

Wyoming Fire Chiefs' Association
Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2015
Riverton Fire Station #1

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by President Don Munger at 9:03 AM.

Roll call: Board members present were President Don Munger – Newcastle, 1st Vice President Scott Hannum – Rawlins, 2nd Vice President Chris Kocher – Worland, and Secretary/Treasurer Gene Diedtrich – Newcastle. Thirty one members were present.

Minutes of last meeting: President Munger asked for the approval of the minutes as sent out for the January 9, 2015 meeting.

Motion #1: Craig Haslam motioned to accept the minutes.

Second: Nick Hudson

Motion Carries.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer, Gene Diedtrich reported the following for the dates of January 1, 2015 through March 1, 2015. Beginning Cash \$23,242.29, Deposits of \$ 88,025.70, Expenses of \$63,478.17 leaving an ending balance of \$ 47,789.82. Recruiting and Retention Grant Income restriction is \$32,954.50, which leaves an unrestricted balance of \$14,835.32.

Motion #2: Jim Wamsley motioned to accept the treasurer's report.

Second: Jerry Munger

Motion Carries.

Association Bills: Treasurer, Gene Diedtrich discussed reconsidering the rejoining of WAM at a cost of \$350.00. It was discussed. If the WFCA rejoins WAM it needs to be utilize and WFCA needs to be active. It was stressed that communication with the WAM was important. It was mentioned that WAM can double the WFCA's lobbying abilities if we lobby to WAM. The WFCA could have a big impact if they were a member of WAM. WAM gives the WFCA another voice. A concern of rejoining WAM was that WAM was for the stripping binding arbitration and collective bargaining from the state statute.

Motion #3: Gene Diedtrich motioned to rejoin WAM.

Second: Jeff Kehl

Motion Carries.

Presentations: None at this time

Committee Reports:

Nomination and Election of Officers: Secretary/Treasurer, Gene Diedtrich stated that the Missouri Valley delegate position is a three year term and expires in 2016. President Don Munger asked for nomination from the floor and none were given.

Motion #4: Craig Haslam motioned to accept the current officers for another term.

Second: Jim Wamsley

Motion Carries.

Those sworn in for another year in office were President Don Munger – Newcastle, 1st Vice President Scott Hannum – Rawlins, 2nd Vice President Chris Kocher – Worland, Missouri Valley Delegate Craig Haslam – Riverton.

Missouri Valley Division, IAFC: Chief Craig Haslam reported that during the winter meeting they worked on a strategic plan for the division. If you would like to help with the plans contact Craig Haslam or Jim Wamsley. An agreement was made with the Western Fire Chief's Association on the Ilearn Fire Site. The Close Call Web site is up. The Missouri Valley Division Conference is in Sioux Falls, SD on June 3 – 5, 2015. Make your hotel reservation soon.

Wyoming Council on Fire Prevention and Electrical Safety: Chief Dan Johnson reported that there was to be an appeal between the county and the school district but a resolution was reached. It was decided to adopt the 2015 ICC.

IAFC-VCOS: Chief Ron Smith stated that the annual conference was in November of 2015. Book your room now, except for the Hilton which is booked. There is still availability for an ISO class in the state which needs 15 to 20 attendees.

National Volunteer Fire Council: Rusty Dunham to give report at next meeting.

Wyoming Fallen Firefighter Memorial: Mark Young reported that the ceremony starts at 1:00 PM with a reception after.

WYO-Link Update: No report at this time.

WFCA Legislative: Jeff Kehl reported that HB0072 – Volunteer Firefighter and EMT Pensions passed, SF0029 – Motor Vehicle Drivers' License Exemptions passed, and SF0046 – Negligent Burning passed. House Bill 0197 has redefined tow trucks as emergency vehicles when they are at a scene. The bill SF0142 – Restricting code enforcement authority was discussed in the legislative session. There were two bills that did not pass. The first one was raising the fine for burning during restrictions – HB0224 and the next one was the Fireman's Pension Account – HB0130 which passed the House but the Senate did not consider it.

Senator Bebout and Senator Coe are asking for ideas on how the legislature can help with volunteer firefighter recruitment. Ideas were sent to them, but no sponsor was found. A committee is needed to narrow the ideas down to 4 or 5 and study them before February, 2016. If you want to be on the committee contact Don Munger. There were four volunteers for the committee, Russ Wenke, Jim Wamsley, Shad Cooper, and Nick Hudson.

Russ and Jeff will be monitoring the bill that attempts to limit or eliminate special districts.

WFCA Residential Sprinkler Committee: Chairman Justin Smith reports that the committee meets on the sixteenth of every month at 10 AM and there is a call in number. They educate the population on fire sprinklers. They put on side by side demonstrations. John Hopkins University did a study that showed that 70% of people that see a side by side demonstration will get sprinklers for their homes. The committee is trying to get sprinklers into new homes. Mark Young expressed how the committee has grown. It includes professionals from insurance and building inspectors. There is a stipend of \$1,000.00 that you can get to build a side by side.

Wyoming Volunteer Fire Pension Fund Report: Jerry Munger reported that House Bill 72 was signed a couple of weeks ago, which joins the volunteer EMT and volunteer Firefighters pensions. Cheyenne is in the process of refiguring the numbers. As of February 28th the funds were at \$74,257,567.74. The amount paid out to 1,048 retirees and 188 survivors every month is \$357,892.98. Pay increases are coming but the amount is still unknown. Refunds were given over the last two months totaling \$7,568.00. There are 2,174 members, which is an increase of 14 members.

