**Arkansas Fire Protection Services Board**

Minutes from June 26, 2014

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

Members Present:

John Blackburn, AFC David Dayringer , AAFC Chad Mosby, APFF

Larry Brewer, ASFFA Tim Grimes, APFF Rachel Nix, AFTA (ex officio)

Stacey Caplener , AAFC Chris Jones, ASFFA Tim Stuckey, AAFC

Michael Cossey, APFF JP Jordan, AAFC Jim Tolewitzke, ASFFA

Shane Dallas, ASFFA David Kirkpatrick, ARVFA Lindsey Williams, AFMO (ex officio)

Bob Davis

Members Absent:

David Maxwell, ADEM (ex officio) Rob Medford, APFF Fred Taylor, ARVFA

Reporting Guests:

Amanda Gibson, AG Office Ed Jaros, APFF

Kendell Snyder, ADEM-Fire Office Roger Smith, Legislative Rep

Meeting called to order by Chairman JP Jordan.

Chairman Jordan welcomed all members and guests to the meeting and introduced the new Board members: Michael Cossey and Tim Grimes, both representing the Arkansas Professional Fire Fighters, Chief David Dayringer, Arkansas Association of Fire Chiefs and Captain Lindsey Williams, State Fire Marshal. **MOTION:** to approve the minutes was made by Chad Mosby. Second was made by Larry Brewer. Motion was approved.

DFA REPORT:

Richard Drilling was absent so Kendell Snyder gave this report. On Act 833, the 3rd quarter distributions are going out today and over $4 million has been distributed so far this year. The White County lawsuit dealing with Act 833 distributions has been settled and funds for the past 2 years are being processed for the FDs that are certified.

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

Kendell Snyder informed the Board that 250 fire departments have been certified this quarter and 200 were certified last quarter. There are 6 applications waiting for corrections. There are 2 new fire departments in the State: Tonitown Municipal and Cedarville Municipal Fire Departments. Both areas were previously covered by rural departments. Snyder reported that spot checks were performed in Clark County this quarter on 3 fire departments. Two FDs were good and one FD had some corrections. And a site visit was performed at Cotter FD and Snyder did gave presentations at 2 conferences this quarter.

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION:

John Blackburn advised that March to June the following items have been acquired by the AFC: 22 tanker trucks valued at $2.7 million, AFC has put out 33 trucks valued at $3.9 million, 19 brush trucks valued at $326,000 and put out 9 valued at $209,000, 5 generators valued at $73,000, and various warehouse items valued at $2.6 million. The AFC has taught the 8 hour wildland course over 27 times, with 247 VFDs represented and 1699 firefighters in attendance. The AFC has given 5 interest-free loans for a total of $73,000. The position of Rural Fire Service Coordinator is vacant and being advertised at this time. And about 300 attended the Fire Boat School that was recently held and the VFA grant proposals are submitted and approved and will be sent out to the districts in July.

ARKANSAS FIRE TRAINING ACADEMY:

