

Arkansas Fire Protection Services Board

Minutes from September 14, 2011

Meeting held at the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management in North Little Rock, Arkansas.

Members Present:

Jim Sierzchula	Chad Mosby	Rob Medford
Larry Brewer	JP Jordan	Rachel Nix
Shane Dallas	David Kirkpatrick	John Blackburn, ex officio
Jim Tolewitzke		

Members Absent:

Fred Taylor	Stacey Caplener	Chris Jones
Charles Gangluff	Bob Davis	David Maxwell

Meeting called to order by Chairman Jim Tolewitzke. Chairman Tolewitzke welcomed all members and guests.

Secretary Dallas asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Chad Mosby made motion to approve the minutes. Second was made by JP Jordan. Motion was approved.

Chairman Tolewitzke asked all Board Members to review the sign in sheet to ensure that all information is correct and everyone receives the emails and information being sent out.

DFA REPORT:

Richard Drilling reported that the regular Act 833 spreadsheet was sent out via email. He will also check with Kendell to compare the updated emails for any ones that came back undeliverable. With three-quarter of the year away, there is \$8.5 million available. As of today, there has been \$6.2 million distributed. \$4 million is remaining with the 4th quarter. We may reach the \$11 million collected this year. He encouraged everyone to get their Act 833 applications in before the October 31 deadline. They must be postmarked by October 31, 2011. Unfortunately, we may have \$1 million remaining in the fund, after all distributions. Chairman Tolewitzke asked if we could send letters to the departments that have not applied in a while. Kendell Snyder advised that he would try to do this but he has less accurate information the longer back the applications were. Richard Drilling introduced Mr. Harold Ball, DFA. Mr. Ball is working with Richard Drilling.

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

Kendell Snyder informed the Board that he is getting into different counties each week. There were 3 departments certified in Jefferson County recently. During the transition of Directors, there are about 8 department's paperwork that has been misplaced and we are working to identify and locate that information. He will have all that corrected by next week. Kendell is also working on updating the list of County Fire Service Coordinators. And he wants to revise the expenditure report to make it less confusing. Shane Dallas made motion to allow Kendell Snyder to revise the expenditure report for 2012 to make it less confusing. Motion was seconded by Rachel Nix. Motion was approved. Richard Drilling

explained that all Fire Departments must submit copies of receipts for all Act 833 expenditures. Kendell Snyder said he would like to propose that a form be added to Act 833 to collect Resource Information on each Fire Department. Chairman Tolewitzke said this form would not keep them from getting their Act 833 funding. It would be used to gather critical information about each areas resources and capabilities. Kendell Snyder also announced another goal of his is to offer an on-line option for completing the Act 833 applications. He advised that he does not have any details yet. He is in the preliminary stages on this. He will put together some ideas for the next meeting. He advised that it may work, it may not. We will just look at it. Richard Drilling reminded everyone that the only things that Act 833 can be used for are: Firefighter Training, Firefighter Equipment and Construction.

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION:

John Blackburn reports the Annual Fire Show will be Saturday, October 29 from 10AM-2PM at the Greenbrier facility. Last year there were 250 Fire Departments represented and 700 people in attendance. There will be a free BBQ lunch provided. In 2010, there were 212 vehicles placed and AFC is currently placing DoD vehicles. The Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) grant funds were late from Washington this year. AFC just got the funding. All the VFA paperwork must be returned by November 15, 2011. And something new, Legislative Audit recommends proof of payment with the paperwork.

