

Pennington County Fire Service Board Meeting

January 14, 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, Ray Bubb, Steve Keegan, Anthony Carbajal, Paul Johnson, Kendall Kjerstad and Joel Stephens. Guests Jim Kitterman, Wall VFD; Jeremy Hertel, Wall VFD; Mark Enright, Western Dakota Tech; Paul Smith, Rockerville VFD; Mike Lehrkamp Scenic VFD; Dennis Mallow, Black Hawk VFD; Larry Schell, Wasta VFD and Don Springhetti, Whispering Pines VFD.

PAST MEETINGS MINUTES: Motion Johnson, and second Kjerstad to approve the December 10, 2008 minutes. Motion Carried.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

- a. Recruitment and Retention- Smith reported that he received all the data from the surveys and will be figuring a way to compile all of the numbers. Smith will try to have something ready for the February meeting.
- b. Digital Radio Conversion- Discussion after Jan 2009

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

- a. Committee Report – Gorton said that we had one new claim this month; the member slipped on some ice and suffered a broken/dislocated knee cap. He will be out for a little over a month to let that injury heal.

OLD BUSINESS:

Employer Thank You in Hill City, Wall And RC Journal: Gorton reported that a few changes need to be made, aside from those changes the same ads will run in all three papers.

EMS Protocol Change on Accidents with Unknown Injuries: Gorton informed the board of the new protocol for the RCFD ambulance is they will not respond to reported vehicle accidents with unknown injuries. The volunteer departments will still be paged out cold until injuries are known. The RCFD ambulance will be dispatched to reported roll over calls and others depending on the probable nature of injury. Ted in dispatch will be getting a letter to Denny that explains the protocol changes and updates. Denny will get that letter out to all departments. The volunteer ambulances will continue to be paged to unknown injuries for vehicle accidents.

Other: Mark Enright gave an update for Tom Jaros regarding the SCBA Port a Count fit tester. The system is up and running. Tom will be available to go around to each department and get those taken care of. Each mask will take about 7-8 minutes a piece and will have a printed report. Each department must provide a mask to use during the testing. If you have any questions please contact Tom Jaros at 718-3058.

NEW BUSINESS:

Seating of Board Member for 2009: Gorton wanted to let the Fire Chiefs know that the following districts will be open for election and the board will need to be informed in writing to whom you wish to appoint.

East District- Kjerstad

East Central District- Tjaden

West Central District-Keegan appointed Dennis Mallow

West District- Light

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Election of Officers:

Chair: Motion Paul Johnson, Second Anthony Carbajal to leave the chair as is appointing Gail Schmidt. Motion carried.

Vice Chair: Motion Paul Johnson, Second Ray Bubb to leave Kendal Kjerstad as vice chair. Motion Carried.

Recording Secretary: Motion Paul Johnson, Second Lee Scott to leave Joe Tjaden as recording secretary. Motion Carried.

Capital Purchases for 2009:

a) Repeater and Control Station replacements. Gorton reported on the purchase of the new repeater that is already installed and operational on zone Rapid. There was a copy of the replacement program for the Board's review broken down by budget year. Carbajal mentioned the he had submitted a grant to the state to try to get fifty percent of the \$38,000.00 budgeted for 2009 paid. Gorton said that Zone West and East repeaters were 20 years old and the new repeaters would be analog/digital compatible along with being narrow band capable as well the various control stations needed. Motion Kjerstad to move forward with the replacement program as outlined and budgeted for in 2009, which includes the Zone West, Zone East Repeater at \$16,000 each; five control stations, estimated at \$500 each; and one mobile radio, estimated at \$3,500, for the Tahoe. Second Scott. Motion Carried.

b) Vehicle replacement. Open discussion about the 2009 budget and the fund requests taking up the majority of the budget so early in the New Year. In doing so if a department had a real issue with a truck not working etc there would be no funds available to cover the repairs. Johnson thought it would be a good idea to steer away from purchasing chassis and focus more on radios, health and wellness, recruitment and training. It was agreed by the Board that it was too early in the year to spend that much money on the projects submitted. Motion Johnson to postpone all vehicle requests until July of 2009 so we can wait and see where our budget is at then. Second Kjerstad. Motion Carried.

