

Wyoming Fire Chief Association Minutes
Station One, Riverton Fire Department
April 12, 2010
9:00 A.M.

Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance: The meeting was called to order by President Randy Vickers at 0900 hours.

Roll call: A roster was sent around the room for the members to sign. Thirty - three members were in attendance.

Minutes of last meeting: Randy Vickers asked for any additions or corrections to the minutes from the last meeting.

Motion #1: Motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting was made by Ray Weidenhaft.

Second: Jerry Munger.

Motion carries, minutes approved.

Treasurer's report: Gene Diedtrich gave the treasurer's report. Statement for the period of January 1, 2010 the account balance was \$57,859.80, with deposits in three month period ending March 31, 2010 of \$72,130.84. A total of \$24,208.88 was dispersed leaving a balance of \$105,781.76. Deposits received into the SAFER grant totaled \$195,948.00, at the end of March \$104,615.65 had been dispersed, leaving a restricted balance of 91,332.15, unrestricted funds total 14,449.61.

Motion #2: Lyle Armstrong moved to accept the treasurer's report.

Second: Craig Haslam

Motion carries, treasurer's report is accepted.

Election of Second Vice-President: Craig Haslam brought three names before the members to consider for the second vice-presidents position; those individuals are Newcastle Chief Donny Munger; Laramie County Fire District #2 Chief Marlene Aitchison; and Rawlins Fire Chief Scott Hannum. No additional names were brought into nomination from the floor.

Motion #2: Craig Haslam moved to close nominations.

Second: Mark Young

Voting commenced by paper ballot, only members of the Fire Chiefs Association may vote, one of the candidates must receive a majority, if that is not the case there will be a runoff vote between the top two candidates. Votes were counted; Chief Marlene Aitchison was elected as second vice-president.

Election of First Vice-President: The next order of business was the election of first vice-president. President Vickers explained it is customary the second vice-president ascends to the next chair as first vice-president. Chief Vickers asked for a motion.

Motion #3: Jerry Munger moved to nominate Craig Haslam as first vice-president.

Second: Dan Oakley

It was moved and seconded to elect Chief Craig Haslam as first vice-president of the association by accumulation.

Motion carries.

Election of President: President Vickers explained it is customary for the first vice-president to ascend to the next chair as president of the association. Chief Lyle Armstrong as first vice-president. President Vickers called for nomination from the floor.

Motion#4: Craig Haslam moved to nominate Lyle Armstrong as president.

Second: Ron Smith

It was moved and seconded to elect Chief Lyle Armstrong president of the Wyoming Fire Chiefs Association by acclamation.

Motion carries

The new officers of the association were sworn in by Treasurer Gene Diedrich. President Lyle Armstrong awarded a past president pin to outgoing President Randy Vickers and on the behalf of the Fire Chiefs Association thanked him for his support, leadership and guidance over the past two years.

Certification Recognition: Certification Coordinator Rita Lee presented two plaques of special recognition for participation in the Wyoming Firefighters Voluntary Certification System. Chief Scott Hannum accepted the award for Rawlins Fire Department for accomplishment in certifying at the gold level for firefighter I and hazardous materials awareness; bronze level for firefighter II, hazardous materials operations and fire instructor I; participation award for fire officer I, and apparatus driver operator pumper. Fire Chief Craig Haslam and Training Officer Dan Oakley accepted the award for Fremont County Fire District for accomplishment in certifying at the participation level for firefighter I, II, hazardous materials awareness and operations, fire instructor I, fire officer I and apparatus driver operator pumper. Certificates of Recognition are valid for three years; departments may apply again to gauge their level of participation. Contact the certification office at 307-777-7288 regarding the procedure to apply for special recognition for your department.

Committee reports:

State Fire Council: Mark Young is the fire service's representative on this board. The next fire council meeting will be held in Sheridan April 14, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. Chief Young advised there are no appeals to come before the board during the next meeting. There are two new members on the council and new rules and regulations which will be addressed later by Fire Marshal Lanny Applegate.

Missouri Valley Chiefs: Chief Jack Taylor, Missouri Valley Division President was introduced by Lyle Armstrong. A strategic plan is in place for fire officer I mentoring program, more information regarding this program can be found on the website <http://iafc.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=15>. The IAFC will continue to survey departments regarding health safety issues to better understand the issues departments may have when trying to implement health and safety initiatives within their agencies. The by-laws of the association have been updated – Mark Young's title will now be state director. In order to increase attendance at the conferences, meetings are open to everyone who would like to attend. Fire Response Group Purchasing Organization (Fire Rescue GPO) is completely free to volunteer members. The GPO Program allows its members to join together to leverage purchasing strength in order to acquire goods and services at lower prices. Vendors pay a fee based on total sales to support the program administration. A significant portion of this fee is returned to your Fire Chiefs Association. To learn more about how your organization can access cost saving price agreements, call 1-800-810-3909 or email CustomerService@FireRescue-GPO.com. You do not have to be a member of the Missouri Valley Fire Chiefs Association or IAFC to take advantage of this program; however, you must be a member of a fire department. The next meeting of the Missouri Valley Fire Chiefs conference will be July 7-9th in Colorado Springs.

