

# Arkansas Fire Protection Services Board

Minutes from June 26, 2013

Meeting held at the Hot Springs Convention Center in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

## Members Present:

Larry Brewer	JP Jordan	Rachel Nix
Stacey Caplener	David Kirkpatrick	Jim Sierzchula
Shane Dallas	Rob Medford	Jim Tolewitzke
Chris Jones	Chad Mosby	

## Members Absent:

Bob Davis	Mike Scrima	Fred Taylor
David Maxwell		

## Ex Officio/Reporting Guests:

Kendell Snyder, ADEM	John Blackburn, AFC
Amanda Gibson, AG Office	

Meeting called to order by Chairman JP Jordan.

Chairman Jordan asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the last meeting. **MOTION:** to approve the minutes was made by Chad Mosby. Second was made by Jim Sierzchula. Motion was approved.

## DFA REPORT:

Kendell Snyder reports for Richard Drilling that the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter is complete with the total for both quarters at \$3.5 million. To date: there are 507 certified fire departments with a \$3 million balance in the Act 833 account. The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter Act 833 payment has been received and it is the largest one. The White County lawsuit is still going on so there has still been no Act 833 payments sent out.

## ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

Kendell Snyder informed the Board that he has been to 4 county Fire Chief Association meetings this past quarter. Snyder performed 5 site visits this quarter. Two of the visits were with fire departments new this year. Snyder is working with Arkansas GIS about the creation of a fire department database, updating fire department information and other possible future projects. And Snyder said he has been a part of a working group to improve fire dues collection with County Tax Collectors and others. Lastly, Gould Fire Department has been recertified but is waiting on a new intergovernmental distribution schedule, that includes Gould.

## ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION:

John Blackburn says the mission of the Arkansas Forestry Commission is to support the Fire Departments however the Agency can. Currently, the AFC provides training, equipment, loans and grant funding. In the last 9 months, the AFC has placed 30 vehicles, valued at \$2.1 million and taught 30 courses of the 8 hr Wildland Suppression that included 255 fire departments and 683 students. AFC has started a new program of gathering all types of firefighting equipment from departments that will donate it. It is being gathered at the Greenbrier facility and departments in need can come by on Tuesday-Thursday to look through it. And the annual Fire Show will be held this year on Saturday, October 26, 2013, from 10am-2pm with vendors, door prizes and lunch provided. Everyone is welcome to come.

### ARKANSAS FIRE TRAINING ACADEMY:

Director Rachel Nix began by asking the Board if the September meeting, scheduled at the Arkansas Fire Training Academy-Camden, could be a joint meeting with the Rural Fire Department Study Committee's meeting which will also be held at AFTA-Camden? The consensus of the Board is to hold the meeting on the same day as the Rural FD Study Committee's meeting. Nix reviewed Act 1091, which changes the supervision of the AFTA Director to now be under the President of Southern Arkansas University-Magnolia. Nix gave an update on the Standards Class of Summer 2013. This class had an enrollment of 35, although 5 students did not show up. This has been a problem with a large number of people not showing up for class after enrolling. This is something that we have to address because the AFTA budget includes a set number of paying Canadians to supplement the training of Arkansas firefighters. Chad Mosby made **MOTION**: To reserve 5 spots in each Standards Class for Canadians. Motion was seconded by Rob Medford. All were in favor and motion passed. Nix gave an update on NFPA 1001, 2013 Edition, which requires that Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations is now in the Firefighter 1 criteria. And Director Nix informed the Board that the Delmar curriculum did not work out like it was promised to the AFTA. Therefore, the AFTA will be returning to the IFSTA Essentials, 6<sup>th</sup> Edition. Because of this change, AFTA staff is in the process of updating courses, developing them by chapters, instead of topics. Firefighters can be trained by chapters and will be able to test FF1 first and then study and test FF2 later. And ALETA, where the AFTA purchases meals for students, has increased the cost per meal from \$4.00 to \$5.00. Nix reports that the AFTA budget is running in the black a little at this time, which is good. And the SAU-Tech Bookstore has been purchased by a company and will not be run by the college. The AFTA received 8% of AFTA items sold through the bookstore when it was operated by SAU-Tech but the new company has increased this to 9% returned to AFTA. And the AFTA will be getting the \$27,000.00 grant from the Department of Homeland Security that it has received in previous years to host the Chief Officer class and some adjuncts for other classes. Nix told the Board about a problem with certificates not getting to the students that take the course and the AFTA having to reissue certificates and the cost associated with that. Jim Tolewitzke made **MOTION**: To set AFTA policy of issuing 1 original certificate to students and all additional certificated requested can be issued at a cost set by the AFTA. Motion was seconded by David Kirkpatrick. All were in favor of the motion and the motion passed. Rob Medford made **MOTION**: To move the next AFPSB meeting to be a joint meeting with the Rural Fire Department Study Committee. Motion was seconded by Stacey Caplener. All were in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

### OLD BUSINESS:

Kendell Snyder gave report from the Expenditures Committee. The first issue was a request by Chief Mauldin, North Little Rock Fire Dept, to allow Act 833 funding to pay for firefighter physicals. The Committee supports the use of Act 833 funds for firefighter physicals and recommends it be included as an allowable expenditure. Also Act 91 of 2013 adds utilities and insurance to the allowable expenditure category and the Committee defines these new expenditures. Utilities are recommended to be defined as: electrical, natural gas, propane or other heating fuel, necessary tank purchase for heating fuel but not for tank rental, sewer and telephone service at the station, which is defined as somewhere the fire truck is housed. And insurance cost is recommended to be defined as: the fire station where the fire truck is housed and not on a separate site used for administrative purposes. Rob Medford made **MOTION**: To accept all recommendations presented by the Expenditure Committee. Motion was seconded by Shane Dallas. All were in favor of the motion and the motion passed.

Director Nix discussed the need for physical requirements for the Arkansas Fire Training Academy. She also distributed multiple handouts on the subject. The development of a Physical Guidance Regarding Medical Clearance policy will educate physicians who are asked to state that an individual is physically fit to train to become a firefighter. And the development of a Physical Examination form will assist physicians in determining

minimum fitness levels for attending the AFTA. New standards require a NFPA 1582 physical to obtain FF2 certification. The policy and form will be developed and presented at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Jordan informed the Board of Act 1345 of 2013 , which states that the AFPSB is responsible for developing an Uniform Reimbursement form for all fire departments to use in billing of insurance companies. Jordan distributed a draft of the form for review and input from the Board. The form will continue to be improved and a final draft will be presented at the next meeting.

Chad Mosby asked for Ed Jaros, President of the Arkansas Professional Fire Fighters, to be recognized to present information about firefighter physical agility testing. Jaros stated that some States host a State-sponsored physical agility test that would be recognized by local fire departments so the FDs would not have to perform their own individual FEATs tests. Jaros asked for this issue to be added to the agenda for the September meeting for further discussion. The Board members agreed to add it for further discussion.

Stacey Caplener made **MOTION**: To adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Chris Jones. All were in favor of the motion and the motion passed.