

Arkansas Fire Protection Services Board

Minutes from March 20, 2013

Meeting held at Arkansas Department of Emergency Management (ADEM) in North Little Rock, Arkansas.

Members Present:

Larry Brewer	JP Jordan	Jim Sierzchula
Stacey Caplener	Rob Medford	Fred Taylor
Shane Dallas	Chad Mosby	Jim Tolewitzke
Bob Davis	Rachel Nix	
Chris Jones	Mike Scrima	

Members Absent:

David Kirkpatrick	David Maxwell
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Ex Officio/Reporting Guests:

Kendell Snyder, ADEM	John Blackburn, AFC	Richard Drilling, DFA
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 Rob Medford. Second was made by Jim Tolewitzke. Motion was approved.

DFA REPORT:

Richard Drilling gave the report for Act 833 issues. There have been no 2013 checks distributed as of date. Collections for this quarter totaled \$2.7 million. A question was asked about why rural fire department's checks are sent to the county for distribution. The reason is that Legislative Audit said that funds should go through another governmental agency to help track funds. The ending balance of Act 833 for 2012 was a little over \$600,000.00, which is down from previous years. The last 4 year's ending balance has been a little over \$1 million. Drilling thanked Kendell Snyder for being instrumental in getting more departments certified.

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

Kendell Snyder reports that it has been a busy quarter. There have been 170 fire departments certified this quarter. There are also 25-30 fire department applications that are being held for corrections. Kendell attended fire department meetings in 5 counties this quarter promoting the Act 833 program and presented at 3 county Act 833 workshops to help certify fire departments on-site. And he hosted the annual County Fire Coordinator's meeting at the ADEM Mid-Year and had 50 counties represented. Kendell reported that he is assisting Gould and Fair Oaks Fire Departments in getting certified. An issue was discussed about Lazy Acres Fire Department. It is physically located in Arkansas but has a mail delivery from Missouri and questions were asked about them getting Act 833 funding. The consensus was that Lazy Acres is located in Arkansas, serves Arkansas residents, and is an Arkansas Fire Department. The pending lawsuit in White County was also briefed. The City of Beebe filed a lawsuit about the distribution schedule of Act 833 funds in White County. All Act 833 funds to White County will be held until the Intergovernmental Council of White County passes a current distribution schedule. White County rescinded the previous resolution outlining the distribution schedule from last year and currently to not have a distribution resolution in place.

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION:

John Blackburn introduced the new Rural Fire Coordinator, John Lindesmith. Mr. Lindesmith comes to the Arkansas Forestry Commission from Missouri, where he held the similar-type position. He started in the beginning of March and is knowledgeable of the Federal Excess Program. Mr. Lindesmith will be working with fire departments about the different types of equipment available. John Blackburn also reports that the annual Fire Boat School will be held on the first Saturday in June at Lake DeGray. Also the Fire Show will be held this year on the last Saturday of October.

ARKANSAS FIRE TRAINING ACADEMY:

Director Rachel Nix advises that there have been changes in the Administrative supervision of the Arkansas Fire Training Academy. Dr. Rankin, with SAU-Magnolia, directly oversees the AFTA Director. Director Nix distributed the AFTA budget report for February to the Board for review. Also the Arkansas Patch program has been updated to the module system, for use. And since the AFTA did not get what they were promised with the Delmar textbook, the AFTA will be returning to the IFSTA textbook, beginning with the Firefighter Standards class in August 2013. Fire Departments that are using the Delmar textbook to work on their Firefighter study program may continue to do so. Rob Medford asked Director Nix if there were any plans to move the bookstore to the AFTA campus. She said that Dr. Rankin and she have been discussing that and the concerns are that the AFTA campus is not set up to accepting cash. Director Nix also advised the Board that the adjunct contracts have improved. Chad Mosby commented that this was a good report but still missing information, such as a breakdown of what "Institutional Support" actually means and includes. Rod Medford asked if we needed to draft a letter from the Board to Dr. Rankin for a detailed transaction report. Bob Davis said that he did not think we should rock the boat by drafting a letter at this time. Director Nix informed the Board that she would get what they were requesting without the need of drafting a letter. She also said there was a bill for a 100 bed dormitory on the grounds of the AFTA. She said Senator Wyatt told her a long time ago that the AFTA needed new dorms. The present dorms were constructed in 1946. SB 606 has been filed to construct new dorms and a cafeteria. Please talk to your Legislative representatives about supporting the passage and funding of this. Another issue of discussion was firefighter physicals. Last January, the AFTA had a firefighter death in Standards School. NIOSH came in after the death for an investigation and recommended more in depth physicals for AFTA. A packet on proposed physicals was distributed for review and discussion at the June meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chief Bob Mauldin, North Little Rock Fire Department, asked the Board if Act 833 funds could be used to pay for firefighter physicals. Chairman Jordan assigned this request to the Allowable Expenditures Committee to discuss and bring back a recommendation at the June meeting. This committee consists of: Stacey Caplener, Chad Mosby, Larry Brewer and Kendell Snyder.

Jim Tolewitzke informed the Board that the issue of mileage reimbursement for this Board was still being worked on by Senator Teague, Roger Smith and Greg Gray as a possible Bill.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Jordan informed the Board of Act 91, which includes station utilities and insurance premiums to allowable expenditures for Act 833 funds. Kendell Snyder asked the Board for a clear definition of what "utilities" would include. Chairman Jordan forwarded this request to the Allowable Expenditures Committee for a recommendation at the June meeting.

Chief George Glenn, Arkansas Association of Fire Chiefs, reported on the Arkansas Mutual Aid Plan (ARMAP). It is now a green status after years of development. He advised that we need to begin marketing the plan. IF you have a large fire event, with one call to ADEM, the IC can get resources on the way. If you have an event in your area that exhaust your local resources, out of area resources can be dispatched quickly using ARMAP. The plan identifies two types of response: Immediate – lights and sirens response and Planned – the next operational period, next 24-48 hours, to rest the local responders.

Jim Tolewitzke informed that the annual Joint Fire Convention will be held on June 28-30, 2013, at the Hot Springs Convention Center and everyone was invited to attend.

Richard Drilling advised the Board of the filing of HB1610, which is a GIF bill in the amount of \$30 million, for all fire departments. He reminded everyone to keep in mind that it is unknown at what level it will actually be funded at.

MOTION made to adjourn.