Certification Committee report: The certification report was presented by Vice-President Kelly Hoffman. The certification committee is presently working on the following projects: term limits are being considered for members of the certification committee. The apparatus driver operator pumper and aerial and fire officer certification task books are being updated to the 2009 edition of the NFPA standard. Continuing education hour's pilot project and the Pro Board site visit scheduled for May 11-12th.

Legislative report: Marlene Aitchison thanked all those members who were able to attend and help during the legislative session. The workers compensation and safe cigarette bills were passed during the session. Marlene is working on a contract with the Plains Hotel in Cheyenne for rooms during for the 2011 legislative session. Marlene asked for any ideas that members have for legislation please give to her as soon as possible so work can begin right away.

Fallen Firefighters Memorial: Lanny Applegate advised the Fallen Firefighters Memorial ceremony will commence today at 1:00 p.m.

Constitution and Bylaws: No report.

WFA: Philip Oakes presented this report for Jay Phipps. In the first quarter of 2010, the Wyoming Fire Academy held 94 classes with 1,300 students attending. Wish to thank Campbell County Fire Department for their donation of an engine company to be used during training sessions; the Lander Fire Department for donating a set of HURST rescue tools. A new cascade system has been installed, new set of TNT tools have also just been installed. There have been ADA improvements completed at the Fire Academy, which are to the restrooms and the front entrance. Eventually the lighting system will be replaced with LED lighting to help the building become more energy efficient. Registration is on-going for the Command & Control of Incident Operations course - May 24 - 28, 2010 at the Fire Academy, please sign up. If you are interested in attending, your lodging can be provided free of charge. Remember the Fire Academy is an IFSTA distributor, you can save 20% on your orders, just call Jay.

NVFC: Brad Carroll was not in attendance. Director Lanny Applegate advised that the dues for the national volunteer fire council have been split between the Wyoming Fire Chiefs Association and the State Fireman's Association with the expenses for travel paid for by State Forestry. Because of the reduction of budgetary funds, State Forestry will not be able to continue to participate. Director Applegate will approach the Fire Advisory Board during their meeting in June to see if it is possible for the board to fund the travel expenses to the council meetings. If funding cannot be secured, Brad Carroll from the State Fire Marshals Office will not be able to travel to participate in council meetings.

IAFC-VCOS: Ron Smith reported VCOS is working with IAFC to sponsor a one day symposium in Evergreen, Colorado; the cost will be \$70 dollars for the day. VCOS is working to extend legislation which provided a volunteer firefighter tax credit, information can be found on the website at <http://www.vcos.org/>. The annual Symposium in the Sun 2010 will be held in Clearwater FL, November 11-14, scholarships are available to off set registration and travel, check out the website for more information.

Nominations and Elections: No report.

WY Association of Arson Investigators: No report.

State Fire Marshals Office: Director Applegate introduced the newest addition to the staff of the Department of Fire Prevention and Electrical Safety, Rita Raeburn. Rita is replacing Jill Cole and will be providing administrative duties at the Fire Academy. Director Applegate also introduced DFPES staff attending the meeting.

During the legislative session, changes were made to the fire council and electrical board statutes under HB15. Changes for local jurisdictions hiring electrical inspectors; the employee must have a minimum of a journeyman's license.

Plan review fees have been raised from \$25,000 to \$40,000 before a plan review will be required. Plan reviews can now be submitted in phases; this has been tested by using a school project in Pinedale and has worked well.

The Department of Fire Prevention now has statutory authority to assist or investigate, if other entities will not, electrocutions. The department does not have jurisdiction on Federal lands or private mines, but can and will assist these agencies if requested.

Electrical Permit fees have been raised from \$30 to \$50 dollars. At this time approximately a third of the electrical division is operated from the funds collected from electrical permits. Effective July 1, 2010 electrical permit fees will be raised from a split of fifty – fifty to sixty – forty.

For those localities which have local jurisdiction state statutes require that local jurisdiction shall develop an appeals board. Additionally, if an individual disagrees with the local appeals board they may take their appeal to fire council before going to district court. Also, no member of the appeals board can be a part of the governing body.

