

WYOMING FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 26, 2003
GRAHAM RANCH

President Don Huber called the meeting to order at 2:45 p.m. with 14 members present.

Roll call was taken with those present signing a roster that was passed around.

Minutes of the June 18, 2003 were mailed. Motion by Stolns, seconded by Sarff to accept the minutes as mailed. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report was given by Gene Diedtrich, with unrestricted funds at September 16, 2003 of \$7,214.55. Motion by Wingert, seconded by Weidenhaft to accept the report. Motion carried.

State Fire Marshall Council Report:

Report given by Council Member Mark Young.

The next meeting of the council will be in December 2003. There have been no recent appeals; the council is advertising new administrative rules.

Missouri Valley Firechiefs Report:

Report given by Missouri Valley representative Brad Sarff.

Chief Sarff reported that the Missouri Valley has a new purchasing plan. To benefit from the program you have to be a member of the Missouri Valley Division. The program FIRE-GPO enables us to buy from our regular vendor and get a better price. Go to the internet to learn about it.

Fire Marshall's Certification Committee Report:

Committee member Bill Hitt reported that the committee recently held a 4-hour meeting at Rawlins. He stated the group is going to change Firefighter 1 and 2 exam. By January 2004 the new exam will be in place, there will be no more modules, the exam will go to 100 questions, those taking the exam will be sent their exam grades back noting which questions that were missed. The change is a result of changes to NFPA standards.

Legislative Committee Report:

Report given by chairmen Lanny Applegate. Lanny reported of the possibility of a hold harmless bill being introduced, the idea behind this being a department donating equipment to another department being relieved of liability for its failure. Discussed law to make seat belts mandatory in school buses. Chief Young reported on the Foundation Board meeting with the Governor, he stated that the elected officials wondered why the State didn't support the fire service, the feeling is after the meeting, the governor will support the Academy, he wants a business plan from the Academy. Fire Marshall Narva sent a report that was read at this time, a copy of same is enclosed with these minutes. Chief Sarff spoke on his work redoing SF15, he stated that there will be another bill, as he's getting positive feedback. Lanny cautioned everyone that next year is budget session and that it will take two-thirds majority to get a bill introduced in legislature. The next legislative meeting will be held in Newcastle on December 4, 2003 in conjunction with the Rural Fire meeting, the time will be at 4:00 p.m. at a place to be announced. Mike Reed, the police chief from Rawlins, is the new leader of the law enforcement legislative group. One bill that is definite in 2004 is the Retirement System is sponsoring a bill to put a sliding COLA into all the plans instead all or nothing.

Fallen Firefighter Memorial:

Committee chairman Gerry Dewey gave report. She stated that there is an addition being added to the memorial, Bill Hitt went over the memorial expansion. Total cost of the project is projected at \$3,270. The funding is currently \$1,370 short.

There was a motion by Applegate, seconded by Wingert to ask every Fire Department to donate \$25 to the Wyoming Fire Academy Foundation to help cover the cost. Motion carried.

Wyoming Fire Academy Report:

Larry David reported that the S and I classes are all scheduled for 2004. Larry thanked everyone for a good Buffalo Hunt.

National Volunteer Fire Council:

Ken Metzler wasn't present for his report. Ray Weidenhaft brought up Bill Hitt's name as the Wyoming representative if Ken can't continue as the NVFC representative. No action was taken; we'll see what happens.

Wyoming State Forestry Report:

Ray Weidenhaft reported that Bill Crapser will assume the State Forester position effective October 13, 2003. The Forestry's budget has been submitted to the budget office, the forestry doesn't know where there at on the current budget as their some variances between them and the budget office. Ray reported that they have 37 applicants for Laura Wells position at the Academy, the applicants have been weeded down to 13 at the present time, the position should be filled by December 1, 2003.

Homeland Security:

Homeland Security director Joe Moore has offered someone from his staff to be at our meetings from now on. Chief Huber said he would extend the invitation.

Other Reports:

There were no reports on NFIRS, IAFC VCOS, Recruitment & Retention, Nominations & Elections, Wyoming Association of Arson Investigators, and the Fire Investigation Task Force.

Old Business: It was brought up that the Wyoming Firechiefs' need to send a letter of Thank You to Governor Freudenthal and Secretary of State Joe Meyer for stopping by the Academy for a visit.

New Business: President Huber has appointed Ron Smith as the fire service representative to the Communications Training Advisory Board.

Governor Freudenthal will be signing a formal declaration on October 3, 2003, proclaiming that day as **FIREFIGHTER APPRECIATION DAY** across Wyoming. The signing will take place at 1:30 p.m. at his office. Everyone is encouraged to attend the signing.

President Huber has lined up Paul Clafin with the ATF to give a presentation to the general membership at the January 2004 meeting.

The next meeting of the **WYOMING FIRECHIEFS'** will be at the Wyoming Fire Academy on Friday January 9, 2004, at 1:00 p.m., E-board meet at 12:30 p.m., same place.

No other business. Motion to adjourn by Hartbank, seconded by Wingert, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted:

GENE R. DIEDTRICH