

Pennington County Fire Service Board Meeting

March 11, 2009

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Denny Gorton called the Pennington County Fire Service Board meeting to order, in the absence of Chair and Vice-chair, at 7:00 PM in the EOC Room in the basement of the County Courthouse. Members present were: Denny Gorton, Lee Scott, Leah Thibeau, Dennis Mallow, Ray Bubb, Anthony Carbajal, Paul Johnson, and Joel Stephens. Guests Mark Enright, Western Dakota Tech; Paul Smith, Rockerville VFD; Duane Hoffer, North Haines VFD; Craig Comer, Hill City VFD; Mark Raderschadt, Hill City VFD; Steve Keegan, Whispering Pines VFD and Larry Schell, Wasta VFD.

PAST MEETINGS MINUTES: Motion Johnson, and second Mallow to approve the February 11, 2009 minutes. Motion Carried.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

- a. Recruitment and Retention- Smith presented a plan outline for the board to review and provide input at the next meeting in April. The next step will be for the board to decide how to use the information provided to them and move forward. Smith brought up the idea of possibly hiring an outside marketing firm to advise us on how to reach our targeted demographics. Make sure you take the time to look at the plan outline and bring in some ideas of your own for the April meeting.
- b. Digital Radio Conversion- Gorton mentioned that narrow banding is a ways down the road but we still need to plan ahead and be prepared with a plan. After a long discussion with our County Radio Tech Adam, it was said that when the time to switch approaches it would be in our best interest to do it all at one time. For instance we would set up a time table for the departments to bring their trucks down at the allotted time to do the conversion. That would be done one after another all on the same day. It would be up to the departments to choose a day and time to do the reprogramming. As of now it is unknown how the conversion will take place.
- c. Vo-Tech long term plans- Enright is looking to get some signs made for the various gates at the training site. Gorton will check with the county sign shop about the cost of signs and the different sizes needed.

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

- a. Committee Report – Carbajal will be getting in touch with 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. Carbajal will be getting more detailed information about the incident and report that at the next meeting. Gorton said that the firefighter has suffered significant loss of wages and we need to get this taken care of.

OLD BUSINESS:

Employer Thank You in Hill City, Wall And RC Journal: Gorton wanted to welcome Craig Comer as the new Chief in Hill City. Craig has taken over for Dar Coy.

Zone West And East Repeaters: Gorton said that the repeaters have been ordered and should be here in the next few weeks; Adam will install them after they arrive. It was asked what will be done with the old repeaters. Gorton said that one will be kept for the parts and Adam suggested that the amateur radio club might be interested in the other. The other option would be to declare the old repeaters surplus and make them available for sale.

Regional AFG Communications: Gorton said that he has not heard any new information on where they are on this. As of now no applications are being accepted yet. The grant will be open soon and everyone in Pennington County is eligible to apply. Gorton will be looking into any cost share information that may be needed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioners Report: Nothing at this time.

Emergency Management Report: Nothing at this time.

Other: Ray Bubb handed out the new radio frequencies. Bubb added that they have picked up six more tactical channels which in his words is a good thing, to be able to separate down into groups during a fire/event. Bubb will let everyone know when the new channels go into effect.

NEW REQUESTS: Nothing at this time

REQUESTS TO BE ACTED ON: Motion Johnson to place this item on the agenda for the April meeting, until a representative from search and Rescue can be present to speak with the board and answer some questions about the request submitted. Second Carbajal. Motion Carried.

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