

Arkansas Fire Protection Services Board

Minutes from December 14, 2011

Meeting held at the Faulkner County Office of Emergency Management in Conway, Arkansas.

Members Present:

Jim Sierzchula	Chad Mosby	Stacey Caplener
Larry Brewer	JP Jordan	Rachel Nix
Shane Dallas	David Kirkpatrick	Bob Davis
Jim Tolewitzke	Fred Taylor	Chris Jones

Members Absent:

Charles Gangluff	David Maxwell
Rob Medford	John Blackburn, ex officio

Meeting called to order by Chairman Jim Tolewitzke. Chairman Tolewitzke welcomed all members and guests and thanked Larry Brewer for the use of the facility. The meeting was originally scheduled for the Arkansas Fire Training Academy campus but the construction is not complete so the March 2012 will be held at AFTA..

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

DFA REPORT:

Richard Drilling reported that the total collections for Act 833 was just over \$11 million. There has been \$10.7 million distributed to date, including \$1.5 million to process now. There is \$450,000.00 in redistribution for 2012. This is the largest amount ever distributed in the program. The redistribution will occur in early January. The redistribution amount does go with the original years program and paperwork.

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

Kendell Snyder said that at the end of the 2011 year, 875 fire departments were certified and 120 did not get certified, for a total of 995 fire departments. Best guess is that there are 950 combination fire departments. The apparatus survey has been included in the 2012 application packet. It is not mandatory but is strongly suggested to gather fire department resource information for a State-wide database, to be used in case of disaster. Snyder reported that he has spoken with Director Nix about an Act 833/Chief type class for everyone, could be a 2 hour certified class. He asked for the Boards permission to proceed with the course development. Chairman Tolewitzke made motion to proceed. Second was made by JP Jordan. All were in favor. One of Snyder's 2012 goals is to focus on non-redistribution clauses in counties and to get those non-certified departments certified. He will be going to the counties to assist them.

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION:

Randy Pogue is in attendance for John Blackburn. Pogue reports that the Volunteer Fire Assistance grants have come in and the checks are going out now and within the next weeks. There was a Reduction in Force at the Arkansas Forestry Commission and it cut 4 personnel in the Rural Fire Division. AFC also lost 1 of the 2 wild land fire trainers. The AFC does have adjunct trainers to assist in delivering the Wild land Fire courses. There were about 500 people at the annual Fire Show. Last year, there were around 900 so attendance was down.

ARKANSAS FIRE TRAINING ACADEMY:

Director Rachel Nix advised that the building is very close to completion. It has been 2 years since the tornado. The original classrooms were lost in the destruction. There were 4 new classroom, 6 offices, a 6 stall apparatus bay and sleeping quarters for 20 students in the new construction. Some of the long-term construction goals for AFTA are a 100 bed dormitory and a cafeteria. The Law Enforcement Academy currently feeds the AFTA students for \$4.00 a meal and that is a great price. AFTA is hoping for an Open House in March. The Department of Justice grant that allows for the Chief Officer program and adjuncts for several other courses was successful again this year.

AFTA ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT:

Kevin McMasters was absent but Chairman Jim Tolewitzke reported that the AFTA Advisory Committee was scheduled to meet in September 2011 and members attended but the meeting was never conducted. This Committee is dormant.

OLD BUSINESS:

Kendell Snyder reports that the Miller County Volunteer Fire Department is recognized by the Miller County resolution. Miller County has applied this year and the last time Miller County received funds was 2008. They currently have some missing invoices. Miller County has some differences in operations. The invoices came from 9 different fire departments and it seems that Miller County VFD operates as 9 separate fire departments, not as one, the Miller County VFD. The consensus seems to be 1 of 2 options should happen in Miller County: 1) Miller County VFD operate as one unified fire department and implement a formal relinquishment of all 9 FDID numbers and use 1 FDID number assigned to the Miller County VFD or 2) the Miller County Quorum Court pass a new resolution to recognize all 9 separate fire departments, instead of the current resolution that only recognizes Miller County VFD. Chairman Tolewitzke added that we will work with Miller County in any way we can. It does not matter to the Board which option Miller County chooses because this decision is to be decided locally, and not by the Board. Several Miller County representatives thanked Kendell Snyder for his assistance in getting all this figured out.