Commissioners Report: Nothing at this time as Commissioner Trautman was sick.

Emergency Management Report: Carbajal let the board know that the 2007 grant year was coming to a close. We are now in the early stages of the 2008 grant year.

Zetron Factory Training: Adam gave the board a brief description of the Zetron training class that he attended in November 2009. Adam went on to discuss some of the key points of the training that included configuring of files, hardware replacement, trunking, troubleshooting etc. Adam wanted to thank the board for sending him to the training and that he believes it was very beneficial.

Those attending had a few question on other topics for Adam.

Increasing the number of characters per page. Adam said that he will be working on increasing the character limit on the pages as this was a CAD issue and he and Ted had determined how to increase the number of characters. The Zetron and Info Rad equipment already will allow at least 320 characters per page. Remember, each letter, space, number is a "character".

Ghost pages: Several departments said they receive "ghost" pages at various times. There is no message and they call dispatch to see if they have been paged and they haven't. Several thought it was when Keystone and/or Hermosa have been paged. Adam said it could be possible as there can be stray voltage getting into the Salcom store and forward paging equipment. Adam had a suggestion on how it might be fixed. He asked that when this happens to please mark the time and then let Ted or Denny know so they can forward to him. It was said that some tracking of the pages either by dispatch or the department receiving them would be helpful to pin point when and where the ghost pages are coming from.

Text messages being sent to cellular phones. Text messages can be sent via a TAP-format modem which would convert the TAP- format call to a text and send it to a cellular telephone. The hurdle is that the cellular company has to program their equipment to allow the TAP message and then pass it along to the proper cell phone. The down side is that sometimes text messages are not delivered immediately. It could take a few minutes to much longer to get the page to the correct cell phone. Gorton said he is still working with Dispatch, RCFD and the County IT department to be able to send text messages to Verizon and Alltel through the Info Rad system. If you any further question you may contact Adam at 394-6954.

Other: Tjaden had brought up to discussion of a house fire in the Valley and the issue with a deceased dog. The Humane society was not able to come out to the home and retrieve the dog due to boundary issues. Denny said that he would contact the director at the humane society to see if we could enter into some sort of contact/agreement to cover the costs of removal. Denny will be in contact with the director to possibly have them attend out February meeting to answer questions. Motion Schmidt to come to an agreement with the humane society for the removal of a deceased animal due to a fire, and to bill the costs to the Fire Service Board. Second Carbajal. Motion Carried.

Schmidt reported that she had read an article about cardiac arrest and other health issues being the number one killer of firefighters. Schmidt would like the departments to try to be more heart healthy and is open suggestions on ways to do so. The more informed our firefighters are the more heart conscience they may be. Schmidt will be gathering some information on this and other health topics to be posted on the County Fire webpage.

Schmidt brought up the topic of Ellsworth Air Force Base FD being paged on Zone Rapid. There was considerable discussion by the Board and guests about using the Zones for paging. Gorton said that Ellsworth AFB was becoming their own PSAP and would be dispatching sometime this summer. It was pointed out that the Board had been working for the past years in getting all on the A/N paging and that this would only give rise to "if you can do this for Ellsworth then why not my department". Motion Johnson not to allow EAFB to be paged on the Zones. Second Kjerstad. Motion Carried.

Paging cap codes for other organizations was discussed. There is concern by some fire chief's about other organizations having department cap codes and then "jumping" calls or responding to those departments when they have not been requested. Motion Johnson to have Gorton notify the supervisor to remedy the issue of an employee responding to calls. Second Kjerstad. Motion Carried.

NEW REQUESTS:

Repeaters for Zone West and Zone East-See above notes

REQUESTS TO BE ACTED ON:

Scenic VFD has sent a request to the board to reimburse the vehicle insurance as the department budget can not cover that amount. Mike Lehrkamp, Chief of the Scenic VFD was in attendance to answer any questions the board may have. Motion Kjerstad to approve reimbursement of the \$1,232.00 to the scenic VFD to cover the insurance costs for 2008. With that being said the board would like the department to know that in the future that cost may not be approved. Second Scott. Motion Carried.

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