

WYOMING FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION

Meeting Minutes

Lander, Wyoming Fire Hall

June 15, 2011

A scheduled meeting of the Wyoming Fire Chiefs' Association was held June 15, 2011 at the Lander City Fire Hall. This meeting was held in conjunction with the annual Wyoming State Firemen's Association meeting and convention scheduled for June 16-18, 2011.

Meeting was called to order by President Lyle Armstrong at 3:45 PM with 20 members present... The pledge of allegiance was recited by the group.

A roster was passed around for all to sign for roll call.

The minutes of the April 2, 2011 meeting held at the Riverton Fire Department's station 1 were approved as submitted to the membership. Dennis Estes made the motion to approve, with Speed Hartbank seconding same.

The treasurer's report was presented by Treasurer Gene Diedrich, as follows: For the period April 1, 2011 through May 31, 2011, had beginning cash of \$46,149.68, deposits of \$2,360.13, disbursements of \$31,800.60, leaving an ending cash balance of \$16,709.21, of which \$2,731.89 is reserved for the 2009 SAFER grant. Motion to accept treasurer's report was made by Jerry Munger, and seconded by Don Munger. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS;

The Missouri Valley Division of the International Association of Firefighters annual conference is scheduled for July 13-15, 2011 and will be held in Wichita Falls, KS.

The training for the National Fallen Firefighter Foundation LAST team, did happen in May 2011, and there is a LAST team in place.

The IAFC-VCOS Symposium in the Sun is scheduled for November 11-13, 2011 in Clearwater Beach, FL. This the only national symposium dedicated to the issues facing leaders in Volunteer and Combination fire departments. Limited scholarships are available.

The staff at the Wyoming Retirement System is going to start enforcing the requirement that those members in the Volunteer Fire Pension Plan with more than 10 years of department service, still have to meet the 50% rule of meeting attendance, even though they could retire and be covered. This is currently being discussed by the Volunteer Fire Pension Board, and an effort is being made to resolve the issue by a rule change.

An in progress report regarding the WFCFA constitution and bylaw committee was given by committee chair Craig Haslam.

A membership report was given by President Lyle Armstrong, indicating a desire to get more members in to the Wyoming Fire Chiefs' Association. He does have applications available.

A report was presented by Scott Hannum on the membership communication committee, he indicated the WFCFA website should up and running sometime in August 2011. Chief Hannum also reported the WFCFA logo was in the process of being perfected, and that color changes were being considered.

Chief Don Huber reported in regard to the Residential Sprinkler Committee. He indicated it is a very complicated issue, and that residential sprinklers will get coded eventually. Need to educate local officials to not delete sprinklers if and when the code comes out. There is a need to educate all Wyoming citizens as to the pros and cons of sprinklered residences. The minimum Wyoming needs is to block sprinklers on a local level.

Wyoming Fire Academy director Jay Phipps was in attendance and reported the next Fallen Firefighter Memorial Service is scheduled for April 14, 2012 at 1:00 PM. It was decided that Jay needs to do a better job with the wind next year.

Wyoming Firefighter Certification chairman John Rutherford reported that a work day will be scheduled in the near future. He indicated that there's been a lot of grumbling about tests, especially Haz-mat, members don't support the testing – he indicated it to be basically a personal issue. He also stated that there is a new member on the Board.

A report was given from Carl Blanksvard on the Wyoming Association of Fire Marshalls. He indicated that anyone responsible for fire code reviews within their communities or department should consider joining the Wyoming Association of Fire Marshalls as the association is designed to help and assist you in your job.

A report was given for Wyoming State Firemen's Association President Bub Parker indicating everything was set to go for the association's convention to be held the next 3 days.

A report was given for Wyoming State Rural Firemen's Association President Steve Haines indicating plans being completed for the next rural convention to be held November 30 through December 3, 2011. Further details will be forth coming.

Fire Marshal Applegate said they are in the process of starting the process for 2013-14 Budgets. Phil Oakes has resigned from the department and we will be interviewing for the Training Division Manager's position on June 21st. The state is going through new rules for the Department, Electrical Board and Council on Fire Prevention. The Electrical Board Rules has been signed by the Governor and because of some changes in there; the department is under a 120 day Emergency Rules time frame. The Council will be starting over and will take approximately 12-14 months to complete.

The agency is registering all the cigarettes sold in Wyoming. This is due to Legislation in 2010. It appears that we will take in approximately \$150K-\$200K, in cigarette registrations for the State's general fund. The AFG Grant process is being finalized for the old grant and we will be starting to work on the new AFG Grant process. Chief Armstrong will give an update on this grant as it is the Wyoming Fire Chief's Grant.

Steve Glenn has been reappointed to the Electrical Board and Kathy Patceg has resigned from the Fire Council. Lanny thanked WY State Forestry and OHS for all the help they provide and the grants that they pass through to them.

Mike Carlson gave a brief update with Chief Armstrong of the National Mutual Aid Stakeholders meeting they attended.

Lanny thanked Ray Weidenhaft for all his years of service and the help he has given the fire service of Wyoming.

The report from the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security was presented by Kim Lee. He spoke in place of Director Cameron, whose schedule didn't allow him to make the meeting, because of the flooding going on in Wyoming. Kim indicated that Governor Mead had issued an executive order because of the flooding going on in the state, the Wyoming National Guard has been assisting with flood prevention along with personnel from the Wyoming Prison System.

OLD BUSINESS – President Armstrong stated the 2009 Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment and Retention Grant closed at the end of April 2011. There was three to four hundred thousand dollars unexpended or left on the grant. He gave his thanks to the Fire Marshall's Office for their help in running the grant.

NEW BUSINESS – President Armstrong reminded everyone that the week of June 19-25,2011 is "Surviving the Fire Ground – Fire Fighter, Fire Officer & Command Preparedness" week.

Information will be forthcoming regarding the new volunteer recruiting and retention grant recently received.

President Armstrong reported that he will be attending and representing the WFCM at the 2011 Fire Chiefs Presidents Forum at NFPA Headquarters in Quincy, MA. October 27-30, 2011.

Several topics were brought up to consider regarding Legislation issues, they are as follows:

1. Presumptive Legislation
- 2, Monitoring for any blocks to local decision making of sprinkler legislation
3. Novelty Lighters

4. Directing reduced propensity ignition cigarette tax revenues to the State Fire Marshal's Office.
5. Emergency apparatus size and weight exemptions
6. Volunteer Fire Pension Changes
7. Plan "B" Pension Changes

President Armstrong reviewed the future meeting schedule, and indicated that the next meeting will be in conjunction with the Wyoming Rural Firefighters Association convention in Gillette, Wyoming scheduled for November 30 to December 3, 2011.

Being there was nothing further to come before the meeting; President Armstrong adjourned the meeting at 5:01 PM.