

Pennington County Fire Service Board Meeting

November 11, 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: Denny Gorton, Ray Bubb, Joe Tjaden, Nancy Trautman, Paul Johnson, Kendall Kjerstad, Joel Stephens and Dennis Mallow. Guests, Paul Smith, Rockerville VFD; Duane Hofer, North Haines VFD; Rob Lehmann, North Haines VFD; Mark Enright, Western Dakota Tech; Tim Kobes, Rapid Valley VFD; Gary Sortland, Rockerville VFD; Craig Comer, Hill City VFD; Jeff Sugrue, Silver City VFD and Brent Kolstad, SDOEM.

PAST MEETINGS MINUTES: Motion Johnson, and second Tjaden to approve the October 14, 2009 minutes. Motion Carried.

BUDGET REPORTS: Motion Tjaden, and second Mallow to approve the budget Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

a. Recruitment and Retention-

- (i) Training Committee – Johnson, Chair; Bubb, Stadel, Barrows- Johnson said that a plan is in place and the committee needs to get together to make the final adjustments. Johnson said they should be completed by December.
- (ii) Marketing/Recruitment Committee – Gorton, Chair; Smith, Sortland, Venable- Gorton said the committee is 75 percent ready to go. It was said the only thing holding up the committee is a new web page must be completed and brought live for potential recruits to access.
- (iii) Retention Committee- Hofer, Chair; Schmidt, Hodge, Mantei – Hofer reported that his group has put together a letter to be sent to the departments as soon as it's approved. The content of the letter includes guidelines and recommendations for each chief and department as a whole to consider.

b. Digital Radio Conversion- Gorton will be sending out a letter to the Chiefs about portables and mobiles at the end of next week and is still making himself available to come out and meet with the departments if they have any questions about the conversion.

c. Regional Fire Training Site Long Term Plans- Enright is looking to have the county cost share the cost of one Mark III pump for the training tower. The total cost is \$3,700.00 and the cost can be shared on a 50/50 split with grant funds from SD WFS through a VFD. Motion by Kjerstad to purchases with second by Johnson. Carried

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

- a. Committee Report – Nothing at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

Regional AFG Communications: Nothing at this time.

Vehicle Maintenance Contracting: Mallow said that he will bring a layout to next months meeting for review.

Cell Phone Texting: Gorton and Curt from IT spent two and a half hours learning how to add names into the system. Testing is in progress for the next few weeks and so far seems to be working fine. As of now the two providers that are being used are Verizon and Alltel. After the testing cycle we will need each Chief to provide the first and last name, telephone number and carrier of each member that would like to receive text paging. It will be the department's responsibility to make sure our office gets number updates when necessary.

Residential Sprinkler Demo Progress Report: Gorton reported that a cost to date sheet is in the packet for the board to review. The trailer that was purchased is at Hofer's shop to update some

wiring. Behlings has been in touch with some of the sprinkler companies about providing some financial support with the replacement costs.

Paging upgrades: Adam updated the board on the current paging system and the need to have it replaced by 2012. The first issue to be decided was if the FSB wanted to continue to have the three System repeaters as paging and voice or to make them paging only. After some discussion motion by Schmidt to have the three System repeaters be paging only for future use second Mallow. Carried. There next item to be decided was when we switch the System repeaters does the FSB want to continue with the sequential paging (one tower at a time) or change to simulcast (all three towers at one time). To change over to the simulcast system and everything that would be required for the switch would be approximately \$90,000. To continue with sequential paging and new equipment would be approximately \$40,000.

Mobile & Portable Radios Draft Request Form: Gorton has drafted a letter to be sent to the Chiefs, Asst Chiefs and Captains to complete a request form for the 24 Portables and 11 Mobiles. That letter will be sent out at the beginning of next week.

Other:

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioners Report: Nothing at this time.

Emergency Management Report: Gorton asked those departments that have not contacted Alexa in Emergency Management with your ICS requirements to please do so.

Five Year Plan Departments: Silver City, Scenic, Wasta and Box Elder are available this year to purchase PPE gear and all invoices will need to be submitted by the December meeting and must be received by December 31st. Each department can spend up to four thousand dollars.

Representative Elections: To be seated at New Business Jan 2010 meeting.

Fire Admin in Sioux Falls for Dec 9th Meeting change date or not? Gorton will be attending a Public Safety Communications Council meeting that day. It was agreed by the board that we keep the December 9th meeting date as is.

Other: Kobes reported that Rapid City Fire is now 100 percent on digital frequencies as well as the Ambulance services. Kobes also wanted to bring up a topic for advice purposes only. Kobes has had issues with a department on a strike team continuing to show up with firefaighers that are not well equipped or trained to handle the tasks assigned. He would like to know how we get departments to provide firefighters to limit the liability issues if something were to happen? It was said that there are no bylaws or sops in place for the strike teams. Mallow, Schmidt and Kobes are going to get together with the department and on behalf of the board to discuss the current issues. The three will then report back to the board on what was discussed.

NEW REQUESTS: Wasta VFD and Silver City – 5 year PPE request. Motion Johnson to approve both requests as submitted. Second Tjaden.

Fire Administrator to attend SD Fire Chiefs meeting in Oacoma on Nov 13 & 14, approx cost \$150. Motion to approved by Tjaden seconded by Stephens. Carried.

REQUESTS TO BE ACTED ON:

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, motion Tjaden, Second Johnson to adjourn. Carried