**Arkansas Fire Protection Services Board**

Minutes from December 10, 2014

Meeting held at Arkansas Department of Emergency Management in North Little Rock, 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 Jimmy Sullivent, ARVFA

Shane Dallas, ASFFA Rob Medford, APFF Jim Tolewitzke, ASFFA

Members Absent:

David Kirkpatrick, ARVFA David Maxwell, ADEM (ex officio) Lindsey Williams, AFMO (ex officio)

Reporting Guests:

Amanda Gibson, AG Office Richard Drilling, DF&A

Kendell Snyder, ADEM-Fire Office

Meeting called to order by Chairman JP Jordan.

Chairman Jordan welcomed all members and guests to the meeting. **MOTION:** to approve the minutes was made by Chad Mosby. Second was made by Larry Brewer. Motion was approved.

DFA REPORT:

Richard Drilling asked the Board for assistance in making contact with FDs to finalize getting information for Act 833 application. The deadline for corrections is set for December 15. He asked for Board to help make contact with these FDs to ensure they get their Act 833 funds. The program guidelines state that FDs have 15 days to get corrected information turned in. Drilling also announced that the December 2015 meeting, next year, will be his last meeting because he is retiring at the end of 2015. Also due to new transparency laws, changes may be made in the way some checks are issued to counties for rural volunteer fire departments.

ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:

Kendell Snyder reports that 250 fire departments were certified this quarter. He has another 35 waiting for information from the FDs to be corrected. Site visits are performed for FDs that have been out of the Act 833 programs for 2 or more years. This quarter, site visits were performed at Snowball RVFD in Searcy County for reconciliation, Branch FD in Franklin County for recertification, and Highway 94 East FD in Benton County for recertification. Snyder also participated in an Act 833 workshop in Faulkner County and attended an Autism Awareness for First Responders training in Malvern by Lt Chris Gaines.

ARKANSAS FORESTRY COMMISSION:

John Blackburn introduced Mr. Don McBride, Assistant State Forester with Arkansas Forestry Commission. Blackburn presented report on incoming property and warehouse equipment from federal excess. From October – present, AFC has obtained 1125 items, including tires, navigational lights, search lights, and spill kits. AFC has also obtained 12 Freightliners for tanker trucks, valued at $1,393,000. The total incoming property is valued at $1,718,000. Outgoing property, property that has been distributed to local FDs, include: 12 Freightliners, 6 brush trucks, service trucks, valued at $1,783,000. AFC also offers the 8 hour Wild land Fire course and provided 12 classes to 124 VFDs and 322 students. And AFC provides an interest-free loan and processed 2 loans for a total of $21,900. They are also working on the Wildfire Volunteer Fire Grant program and the annual Fire Show in October in Greenbrier was a success and had a good crowd in attendance.

ARKANSAS FIRE TRAINING ACADEMY:

Director Rachel Nix informed that AFTA just received part of the AFG grant award funds to purchase 41 sets of turnout gear and 41 self-contained breathing apparatuses. The AFTA will also be able to purchase auto extrication equipment. The AFTA Training Committee has not met yet due to the AFTA’s IFSTA accreditation process preparation. The latest Rookie school class graduates on Friday. It started with 34 students and has 27 students graduating. And overall, there is positive feedback about the chapter-based curriculum training. There are several questions pertaining to training at this time. Caplener asked the Board that since Sen. Wyatt has stepped down, do we have a plan to continue to push for new dorms? Dayringer asked Nix why do you think the pass rate was better for this class and Nix responded that she was unsure but it could just be this group of students. Cossey stated that the AFTA has 2 different types of students, Rookie School students and Chief Officer students. He asked if we should consider different style housing in the new dorm? Medford asked if the AFTA is paying rent to SAU-Tech for the use of the existing dorms and Nix answered no, not at this time and before the rent is set, someone will come before the Board to present it. Grimes asked why the Rookie School fail rate is so high and Nix answered that she believes the students are unprepared for the process when they get there. Mosby asked if the CPAT system would help in preparing students for Rookie School? Nix reported that the EMT program is back up and running for a year now. They are considering offering a night EMT school on campus. And AFTA is accepting applications for an on-campus instructor for Standards class.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chairman Jordan gave an update on the Universal Reimbursement Form. We have done our part on the form. Jordan has called Legislative Research and they verified it has been received by them. The form and rules are all sent in, it has been advertised in the newspaper, we are about to do public comment and it is on the list for the next available committee meeting. We have completed all of our requirements. There was general discussion on the issue.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Jordan made the official announcement opening the Public Comment Period for the Universal Insurance Reimbursement form and process. There was one speaker who made positive comments in support of the form. With no other speakers present, the Public Comment Period was closed.

Kendell Snyder informed the Board on an issue in White County with distributing 2013 and 2014 Act 833 funds. In 2013 no funding was distributed due to a pending lawsuit. All White County FDs but West Point FD submitted paperwork for Act 833 certification. In 2014, the lawsuit was settled and funding began to be distributed as of June 2014. In 2014, Rocky Point FD lost membership to a level below the minimum of 6 to qualify for Act 833. They were certified for 2013 but not for 2014. **MOTION**: by Shane Dallas to pay Rocky Point FD at current distribution schedule for 2013 certification and to withhold any excess payments to FDs for moneys paid in error. Second was made by Tim Grimes. All in favor.

Kendell Snyder distributed the 2015 Act 833 Funding Guidance and Requirements packet for Board review and approval. There was discussion about a change in proving the FDs carry forward/allocated funds amount when it exceeds $1000. General consensus was to delay any changes on this issue and research further.

Kendell Snyder also reported that the ADEM IT Department is working on a database where FDs can complete the Act 833 forms on-line and where some of the department-specific data will auto-populate and the math will auto-calculate. This will make the completion of the paperwork easier for the FDs by the system providing carry-over amounts and performing the calculations and placing the amounts on the proper lines. Hopefully this will be ready for roll-out in the first quarter of 2015. There were minor changes made to the guidance. **MOTION**: by Chad Mosby to approve the 2015 Act 833 Funding Guidance and Requirements packet with minor changes discussed. Second was made by Rob Medford. All in favor.

Chairman Jordan reported the Arkansas Fire Protection Services Board meeting schedule for 2015 and it is as follows:

March 10, 2015 1000 Arkansas Department of Emergency Management North Little Rock

June 25, 2015 1000 Hot Springs Convention Center Hot Springs

September 9, 2015 1000 Arkansas Fire Training Academy Camden

December 9, 2015 1000 Arkansas Department of Emergency Management North Little Rock

Shane Dallas announced that the 2015 Annual Memorial Service at the Arkansas Fallen Firefighters’ Memorial will be held on Saturday, March 28, 2015 at 1300 at the Memorial site at the State Capital in Little Rock.

Chairman Jordan lead the annual election of officers for the AFPSB and they are as follows:

Secretary Michael Cossey Nominated by Shane Dallas Seconded by Chad Mosby

Vice-Chair David Dayringer Nominated by Chad Mosby Seconded by Jimmy Sullivant

Chairman JP Jordan Nominated by Stacey Caplener Seconded by Tim Stuckey