

# Arkansas Fire Protection Services Board

Minutes from June 23, 2011

Meeting held at the Hot Springs Convention Center, location of AAFC/ASFFA Joint 2011 Fire Convention.

## Members Present:

JP Jordan	Rachel Nix	Chad Mosby
Bob Davis	Rob Medford	Jim Tolewitzke
Stacey Caplener	Jim Sierzchula	David Kirkpatrick
Larry Brewer	Charles Gangluff	Shane Dallas
Chris Jones	Robert Summerville	

## Members Absent:

Fred Taylor

Meeting called to order by Chairman Jim Tolewitzke. Chairman Tolewitzke recognized ASFFA President Kevin McMasters to present an award normally presented at annual convention but this recipient will be unavailable. The ASFFA 2011 Firefighter's Hall of Fame Award is presented to Mr. Robert Summerville, Arkansas Forestry Commission.

Chairman Tolewitzke asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Chad Mosby made motion to approve the minutes. Second was made by Larry Brewer. Motion was approved.

Chairman Tolewitzke thanked Larry Pullon for his work as interim Fire Services Director. The new ADEM Fire Service Director is Mr. Kendall Snyder, retired Battalion Chief from Jacksonville Fire Department. Also Chairman Tolewitzke informed the board that the new Attorney General's representative is Ms. Amanda Gibson.

## DFA REPORT:

Richard Drilling reported that the second quarter Act 833 checks are ready to be mailed now. During the first and second quarters, Act 833 received a little over \$5 million and distributed a little over \$3 million. If you have submitted an application and should have received funds but have not, please call Richard. The Act 833 program is on record to break \$10 million this year. Act 300 of 2011 appropriated \$5 million to all fire departments, like Act 1314 and 884, but Act 300 was not funded this year.

## ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

Chairman Tolewitzke advised the Board that there would not be an ADEM report this meeting due to this being Mr. Snyder's second day on the job.

## ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION:

Bob Summerville reports that the Boating School was held in early June with 300 participants, 50 plus departments, 20 different counties and representatives from Texas and Louisiana. The Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) grant applications are now available. Applications will be accepted from June 6-July 8 for 200 - \$1000 grants. And AFC ran out of funding for the air tanker program but Governor Beebe gave the AFC some funding from the GIF program to continue to operate this program.

#### ARKANSAS FIRE TRAINING ACADEMY:

Director Rachel Nix updated the Board on the rebuilding of the Arkansas Fire Training Academy. It is now in the “dry” with completion scheduled for mid-September. Deputy Director Rubow is working on the new Rescue Technician course and its IFSTA accreditation. It will be comprised of a 40 hour core course, then branch off to other specialized rescue courses. These specialized courses include: confined space, structural collapse (uses a debris field), low angle rope, high angle rope, auto extrication, school bus extrication, wilderness rescue, trench rescue and swift water rescue.

Then there were many questions and much discussion from Board members and visitors addressed to Director Nix about the following: 1. Amount of training funds paid from AFTA to SAU-Tech to enroll every Firefighter Standards student in college for their Associate of Arts Degree and only 2 graduated this year (estimated \$30,000-\$50,000 annually); 2. Does the Director of the Fire Academy attend the Legislative budget meetings to represent AFTA (handled by and through SAU Tech); 3. Why are we forced to take money appropriated for Fire training and pay to SAU Tech for tuitions; 4. What amount is SAU Tech paid for Administrative Overhead (\$125,000.00); 5. What is provided in the Administrative Overhead (supervisory payroll, auditing, inventory, how much is paid for SAU Tech dormitories are about \$40,000.00, etc; 6. There is an estimated \$200,000.00, roughly 15% of AFTA annual budget, taking from AFTA for training and paid to SAU-Tech for various non-training budget line items?

Charles Gangluff asked if there has been information shared with other Board members about these AFTA concerns. Ed Jaros, APFF President, advised that this information was recently discussed at the Arkansas Professional Firefighters convention and that is why he and other APFF members are asking direct questions.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

Chairman Tolewitzke updated the Board and visitors about the process of volunteer fire departments using their tax exempt status. The required form can be downloaded from the DFA website, [www.dfa.arkansas.gov](http://www.dfa.arkansas.gov). Volunteer Fire Departments should print this form and give it to their vendor to receive their tax exempt status for the purchase.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Tolewitzke recognized Training Officer James Mason, Siloam Springs Fire Department who requested an extension of the FF 2 training for a new firefighter because he is an Army Reservist and was injured in Basic Training. Motion to grant extension made by Charles Gangluff and second by JP Jordan. Motion approved.

Chairman Tolewitzke advised the Board that Miller County Fire Department is requesting to consolidate the 9 fire departments into 1 department with 1 FDID. Chairman Tolewitzke advised that we have received many contacts in opposition to this effort. Miller County Fire Service Coordinator Mike Cornett advised that they are trying to bring Miller County FD back in line with the present Intergovernmental Council Agreement. Over time, the individual fire stations within Miller County FD have gotten their own FDIDs. There was much discussion over the setup and operation of the Miller County FD. Rob Medford said 1 FDID seems to be the only way for financial oversight due to each station not having established financial processes. Charles Gangluff asked how does the Intergovernmental Council meet? There is discussion about the Intergovernmental Council and setting of the distribution of Act 833 funds. Richard Drilling clarified that it is the Intergovernmental Co-op Council who decides how the Act 833 funds are distributed. They send their recommendation to the Quorum Court, who approves or rejects

it. The Quorum Court can not change the distribution plan. They can only approve or reject the plan presented by the Intergovernmental Council. Shane Dallas stated that due to the present Intergovernmental Council listing the Miller County FD, not each individual fire station, and the written agreement for one FDID; if the Miller County FD submits a complete and accurate application, then we have no reason to hold their funding.

Chairman Tolewitzke informed the Board about the current personnel issues at the Arkansas Fire Training Academy. This Arkansas Fire Protection Services Board assists the Arkansas Fire Training Academy. Dr. Lamkin asked to form an AFTA Advisory Board to assist him. The Advisory Board was created but has not met since creation. Dr. Lamkin has asked for extra requirements, such as a Bachelors degree, in the new contract for AFTA Director. This requirement was not in the original agreement with the Director, when hired 5 years ago. Chairman Tolewitzke asked the Board to review a draft letter to Dr. Lamkin. There was discussion about the AFTA issues and wording of the letter. Chris Jones made motion to send the letter, with discussed amendments. JP Jordan made second. All in favor. Motion passed. Chairman Tolewitzke appointed Chad Mosby, Shane Dallas and Charles Gangluff to draft the letter with discussed amendments for Dr. Lamkin.

Chad Mosby made motion to have 2 meetings a year at the Arkansas Fire Training Academy site to stay in touch with what is going on at the Academy. Second by Shane Dallas. Motion passed.

Stacey Caplener made motion to have the next meeting on September 14, 2011, at the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management facility. Second by Larry Brewer. Motion passed.

Bobby Davis made the motion to adjourn. Second was made by Stacey Caplener.