Section Reports:

Wyoming Firefighters Certification Committee: Chris Kocher stated that the NFPA 2014 standard edition will be updated. The tracks that were updated are: Fire Officer, Apparatus Driver/Operator, Fire Inspector I, and Fire Investigator. They will be looked at to revise the test and make the updates. The state is always looking for certification testers. If you would like to be a tester please contact Rita at 307-777-6264. The update on Safety Officer made some progress. Rick Cozad made a presentation of a plaque to Mike Bournazian to recognize his service to the committee.

Wyoming Association of Fire Marshals: Chairman Justin Smith reported that their next meeting is on April 29th during the WCBO meetings in Cheyenne. Kathy Clay, from Jackson, has become a member of the WCBO committee. A chapter of the IAAI, (International Association of Arson Investigators), is starting up again.

State Fire Association Reports:

Wyoming State Firemen's Association: Jeremy Bingaman reported that the convention is June 18, 19, and 20th at the Lander Fire Hall and drill field. Jeremy expressed that lots of tickets need to be sold. If you need raffle tickets to sell contact Jeremy Bingaman, Nick Hudson, or Eric Siwik.

Wyoming State Rural Fire Association Willy Watsabaugh reported that they are working with the WY State Forestry and The State Fire Marshal's Office to make a change in the name of the Type Three Class. Russell Clark and FEMA are working on getting accreditation. They are helping WY State Forestry with hiring the new Rural Trainer position. There is going to be a conference call meeting soon and any County Fire Warden can join the call. A meeting is set for June in Riverton, date and time to be set later. The association is working on ideas to farther fund the L.A.S.T. Team. A fund raiser is needed. Steve Haynes came up with the idea to have the WY Fish and Game Commission hold back 5 to 8 hunting licenses. The next opportunity would be October, 2015 for the 2016 hunting season. It was mentioned that maybe Richard Klouda could help get this started with the Fish and Game. A committee is needed. Fire Chief's get nominations for the committee and give them to Chief Vickers soon. Chris Kocher mentioned trying to get one tag for each of three organizations, Chief's Association, Fireman's Association, and the Rural Fire Association. Nick Hudson and Randy Vickers will talk to Richard Klouda. The new committee as it stands now is Willy Watsabaugh, Nick Hudson, and Randy Vickers.

Motion #5: Nick Hudson motioned to go after game tags to raise money for the L.A.S.T Team.

Second: Craig Haslam

Motion Carries.

L.A.S.T. Team Update: Mark Young stated that the L.A.S.T. team will be planning the Firefighter's Memorial from now on. They have received a new trailer for hauling equipment, which is being outfitted for storage now, for the services of fallen firefighters. The money for the trailer was donated by the Jackson Fire/EMS in memory of Cecil Lynch a Line of Duty Death in 1925. Training will be offered at the Cody Fire School on May 2nd and 3rd, if more students sign up for it, otherwise it will be cancelled and the next training will be at the Wheatland Fire School.

State Agency Reports:

Wyoming State Forestry: Bill Hogenson reported for Bill Crapser that the Wyoming State Forestry has six positions open currently. The new District Forester in Riverton is Josh Shroyer. There is a new Smoke Buster in Newcastle, Justin Vassey. Wyo Fire has been cancelled for this year. The Riverton Honor Farm Rangler Program is being looked at to see if it will be continued.

Fire Marshal's Office: Mark Young talked about the moving of the State Fire Marshal's Office to the Capitol Hill Building. Address: 320 West 25th Street, 3rd Floor, Cheyenne, WY 82002. There is a new training person in Cheyenne her name is Cassie Kelley. Check out the website it is being updated. There are three positions open in the agency. In Green River there is an Electrical Inspector position and a Trainer position. As of June 1st there will be a Fire Inspector position open in Worland. Jon Vosters has been appointed as the Chief Electrical Inspector in Cheyenne. The SAFER grant has been applied for in the amount of one million nine hundred ninety eight thousand dollars. Hopefully we will hear something by June or July.

Wyoming Office of Homeland Security: Director Guy Cameron stated that the snow pack was at 62%. They have portables available for wildfire communications. Guy also talked about Kevin's Law which is a \$125,000.00 grant for equipment, (bracelets, etc.) to help locate missing disabled people like those who suffer from alzheimer's and dementia for example. They have radio packages for rural schools for school safety. During the first week in June at the WFA there is "All Hazards training". Mike Bournazian asked if the state has a number for citizens to call in case of a disaster. Mike stated that Alaska has a statewide number. Wyoming has a Duty Officer number that can be called in Wyoming, 307-630-2767, but nothing at this point just for the general public to use.

Continuing Business:

Wyoming 2011 Volunteer Firefighter Recruitment and Retention Grant update: Don Munger reported that the grant runs out on July 31, 2015, if you have any expenses get them to Ian. There is about \$140,000.00 left but there are a couple of fire schools and some education to pay for.

New Business:

Chief Smith reported that Chief Huber has retired, effective immediately, from the Campbell Co. Fire Department. Mike Bournazian brought up the idea to have one agency oversee and handle all the records and certificates for all the trainings including; FMO – structural, WSFS – Wildland, and HLS – All Hazard. Then all records would be in one place making it easier for everyone to get their information if needed. Mike suggested that the FMO be the one to oversee everything.

WFC Meeting Schedule:

The next meeting will be at the Wyoming State Fireman's Association Convention on June 17, 2015 in Lander. It will be at the Lander City Hall, corner of Garfield and South Fourth, at 3:00 pm.

The following meeting will be at the Rural Fireman's meeting in Lander on December 9, 2015. Time will be announced at a later date.

Adjournment:

Motion #6: Craig Haslam motions to adjourn at 11:10.

Second: Jim Wamsley

Motion Carries.