Meeting called to order at 1900 by Chair Jeremy Walla.


Guests in attendance: Alan Anderson, Whispering Pines VFD; Michael Cosand, Sr.; Jamie Cromwell, North Haines VFD; Chris Gleason, Box Elder VFD; Denny Gorton, North Haines VFD; Damon Hartmann, Doty VFD; Bruce Jensen, Whispering Pines VFD; Kurt Klunder, Black Hawk VFD; Adam Kuenkel, Box Elder VFD; Jon Oberlander, New Underwood VFD; Phil Schrief, Silver City VFD; Howard Schrier, Hill City VFD; Richard Small, North Haines VFD; Matt Thompson, North Haines VFD; Jason White, North Haines VFD. Staff in attendance: Pepper Massey.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL: (see above)

PUBLIC COMMENT: Nothing brought forth.

AGENDA:
Motion to approve 14 February 2019 agenda by Willett, Bubb second. Motion carried.

MINUTES:
Motion to approve 17 January 2019 minutes by Willett, Bubb second. Motion carried.

BUDGET REPORT:
Motion to approve budget by Willett, Bubb second. Motion carried.

INTRODUCTIONS

Walla introduced Commissioner Rossknecht, newly appointed to the FSB. Rossknecht gave a brief personal/professional history; thanked everyone who participated in the search for Serenity Dennard, and for all that the Fire Service Board does in support of the county as a whole.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. FSB Training – Kuenkel reported structural training classes are going well and attendance has been good. Klunder stated BH Wildland Interagency Training is confirmed for May 17-18, still believes registration will remain affordable, $10-$15 per person, and encourages people to register early, as it will include a nightly social/meal. More info to follow as details become available. White said 161 registrations have been turned in for the 2019 Mid-Winter Muster (www.midwintermuster.com), March 4-10, 2019, at Black Hills State University Center. Walla encouraged early registration to ensure quotas for class size could be met.

B. Emergency Management Users Board – Sortland submitted a report (see attached).

C. Black Hills Fire Advisory Board – Walla noted the original committee has completed its assignment and a new committee will be formed. Please forward your input to Dar Coy, and he will forward to State Wildland. Going forward the agreement will be more fluid. Mob Guide can be updated and amended as needed without sending entire document back to the state in Pierre for review/approval. Once the state approves updates/edits they will be added in as an amendment to the agreement. However, the state is requesting all initial input be provided at the same time and not one at a time, so please review the document and provide thoughts and input ASAP. Discussion regarding how this modification will simplify process, remove additional steps, eliminated long time delays.

D. Pennington County Fire Chiefs Association – White reported Muster and FSB budget were discussed.
a. State Radio – Walla referenced the memo in the FSB meeting packet. The 42-cent tax was declined and Governor Noem has requested funding be provided through an annual appropriations process for the systems “back bone”. Attendees were asked to write, email and call their legislators to advocate for funding. Gorton said currently there are 23,303 radios and 1,400 talk groups statewide on the system. Pennington County Fire has 19 fire departments, in 2018 we were the third busiest user of the County owned and operated Radio Shop. Also, if you are purchasing new radios for your departments today, at some point between now and 2023 you will need to reprogram them. Walla and Carlson attended the last South Dakota Public Safety Communications Council and noted there are 9-11 law enforcement agencies on the Council, but only one fire representative. The South Dakota Fire Chiefs Association is working through Governor’s office to ask that a Fire Chiefs Association representative be added to the committee. Willett reported he had attended a meeting in Pierre recently and learned the state is putting an encryption committee together, and the Sate OEM office may be a funding resource for counties who need to get radios encrypted. Hofer requested a thank you letter on behalf of the FSB be sent to the Governor for her support on this issue

OLD BUSINESS

A. Mutual Aid Agreement Committee Report – Walla said they received input and made minor house-keeping edits to the agreement, but the basic premise remains the same. **Motion to adopt the Mutual Aid Agreement by Maude, Willett second. Motion carried.**

B. City | County Meeting’s:

a. Meade County Fire Association – Hofer reported they are working on the state radio issue and looking for funding. Next meeting February 28th, 2019, 1900 at the Sturgis Fire Station.

b. Custer County Fire Advisory Board – Harvey reported they are continuing to standardize dispatching and using the same basic codes as Pennington County; and a committee has been formed to address the $500,000 supplement to the budget.

c. Lawrence County Fire Chiefs Association – No report.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Cascade BOP – Walla said the BOP is still be worked on.

B. Fire Tax District Levy Request – Harvey advised that the PennCo Auditors office will be issuing reminder letters shortly and asked departments in tax districts to watch for them and insure the tax district receives the letter and acts on it as soon as practical to avoid a last-minute rush.

C. FSB Annual Budget Discussion – Walla advised the budget committed is working on 2020 budget as well as a 5-year budget. Noted budget documents in the meeting packet were created to provide more transparency, allowing the FSB to understand where funds are allocated and were they are spent. This will improve the ability of FSB to see a true picture of where funding is needed. Kuenkel questioned why training funding has been cut and if instructors will continue to be compensated. Walla explained it was due to overall budget cuts that are reflected in several line items, and a bigger discussion on how to continue to prioritize training needs to happen. Maude asked it there could be more flexibility on how 5-year Plan funding could be spent to meet the diverse needs of departments. Walla said the funding was initially created to keep firefighters safe and not supplement department budgets; and noted that some of the answers to these questions will come forward as we work through the 2020 budget process.
D. Commission Report – Rossknecht commented he would spend time learning FSB needs and understanding the budget and why it fluctuates.

E. Emergency Management Report – Willett reported he had been busy meeting with municipalities in the community regarding the Mitigation Plan. Pennco EM is a part of interagency cooperation effort in the Serenity Dennard search, providing necessary resources – organized portable cell tower through FirstNet, dog teams, travel, meals, and accommodations for handlers, etc. He applauded all the volunteer firefighters, at home and in the field, who had supported the search.

NEW REQUESTS
REQUESTS TO BE ACTED ON

A. Black Hawk Funding Request – Klunder noted training needs of volunteer firefighters has changed and 93% of their calls are medical related and believes EMR training is necessary. He has nine (9) people already interested in taking the training. As a point of order Kobes stated this was not an emergency request and needed to be tabled until the March FSB meeting.

NEXT MEETING: March 13, 2019, 1900 – Black Hawk VFD, 6010 Peaceful Pines Road, Black Hawk

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn by Bubb, second by Willett. Motion carried.
Jeremy,

Since I am out of town for the next FSB meeting here is a brief run-down of the EM Users Board.

The Back-Up EOC location is pretty much set up at Camp Rapid and ready for use. Just a few little minor things to get everything completed.

EM has been looking at a Duty Officer program in the case that he and Alexa are both out of town at the same time. Which is very rare. This would allow the duty officer to send out any messages that are normally send out VIA the EM Office and other duties as needed.

Discussion was had on the last POD (point of Dispersing) Exercise that was done. 211 Shots were given for flu and plans were to hold another one as they wanted more folks to completely use up all vials.

Dustin will be giving a 402 class, sometime in the near future, for newly elected officials. This is an ICS course designed to educate elected officials on their roles during massive emergencies.

Just a Reminder the HLS (Homeland Security Grant) will be closing soon and to submit your request right away. Closing is the 15th and needs to be done by 4PM MST.

Thanks

Gary