. Excited for all the awesome instructors that are scheduled, just google, give credit card and you will get your tickets immediately. \$100 for whole conference, \$85 Early Bird before April 16th, or \$50 a day pick a day, will be sending out more information in emails, register early and register often.

State Fire Association Reports

Wyoming State Fireman's Association: Craig Haslam reports, Convention to be held in Lander, WY on June 14-16, 2018, been working on getting it together, will be a good time, if you need raffle tickets to sell let them know.

Wyoming State Rural Fireman's Association: Willy Watsabaugh reports, there will be a conference call regarding Wyo-fire 2019 on Wednesday at 10 am, number to call in is 605-472-5264 access code 998326. Wyo-fire 2018 was all set but Johnson County could not pull it off, they wanted to make sure to do it right. Some funding and structure were some issues in 2018.

Quick Note: Gene does not know how to text so don't text him, please email only!!!

Willy would like to thank the Legislative committee, makes a difference to have such good people on our team, State Representatives great help, it's not just the chiefs its firefighters back home making connections as well. Rural Fire Meeting to be held in Rock Springs on Nov 29,30 and December 1st. Russell Wenke will not seek re-election on the fire advisory board but he will finish out his term, he is still writing the checks. Russell will still be involved.

Willy would like to leave with this "No tree is so tall that a short dog can't lift his leg on it"

L.A.S.T. Team Update: Mark Young reports in 2018 the team has directly supported 2 missions. 1 level 3 retiree and 1 level 2 active member non-lodd. The account balance for the team is \$27,412.45. Mark reported that the team will be providing advanced and basic team training in 2018. The team is inquiring fire department if they would participate in a Fall Honor/Color Guard Symposium in Cheyenne. If honor guard teams can attend please let him know, they will reimburse all expenses, very important for all practice together state wide. Last year during legislative session, presumptive bill passed, Shad Cooper got the FF Cancer Support Network going, this is now a program of the LAST Team. The cancer network team is comprised of 7 certified members. Shad would like to id representatives from each county. We are 16 short right now. If you're interested let Shad know. FCSN class will be scheduled at all fire schools. For more information on the firefighter health and safety click on the link on Wyoming Fire Marshalls website. Discussion on information on physicals and screenings, statue requirements, Director Reed will have his staff get a definition on who and who does not qualify with workman's comp for the cancer bill, will have his office do some of the front work. Chief Harshmann will research some that they have experienced.

Wyoming Firefighter Cancer Support Network: Shad Cooper not present.

State Agency Reports

Wyoming State Forestry: Bill Crasper not present.

Fire Marshall's Office: Director Mike Reed reported, he received contract with Gannet Peak Imaging and Image Trend on a new Electrical Licensing Program. This is a public portal that will allow our agency to track Electrical licensing and Electrical Permits quickly and efficiently. This should be implemented by the end of 2018. The agency is implementing a new mobile fire inspection program called Emergency Reporting. This should be up and running within a few months. The agency has hired Mark Norford as our new public education/fire inspector replacing Brad Carroll. Mark Norford will help us develop a state wide messaging campaign, lookfor a consistent community risk reduction message and assist fire departments develop their own fire prevention programs. Director Reed announced the implementation of the Wyoming Firefighter's Hall of Fame and Medal of Valor programs. Lanny Applegate is the chairman of the review board representing the Wyoming Fire Chiefs Assoc. Persons can go to the Wyoming State Fire Marshal's website to find information on the two programs and to find and use forms to nominate individuals for both awards. WFA is getting 1 gigabyte internet service, this will greatly assist with developing and implementing new webinars, and live online training that we can broadcast across the state. Fire investigation Division, contracting with a group to track cases, case management program, should be up and running in next couple of months.

Wyoming Office of Homeland Security: Director Guy Cameron not present.

Continuing Business: Chowder Firemen, Byron Matthews, sent email out did not receive any feedback, no discussion.

2015 Safer Grant Amendment: Amend current SAFER grant to include 310-1 and also consider thought of writing another new grant, swap NWCG instead of 310-1, 310-1 is only a guideline, Chief Haslam will help Gene draft amendment and grant amendment, Ian willing to write amendment to cover these classes, Rural Fire Association will offer their help also, Gene, Craig, Scott H. and Ian on this committee, get stuff to Gene he will get it together, something by June meeting. Incorporating the wildland part of Fire Fighting into the grant. Amend current one first then work an additional grant. Need a little more direction on wildland grant, size length, what do we want? Incorporate levels of within classes, address issue chief officer symposium, and provide higher level of education.

New Business

PreFallen Firefighters Memorial Walk: Chief Scott Hannum, 2016 walk of honor, people who have passed LODD prior to 1981, talking about placing bricks, bricks \$100.00 each, Torrington F.D. has already donated \$500.00, need to raise \$3000.00, put contributions into LAST account, would like to challenge all departments to donate to this, want to install before next memorial in October. **Mail all donations to Wyoming Fire Chiefs' Association, 3343 Latigo St., Newcastle, WY. 82701.** **Motion #7,** made by Chief Haslam and 2nd by Chief Wamsley, if you donate write checks to LAST, private individual write check to department, department write it to LAST or association, just send money as long as we know what it's for. Is the Chiefs interested in donating to this, we buy blocks for chiefs' association, would like to amend motion #7 to have WFCA buy 4 blocks 4 – 8x8 at \$250.00, totaling \$1000.00, WFCA logo with name, each department can buy bricks next to that, motion carries.

Chief Matthews introduced new Cheyenne Fire Chief Greg Hoggat to the group.

Adjournment: **Motion #8,** motion made by Chief Quinney, 2nd by Chief Haslam to adjourn the meeting, motion carries.

Meeting Schedule

- Meeting in conjunction with the Wyoming State Firemen's Association annual convention at the Lander Volunteer Fire Department fire station at 3:00 PM on June 14th, 2018, hosted by Fremont County Fire Protection District.

- The Wyoming Rural Fire Association Convention is scheduled for Rock Springs November 29th through December 1, 2018, meeting time and place to be announced. The WFCR is also meeting at Rock Springs at the Rural meeting.

- January 11th, 2019 at 12:00 noon, at the WFA, in conjunction with the annual Mid-Winter Fire School hosted by the Riverton Volunteer Fire Department.

The 2018 Fallen Firefighter Memorial is scheduled for May 19th, 2018, Time 1:30 PM, at the Wyoming Fire Academy in Riverton, Wyoming.