

Pennington County Fire Service Board Meeting

May 13, 2009

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Chair person Gail Schmidt called the Pennington County Fire Service Board meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the EOC Room in the basement of the County Courthouse. Members present were: Leah Thibeau, Denny Gorton, Ray Bubb, Alexa White, Paul Johnson, Lee Scott and Joel Stephens. Guests Mark Enright, Western Dakota Tech; Paul Smith, Rockerville VFD; Duane Hofer, North Haines VFD; Craig Comer, Hill City VFD; Mark Raderschadt, Hill City VFD; Monty Bullock, North Haines VFD; Ted Ruffedt, Penn Co ESCC; Tim Kobes, Rapid Valley VFD; Christy Lowe, Duhamel broadcasting and Jason White, North Haines VFD.

~~PAST MEETINGS MINUTES: Motion Johnson, and second Mallow to approve the April 8, 2009 minutes. Motion Carried.~~

BUDGET REPORTS: Motion Johnson, and second Bubb to approve the budget. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Pro-Active: (Tjaden, Chair; Stephens, Carbajal)

- a. Recruitment and Retention- Christy Lowe with Duhamel Broadcasting gave a brief presentation on marketing tips for recruiting firefighters. Lowe went on to explain the various means of advertising in Rapid City. Media, sign boards, television, radio, flyers, websites, sports games etc. After reviewing the information available the main demographics group to be reached is between the ages of 18-35. Radio alone would reach 80 percent of those folks. Something to think about as well is most media groups will give a non-profit organization a fifty percent discount. Keep in mind that in summer months versus winter months you need to advertise accordingly. Radio would be the best way to advertise year round.
- b. Digital Radio Conversion- Gorton said that as of now we have one digital channel. It was mentioned that we all try to start taking advantage of that channel, so that eventually we can replace all the zones with digital.
- c. Regional Fire Training Site Long Term Plans- Enright reported that Kel Gunderson with the Rapid City Fire Department is working on the confined space training area. Enright also mentioned that they are looking for 24 inch culverts if anyone knows of someone that may have.

Accident Review: (Schmidt- Chair, Light, Johnson)

- a. Committee Report – Nothing at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

Employer Thank You in Hill City, Wall And RC Journal: Nothing at this time.

Zone West And East Repeaters: The repeaters have been installed and paid for. If any of you have noticed your radios beeping or sending out a signal please do not worry. It is an issue that the radio techs are aware of and it's being taken care of. Adam has been in contact with Genpro to price a wind generator in case the commercial power drops off we will have a back up.

Regional AFG Communications: Rick Lehmann reported that only half of the departments responded. He will be sending out a follow up email to those departments that want to participate so that we can move forward. The grant will be open soon and everyone in Pennington County is eligible to apply.

Vehicle Maintenance Person & Budget Opportunities: Schmidt has had little or no feed back from most departments. Schmidt spoke with Hayward and it was said their department might have an occasional interest in a Vehicle Maintenance person. There was open discussion about different options for the uses of this type of position. It was decided that a job description needs to be created in order to figure in whether or not this position will have to fit special needs alone or just stay general. Scott and Mallow will be taking over this topic and working together on a job description.

Other: Nothing at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioners Report: Nothing at this time.

Emergency Management Report: Alexa White introduced herself as the new Emergency Management Assistant.

System/Zone East tower relocation: After a coverage study by Wescom showed a significant decrease in paging coverage the board agreed not to pursue moving System or Zone East at this time.

Zone Repeaters old GE Master II: Gorton reported that the old repeaters will be declared surplus and donated to the local Black Hills Amateur Radio Club. The GE Master III (old Zone Rapid) will be kept as a back up for the time being.

Cell Phone Texting: Open discussion about the issues that may arise with emailing page information to cell phones. Gorton, Ruffedt and the County IT department have been meeting and testing out the process to see if it can be done. So far the testing has worked and the text times vary from one minute to three and four minutes to receive a page/text. Each department will be responsible for gathering all the cell phone numbers and submitting them to County Fire. It will be the department's responsibility to keep the cell phone numbers current and up to date. Motion Mallow to purchase the following equipment to start the text paging process, second Johnson, carried.

Items to be purchased.

Purchase Exchange (clustering) License \$2500.00

Windows Server 2008 \$1500.00

For a total of \$4000.00.

USFS Radio Frequencies for Black Hills & Air to Ground: Contact Ray Bubb for the 2009 frequency guide. Bubb said that a few changes and additions have been made so please make note of those. Contact Bubb for any questions.

Other: Due to State Fire School we will be rescheduling the Fire Service Board Meeting for the following Wednesday June 17th.

NEW REQUESTS: Nothing at this time.

REQUESTS TO BE ACTED ON: Nothing at this time.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, motion Johnson, second Bubb to adjourn. Carried.