HB10 was defeated during the legislative session, cable TV providers along with telephone and satellite companies are exempted from being licensed.

Electrical low voltage lawn sprinkler system license for installing sprinkler systems; at this time you must have a master license or work under a master license; bill was passed – legally if you have ninety days in the industry you can apply for a low voltage license to install sprinkler systems.

Director Applegate has appointed Dennis Estes as a liaison for the Wyoming Fire Service to the NFPA Education Network. NFPA's Public Education Network consists of one representative from each state/province. The goal of the initiative is to provide a forum for public educator's to exchange resources, receive updates on NFPA's latest education programs and liaison between NFPA's public education advisors <http://www.nfpa.org>.

Lisa Hubbard has resigned from the Fire Council after twelve years of service. James Holloway will replace Lisa on the Fire Council. On the Electrical Board, Dave Leinen's term had expired, he did not reapply. Larry Westerfield will be on the board.

The Department of Fire Prevention and Electrical Safety along with cooperation with WCBO will be sponsoring a non structural plan review class - 2006 IBC Performing Nonstructural Plan Reviews April 29 - 30, 2010.

The department is seeking comments regarding a fire marshal conference which would encompass the fire service building codes, electrical, and fire prevention.

Director Applegate acknowledged and thanked the Certification Committee members for their commitment to the fire service and certification.

WYO Link training is on-going; contract instructors are available to do training on the WYO Link radio system. The training is provided free of charge, please take advantage of this training before the grant money expires for this training.

State Forestry: Ray Weidenhaft reported due to budget reduction two vacancies in the department of forestry will not be funded. Helicopter based at the Duncan Ranch helibase will operational by June 14th and will be available for initial attack. As in the past, the first day of use is free, hourly rates then apply, with rate charge of \$1,750 a day is never charged to a county or host entity.

The Rural Fire Assistance Grant application grant has closed, 48 applicants applied, agencies should be notified later in April if they were successful in receiving the funds applied for.

Forestry will be implementing a web-based fire reporting system this year, rural fire reports will then download into WFIRS.

The federal agencies have adopted a new implementation plan for the wild land fire policy. Two types of fires are now identified prescribed fire and wild land fire; however, wild land fire will be used for mutual benefits. Regardless of where fire starts on federal land, local agencies are encouraged to be involved at the start and have input with the local Forestry or BLM office in the managing the fire.

The \$30,000 contract instructor grant is completed.

Monies provided from the State Fire Assistance Forestry grant will be able to provide \$30,000 to continue wild land fire training.

Office of Homeland Security: Kim Lee reported the Office of Homeland Security continues to work with the State Fire Marshals Office to pass through homeland security grants to benefit the first responder community.

Rural Firefighters: Ray Wiedenhaft the 50th annual Rural Firefighters Association meeting will be held in Laramie at the Hilton Garden Motel on December 2-4.

Wyoming State Firemen's Association: Bub Parker, President of the Association reported the State Firemen's Convention will be held June 16-19 in Lander.

Department of Health: The annual Trauma Conference will be held in August, in Cheyenne. The State Fire Marshals Office will be instructing an 8 hour agricultural rescue extrication course. There will also be two firefighter classes as part of the conference where firefighters can obtain continuing education hours.

Old Business: The 2009 Firefighter Recruit and Retention Grant update was given by President Lyle Armstrong. The State Fire Marshals Office assisted the Wyoming fire service in procuring a million dollar grant for volunteer firefighter recruitment and retention. To date \$834,000 left to spend by April 2011. Fire Departments are encouraged to contact Lyle or Phil to take advantage of these funds. Phil Oakes advised the SAFER grant application opens in June of this year. The State Fire Marshals Office would like to approach the Fire Chiefs Association with applying for another grant to allow the programs we have started to continue for another four years.

Motion to #5: Chief Rietz made the motion to have the State Fire Marshal pursue a second SAFER grant on behalf of the Wyoming Fire Service.

Second: Craig Haslam.

Motion carries.

Phil Oakes advised the members the Fire Chiefs Symposium was very successful this year with 124 attendees, as well as the Haz/Mat conference with 82 attendees.

President Armstrong thanked Phil Oakes for his leadership and guidance in procuring the SAFER grant for the Fire Service of Wyoming.

New Business: Wes Johnson, Fire Chief of Johnson County Fire District #1, wished to thank the Association for paying for the tuition for those attending the Northern Wyoming Fire School.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the association will be in conjunction with the Wyoming State Firemen's Association which will be held in Lander. The meeting will be held June 16th at 3:30 p.m. at the Lander City Fire Hall.