NEW BUSINESS:

Kendell Snyder advised that Garland City Fire Department in Miller County last received Act 833 funds in 2005. Due to no redistribution clause in Miller County, Garland City FD has \$77,771.00 in unclaimed funds. The previous Mayor is in prison for misappropriation of funds. The Interim Fire Chief has asked about getting Act 833 certified. Everything appears to be in place and Snyder requests that Garland City FD be certified and the beginning balance will be the auditor's balance. Motion was made by Bob Davis and it was seconded by Shane Dallas. All were in favor.

Kendell Snyder also reported that the Jericho Fire Department in Crittenden County last received Act 833 funds in 2007. In this department, it is believed that the Mayor and Fire Chief stole funds and equipment. It is unknown if charges were filed. Now there is a new Mayor and Fire Chief and Snyder has met with them and everything appears to be in order. Snyder is recommending that Jericho FD be certified. Motion to certify was made by Shane Dallas and it was seconded by Stacey Caplener. All were in favor. Snyder is also continuing to encouraging a redistribution clause in Crittenden County.

Kendell Snyder reports that the Turrell Fire Department in Crittenden County last received funding in 2008. In this case, the previous Mayor put all funds, including Act 833, into 1 account and the IRS seized all funds due to failure of tax issue. The new Fire Chief is working to re-establish the department. The AFC has assisted by getting donated turn-out gear. Snyder feels they are committed to building the department back up. They have a \$2.00 fee on the water bills for Public Safety. Snyder is asking that the previous balance of \$35,901.77

be forgave due to IRS situation and new balance be \$0 and certify the Turrell Fire Department. Motion made to this affect by Bob Davis. Second was made by Larry Brewer. All were in favor.

Kendell Snyder reports that the Quachita Fire Department in Dallas County has a new Fire Chief. The old Fire Chief resigned and has left no records. There is no suspicion of wrong doing but there are no records or receipts left by the previous chief. 2009 was the last year that Quachita FD received funds. Richard Drilling adds that if you are going to accept the Act 833 funds, you must accept the recordkeeping responsibilities that come along with it. The motion to certify and add a Statement of Investigation into each Fire Department that has issues with funds or paperwork so it can be flagged if it becomes a reoccurring issue made by Shane Dallas. Second was made by Bob Davis. All were in favor.

Chairman Tolewitzke informed that several Board members terms are up. Charles Gangluff has advised that he will not seek reappointment and the ARVFA will be submitting possible replacement names. Shane Dallas, David Kirkpatrick and Fred Taylor are all willing to continue to serve and the paperwork has been submitted for reappointment.

Kendell Snyder asked the Board if the following items were considered allowable equipment expenses under Act 833: 1) A service or equipment truck that carries fire equipment to the scene IS approved, 2) An incident command trailer for the FD-tabled and request forwarded to Ms. Gibson for legal consult.

Director Rachel Nix announced that IFSAC has approved the AFTA Rescue Technician program. These classes cost a lot of money and we are unsure of the funding source at this time. We will have the program and curriculum ready to review at the March AFPSB meeting.

Chairman Tolewitzke advised that the March meeting will conflict with the Office of Fire Service's annual County Fire Services Coordinator's meeting. A motion to move the AFPSB meeting to Wednesday, March 21, 2012, at the Arkansas Fire Training Academy was made by Stacey Caplener and was seconded by JP Jordan. All were in favor.

Larry Brewer reviewed the pending 2012 meeting locations with the Board. The March meeting will be held at the AFTA campus in Camden. The June meeting has been held at the State Convention for the past several years and is tentatively set for the same. And the September meeting will be held here at the Faulkner County Office of Emergency Management building in Conway.

Chairman Tolewitzke announces that it is Election time for the Board and all seats are available, including: Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary. The AFPSB officers are as follows: Chairman JP Jordan, Vice-Chairman David Kirkpatrick and Secretary Shane Dallas.

Motion and second made to adjourn.