

Pennington County Fire Service Board Meeting

February 11, 2009

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Chairperson 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, Lee Scott, Joe Tjaden, Leah Thibeau, Dennis Mallow, Ray Bubb, Anthony Carbajal, Paul Johnson, Nancy Trautman and Joel Stephens. Guests Mark Enright, Western Dakota Tech; Paul Smith, Rockerville VFD; Tim Kobes, Rapid Valley VFD; Tom Jaros, Western Dakota Tech; Lawrence Karsky, North Haines VFD; Rick Lehman Pennington County Search and Rescue; Dex Wittman, Pennington County SAO; Randy Wagner, Doty VFD and Brent Kolstad, SDOEM.

PAST MEETINGS MINUTES: Motion Johnson, and second Bubb to approve the January 14, 2008 minutes. Motion Carried.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

- a. Recruitment and Retention- Smith presented a power point with the survey results. The next step will be for the board to decide what to with the information provided. Please get in touch with Paul if you would like to receive the survey results and or copies of the original surveys. The results will also be posted on the County Fire webpage for your review. Make sure you take the time to look at the results and bring in some ideas for the March meeting.
- b. Digital Radio Conversion- Nothing at this time.

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

- a. Committee Report – Gorton gave an update on the firefighter that had slipped on some ice and suffered a broken/dislocated knee cap. Claims Associate contacted Denny and asked that someone from the board follow up on the claim. Gorton asked if Anthony would take care of it and find out if the accident could have been avoided and if so how? Gorton went on to explain that the work comp premiums may rise with the coming year. Over the past few years we have had some large claims that inevitably will result in the rise of our premiums. Our office receives a claims report every month with the most current and active claims. If anyone would like to see those they are on file in the office.

OLD BUSINESS:

Employer Thank You in Hill City, Wall And RC Journal: Gorton said that all the ads have been scheduled to run in the three papers. So far we have only seen the ad in the Hill City Prevailer.

Humane Society Call When Needed: Gorton informed the board that he has been in contact with Ken Brown of the Human Society as well as Brian Muller from the Sheriffs Office, in regards to the process to remove deceased dogs from homes that had reported fires in them. Ken Brown assured Denny that they would come and remove the animal large or small as long as the Humane Society has been contacted. Brian Muller explained the recent situation to Denny and explained that the sergeant on call had misunderstood the policy regarding animal removal. Brian wanted to thank Denny and the board for brining it to his attention so that they sheriffs office can use it as a learning tool. As of now the policy is to contact dispatch and let them know of the situation and dispatch will get in touch with the humane society and send them out.

Zone West And East Repeaters: Gorton said that the repeaters will be purchased soon.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioners Report: Trautman reported that the Board of Commissioners is working on approving septic system regulations. County meetings will be held before a decision will be made. Also a report has been given to the board from the Forest Service regarding the pine beadle and them spreading through out the Black Hills. Nancy also wanted to thank the Hermosa VFD who responded to a call accident on Christmas Eve, and for following up and making that personal connection with the community.

Emergency Management Report: Nothing at this time.

Regional AFG Communications: Rob Lehmann of the North Haines VFD has offered to take care of this request. For more information contact Rob Lehmann.

Other: Mark Enright provided an improvement plan for the future of Emergency Response Training Center (ERTC). Enright is asking the board to help provide the funding for the next phase in this project. *Motion Johnson to approve \$2000.00 towards the confined space/structure collapse training area to consist of*

Site preparation \$700.00

Crane and Truck \$200.00 per hour

Misc (forms, tool rental, backfill, steel and hardware) \$1000.00

Second Scott. Motion carried

There was open discussion in regards to WDT expanding the building and having all programs move to another site. An advisory board meet at Votech a week or so ago to discuss the future plans for the school property. It was said a few people had some concerns about what will happen with the Fire Science Program if the school plans to vacate that property. Enright suggested that a committee be established to discuss long term plans for the training site as well as to protect our past and future investments. Ray Bubb, Joe Tjaden, Lee Scott, Tom Jaros and Mark Enright will be the proactive committee for this topic. Tom Jaros mentioned that as of now there are no plans that have been seen for the future of the school site.

NEW REQUESTS:

Pennington County Search and Rescue- USAR Gear request to be acted on at the March meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, motion Carbajal, second Scott to adjourn. Carried.