Director Rachel Nix reported that the AFG grant proposal is still in the process for a tune of $500,000. And the IFSTA site visit is scheduled for March-April 2015.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chairman Jordan reports that the Uniform Fire Department Insurance Billing Reimbursement Form is still in old business. This issue was created because of Act 1345 of 2013. This is uniform billing form that all Arkansas fire departments will use to submit insurance companies for billing purposes. Chad Mosby states that it is the Board’s duty to put out the rules and the form to the FDs and suggests that the rates be removed from the form. Roger Smith gave a briefing on the intent of this piece of legislation. Act 1345 of 2013 intended to: 1) raise reimbursement from $800 to $1000 for fires, not other incidents, 2) replacing expendable items at accidents at 100%, and 3) create a uniformed approach from the Arkansas fire service for billing insurance companies. There was extensive discussion on the topic of Act 1345 of 2013. Jim Tolewitzke made **MOTION:** to adopt the form presented as a working form with necessary changes by the Board and to be reviewed annually. Second was made by Chris Jones. Discussion by: Tim Stuckey about some modifications at the top section, Chad Mosby about some modifications and David Dayringer about adding the FEMA cost schedule. Chairman Jordan called for vote: 5 in favor (Jones, Brewer, Caplener, Dallas, Tolewitzke) and 8 against (Mosby, Dayringer, Cossey, Stuckey, Grimes, Jordan, Blackburn, Kirkpatrick). This motion failed to pass. Chad Mosby made **MOTION:** to refer the redevelopment of this form to a new committee to create and present at the next meeting. Second was made by Tim Grimes. Motion was approved. Chairman Jordan appointed Chad Mosby, Michael Cossey and David Dayringer to this new committee, with Mosby as chairman.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Jordan informed the Board of an issue at Cotter Municipal FD and recognized Kendell Snyder and Rachel Nix to explain situation. They reported that they were contacted about a year ago by the Baxter Bulletin about possible falsification of documents within the Cotter Municipal FD and Snyder and Nix performed a site visit. The issue at hand is whether or not a class actually took place or if training documents were falsified. There is an attendance form that some on the form say yes, the class did happen and some on the attendance form said that the class did not take place. And the person signed as instructor also said that he did not instruct the class or sign the document. Snyder states that he found sufficient training records to comply with the Act 833 certification requirements at the Cotter Municipal FD. Nix said that there are 3 classes (PPE, Hoisting, and Ladders) that the instructor said he did not teach the classes nor send in the class forms. And several students state that they received certificates and did not attend the classes. But several other students state they did receive certificates and they did attend the classes. Director Nix advises that the best decision she can make is to pull the certificates of the ones that state that they did not attend the classes. It was also reported that the City Attorney performed an investigation of the incident and reported no finding of wrong doing. Tim Stuckey made **MOTION:** to support Director Nix’s decision in the matter. Second was made by Larry Brewer. Motion was approved.

David Dayringer informed the Board about Presumptive Cancer. The Fayetteville City Council passed support for a shell bill to be filed in the 2015 Legislative Session addressing “Presumptive Cancer” by Representative Leding. “The purpose of this act is to create a presumption that firefighters who develop certain forms of cancer, developed those cancers through their work as firefighters.” Dayringer also reported that Senator John Woods is working on a Mental Health bill that would require recognition mental injury in the absence of physical injury for law enforcement, firefighters and medical responders.

Kendell Snyder reported on proposed legislation that amends 14-20-108 by Representative Hammer to address the collection of dues for volunteer fire departments.

Chairman Jordan states that the representation of the Arkansas Fire Protection Services Board, by Act 1256 of 2013, is as follows: 4 members representing the Arkansas Association of Fire Chiefs (Caplener, Jordan, Stuckey, Dayringer), 4 members representing the Arkansas State Fire Fighters Association (Tolewitzke, Brewer, Jones, Dallas), 4 members representing the Arkansas Professional Fire Fighters (Mosby, Medford, Grimes, Cossey), 2 members representing the Arkansas Rural & Volunteer Firefighters (Taylor, Kirkpatrick), 1 member representing the Arkansas Forestry Commission (Blackburn) and 3 members as ex officio (Arkansas Fire Training Academy Director-Rachel Nix, Arkansas Department of Emergency Management Director or designee-David Maxwell and the Arkansas State Fire Marshal or designee-Lindsey Williams). Chad Mosby made **MOTION:** for the Chairman of this Board to draft a letter to the Attorney General’s office for clarification on Act 1256 of 2013 as to the changes in positions. Second was made by Stacey Caplener. Motion was approved.

Tim Stuckey explained First Net to the Board and asked for help in completing paperwork to help build this system. Captain Lindsey Williams expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve on the Board.

David Dayringer informed the Board that CPAT is in use now in Northwest Arkansas. Ed Jaros explained that the CPAT system will be set up in the vendor hall of the Joint Fire Convention this week for everyone to review and reviewed the CPAT process for the Board.

Ed Jaros also reported that the City of Little Rock is working with the Department of Veteran’s Affairs where certain training can be paid for by the new post 911 GI Bill, which includes trade schools and fire academy. They are looking at the AFTA to get VA certified for veterans to get GI Bill funding.

Chairman Jordan announced that North Little Rock Fire Chief Bob Mauldin will be retiring this week so everyone congratulate him when you see him.

Director Nix announced this year’s recipients of the AFTA’s Charles Butler award: Ed Jaros, Wade Marshal, Greg Gray and Bob Mauldin.

**MOTION** made to adjourn and seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed.