

Arkansas Fire Protection Services Board

Minutes from March 9, 2011

Meeting held at the Office of Emergency Management building in Conway, Arkansas

Members Present:

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

Meeting called to order by Chairman Jim Tolewitzke. Chairman Tolewitzke introduced Larry Pullen, Interim Fire Service Director with ADEM, Kathy Wright, Homeland Security Branch Manager with ADEM and Dr. Corbet Lamkin, Chancellor SAU-Tech. Chairman Tolewitzke also introduced the following new board members: Larry Brewer, ASFFA, replacing Greg Gray; JP Jordon, AAFC, replacing Bill Baldrige; Jim Sierzchula, ARVFA, replacing Larry Brewer; Robert Medford, APFF, replacing Tom Hopkins. And Chairman Tolewitzke told the board that the new Attorney General's representative is Ms. Grace Ellen Rice.

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 Rachel Nix. Motion was approved.

DFA REPORT:

Richard Drilling reported that at the end of 2010 there was \$1.3 million in undistributed funds. First quarter of 2011, \$2.6 million is available for distribution. Any changes to redistribution for counties are needed asap. Normally all changes are made effective at the first of the year. If percentage changes are needed, they can be sent at any time. If the county's distribution resolution is directly tied to the census, it will be adjusted by DFA. Legislative Update: HB1650 is a bill for \$5 million from General Improvement funds, like previous Acts 1314 and 884, to Fire Departments. It can be used as Act 833 but on a broader scope. It follows Act 833 distribution now. If you want funds to be divided equally, a special distribution from the local Intergovernmental Council is needed. All FDs are to receive this money, if funded. HB1738 is a bill to address and only affects Crittenden County and is to clear up carry over funds. And there is another bill like HB1650 out there for \$1 million.

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

Larry Pullon reports that Act 833 forms are on ADEM website and work is being done so FDs can complete the forms online. So far, 175 applications have been processed and another 25 more to process. DFA advises that if a Fire Department needs a tax exempt form to contact Michael Yancey, DFA at 501.683.1683. Also Larry reports that a high percentage of applications are needing corrections on the first submission and he is trying to get fixes for them over the phone. Charles Gangluff made motion to allow Fire Service Director to make minor changes to Act 833 applications as needed and email corrected application back to Fire Department for proper recordkeeping. Motion seconded by David

Kirkpatrick. Motion passed. Kathy Wright advised that the vacant position of Fire Service Director will be posted next week for 10 days.

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION:

Bob Summerville advised that they are seeing some boundary issues dealing with mutual and automatic aid because of hard times. June 4 and 5 is the Boat School at Lake DeGray and they are expecting 300. The Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) will have \$270,000 this year. Should have applications ready on June 1. AFC had to retrieve a tanker and brush truck from Turrell FD. They are working with the Mayor to get the FD up and going again. AFC helped 11 Fire Departments get organized across the State. And a reminder that the AFC is still getting the 5 tons, brush trucks and municipal apparatus for FDs.

ARKANSAS FIRE TRAINING ACADEMY:

Rachel Nix reports that a Legislative Session brings with it a call for numbers. NFIRS started with a grant in 1983. Arkansas Fire Department's that have a number are 1023. Only 661 are reporting to NFIRS, only 65%. Based from the 65% of FDs reporting data: there are 10,845 firefighters in the State, 3,094 are paid and 9,751 are volunteer firefighters. Also thanks to Terry for the reminders on the NFIRS passwords. The second stage of construction is starting with a completion date of September 1, 2011. There will be 4 classrooms, a 20 bed sleeping room and a 6 bay apparatus station. Rachel also said Thank You to everyone for helping during the death of a firefighter at the Training Site. Now all firefighters must have a physical to enter Rookie School. And AFTA is working on getting the Rescue Technician course through the IFSAC accreditation, hopefully this summer 2011. There have been 380 classes through AFTA from January 1-March 9, 2011.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chairman Tolewitzke updated the Board on the reimbursement for AFPS Board travel. This is still being worked on but not sure if it will happen this year.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Tolewitzke said that this Board is to assist the Arkansas Fire Training Academy in the direction of training and hiring of the AFTA's Director. Then Chairman Tolewitzke recognized Dr. Lamkin, Chancellor of SAU-Tech.

Dr. Lamkin explained that other SAU campuses have Advisory Boards that have helped those campuses. Then Dr. Lamkin gave a brief history of AFTA. In 1968, Mr. Brown gave the property to the AFTA. This year was the first time a firefighter lost their life during training. The recent tornados did \$3 million in damages to the AFTA. Dr. Lamkin advised that he needs help and the creation of the AFTA Advisory Board would be made up of firefighters statewide to help direct the Fire Academy. The AFTA Advisory Board is an internal committee to meet at our campus once a month or quarter, to assist in changes to physical and/or curriculum design. The AFTA Advisory Board will also help to get the word out about what is happening on-campus.

Chairman Tolewitzke added that it is not a duplication of this Arkansas Fire Protection Services Board. The chairman of the AFTA Advisory Board will give a report to the AFPS Board. Charles Gangluff asked if there has been any concerns about duplication with this Board? Gangluff also reminded the Board that Dr. Lamkin has come to them today to let us know about his plans.

Greg Gray stated that the AFTA Advisory Board is working on By-Laws now. Kevin McMasters was elected chair of the AFTA Advisory Board. Kevin McMasters stated that as Chancellor, Dr. Lamkin can create an Advisory Board to assist him and he has graciously asked for assistance from several of us in this room.

There was general discussion about both the duties of the AFTA Advisory Board and the Arkansas Fire Protection Services Board.

Chairman Tolewitzke asked if the Board would like to have the June meeting in Hot Springs annual Fire Convention on Thursday, June 23 since most Board members would be gathered there anyway. Motion to have June meeting at Convention made by Shane Dallas and seconded by JP Jordan. Motion passed.

Fred Taylor informed the Board that there is a Bill filed to give volunteer firefighters an income tax credit and support was needed.

Chad Mosby made the motion to adjourn. Second was made by Chris Jones.