

Pennington County Fire Service Board Meeting

September 10, 2008

k:\fireadm\fsb\minutes\2008\sep.doc

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, Gail Schmidt, Kendall Kjerstad, Lee Scott, Jim Light, Nancy Trautman, Joe Tjaden and Joel Stephens. Guests Duane Hofer and Rob Lehmann, North Haines VFD; Tim Kobes, Mark Enright and Casey Warren, Rapid Valley VFD; Darwin Geigle and John Kitterman, Wall VFD.

PAST MEETINGS MINUTES: Motion Kjerstad, and second Stephens to approve the August 13, 2008 minutes. Motion Carried.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

- a. Gel Upgrades: Wasta at this time is the only department that the gel installation has not been completed on.
- b. Recruitment and Retention: The survey was taken off the County Fire website and all the results will be turned over to this committee.

Vehicle Replacement: (Chair, Keegan)

- a. Wildland Fire Trucks – Nothing at this time

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

- a. Committee Report – Gorton said there was one new WC claim for a firefighter. He is waiting to hear back from the SDML on their request for additional health and medical information.
- b. Gorton said that on some occasions departments have had a work comp injury but they never reported it to his office or stopped in to file the First Report of Injury. On one occasion he received a bill from a medical provider and was never informed of the injury. In that case he sent the medical bill to the fire chief and told them to pay it.

OLD BUSINESS:

County Shared fire vehicle maintenance personnel: Nothing new to report at this time.

Residential Sprinklers: Gorton said that he had drawn up a list of the items he would like to see included in the County's subdivision regulations including the FSB request that all buildings over 3500 square feet are fire sprinkled. Gorton said after much discussion, some times very verbal, the proposed subdivision regulations will include the following: one and two family residents must have minimum of 1000 GPM for 30 minutes, with the fire flow above and beyond any domestic or landscaping needs; for structures not one or two family residents, the Fire Coordinator will determine the fire flow; no property more than 750 feet from a fire hydrant, unless approved by the Fire Coordinator; the fire flow will be reduced by 50% if all structures are fire sprinkled per NFPA guidelines, however the 30 minute storage capacity will not be reduced. Gorton went on to say that this isn't perfect but it is better than we currently have and if we need we can always go back to the Commissioners and ask to amend the subdivision ordinance.

Severe Weather Warnings: There was short discussion if there is a need to change who and how fire departments are notified when severe weather warnings are issued. Those in attendance felt it was not necessary to change the SOP that ESCC has. Gorton said he will let the dispatch director know on this SOP. The severe weather watches and fire danger notifications were changed last month.

Community Wildfire Protection Plan: Nothing new to report.

Other: nothing at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Commissioners Report: Nancy reported that the 2009 budget was approved by the Commissioners and they have hired a company to do a staffing study for the entire county. Nancy said that Doug Pavel had "re-retired" and that they would begin the staffing study in dispatch soon and get a new director on board as soon as possible.

Emergency Management Report: Anthony and Pam are at the State EM conference in Huron this week. Gorton said there is a Point of Dispensing (POD) scheduled for Wednesday, November 12 at the Civic Center. Departments that are willing to help contact the EM office.

Digital Talk Groups: Gorton said he and Tim Kobes had emailed about the number of talk groups needed between county fire and RCFD. We are trying to keep a manageable number for the dispatchers and workable number of talk groups for the fire departments. Gorton also said he would like fire departments to start using the digital PC Fire 1 more, so we can find the "dead" spots and get departments more familiar with the digital radio system. The RCFD has switched over to digital and we need to be able to work with all agencies.

Transfer Ownership of Gel Units to Departments: There was some discussion about the ownership of the GEL units that were purchased for the fire departments. The discussion was there is no real value in keeping ownership by the county and if they need repaired that will be the responsibility of the fire department. Motion by Schmidt to request the Commissioners declare the GEL units surplus and transfer ownership to the receiving departments, seconded by Kjerstad. Motion carried.

Weather Information: Gorton said he has been contacted by Randall Benson, from SDSM&T if there are additional weather information or other items that his office can provide to the fire departments? There was some discussion, but mostly it was not sure what other products could be provided. Gorton will contact Randall and see what items he might be able to offer.

Other: nothing at this time.

NEW REQUESTS:

Wall VFD for assistance in chassis purchase for a wildland urban type truck. Approximate total county share of the request was \$55,000. This request was non-emergency and will be acted on at the October meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, motion Kjerstad, second Stephens to adjourn. Carried.