ARKANSAS FIRE TRAINING ACADEMY:

Director Rachel Nix said there was recently a request for information on training numbers. There has been 14,000 certificates issued from July 2010 to June 2011. There have been 6 Standard schools with 169 enrolled. Of those, 139 completed the Standards school. Update on the building project, the new completion date is October 31, 2011. Everything is looking good. They will get information out on a ribbon-cutting ceremony. On another issue, Miller County requested a FDID number first, then was going to the County's Quorum Court to establish it as 1 fire department. It was felt that this was backwards of the proper procedure. The local government should establish the Fire Department and then request the FDID number for that department. Also Charles Butler is working on a National Fire Academy grant for the Chief Officer's program. Enrollment numbers had 46 applications for Standards school but only had 36 students show up. AFTA must have everyone to show up that registers. The Rescue Technician program is about to be submitted to the accreditation organization for review. The Rescue Program has a 40 hour basic program, then branches out into 7 specific rescue areas. Each rescue area has a Level I (Operations Level) and a Level II (Technician Level). The areas include: 1) Trench, 2) Confined Space, 3) Structural Collapse, 4) Vehicle & Machinery, 5) Rope Rescue-Low & High, 6) Surface Water and 7) Swift Water. Rachel Nix asked for an Advisory committee to be created to assist her with Standards School and the Rescue Technician program. Chairman Tolewitzke created the Arkansas Fire Training Academy Advisory Sub-committee and appointed Larry Brewer, Chad Mosby, JP Jordan and Shane Dallas to serve. Chad Mosby asked Rachel Nix how much revenue do the Canadians bring to the AFTA? Rachel Nix informed that AFTA budgets for 26 Canadians a year, around \$156,000. Some of that amount goes to college enrollment. Chad Mosby said we should utilize the Canadian market to supplement the AFTA program. If we do not provide it to them, they will go somewhere else for it. Chairman Tolewitzke asked if the AFTA is having some not show up and if so, are they paid or volunteer? Rachel Nix replied that she was not sure of the breakdown. Chairman Tolewitzke asked if there was less industry training? Rachel Nix answered yes, due to the economy.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chairman Tolewitzke updated the Board and guests about the Sales Tax Exemption process for Volunteer Fire Departments. He said he would email out the link to the form that they fill out. Chairman Tolewitzke said ASFFA President Kevin McMasters was having tests today and unable to be

here but wanted everyone to know that the AFTA Advisory Board, created in Spring of 2011, has never been called to meet. Kevin McMasters is the Chair of this Board. There are plans to meet next Wednesday in Camden. Chad Mosby asked about the issue of appropriations for the AFPS Board members travel expenses. Chairman Tolewitzke said he had spoken with several individuals. There must be an appropriation from the State Legislature to be funded. At this time, that has not happened.

NEW BUSINESS:

Kendell Snyder said he would like to develop an email list of the Fire Chiefs. He wants to add a line on the Expenditures form for the Fire Chief's email address to be able to contact them. Kenny Harmon, McRae Fire Department Fire Chief, requested that designation of "Paid-on-Call" be added to the existing "Municipal" and "Volunteer" choices that Fire Departments have to choose from in describing their FD. Motion made by Shane Dallas to amend the 2012 application to include "Paid-on-Call" designation. Motion seconded by Chad Mosby. Motion was approved. Mike Scrima said he would like data collected for number of paid and volunteer departments in the State.

Chairman Tolewitzke informed the Board that the next AFPS Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 14, 2011, at the Arkansas Fire Training Academy in Camden, Arkansas.

Chief George Glenn, Maumelle Fire Department, publicly thanked Kendell Snyder for working with the Arkansas Association of Fire Chiefs on the Resource Listing Database. Chief Glenn asked the Board to help publicize the database. He advised that when we have a declared disaster in the State, we did not have a viable deployment plan for Fire Services. Now we have a plan to coordinate Fire resources and apparatus through ADEM. They are working on issues where licenses cross state lines, are they still valid on emergencies and disasters. They have 2 goals: 1) Maintain State Mutual Aid Plan, can be viewed at www.arfirechiefs.org and 2) Promote local, written mutual aid plans. Also USAR, thru ADEM, have applied for a grant for Type II Urban Search & Rescue equipment to enhance the existing Northwest and Central Arkansas teams. Jonesboro is also interested in becoming a team.

Rob Medford made the motion to adjourn. Second was made by Chad Mosby.