FIRE SERVICE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday 15 April 2020 ~ Pennington County Commission Chambers/Video Conference

1) Meeting called to order at 1900 by Chair Cliff McClure.

Board Members and Representatives in attendance: Ray Bubb, Nick Carlson, Craig Comer, Jeremy Dalman, Gabe Doney, Caleb Dustman, Deb Hadcock, *Jerome Harvey, Tim Kobes, Dave Lindblom, Charles Maude, Cliff McClure, Gary Sortland, Dustin Willett

Guests in attendance: Damon Hartmann, Doty VFD; Daphnee Vieux, News Center 1; Jeremy Walla, Whispering Pines VFD

2) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3) ROLL CALL: (See above)

4) PUBLIC COMMENTS: Nothing brought forth.

5) APPROVE PROPOSED AGENDA: Motion to approve 15 April agenda by Willett, Dustman second. Roll Call vote passed.

6) APPROVE DRAFT MINUTES: Minutes should reflect meeting was held at Doty VFD, not EOC. Motion to approve 11 March 2020 minutes with requested change by Kobes, Dalman second. Roll Call vote passed.

7) APPROVE FINANCIALS: Motion to approve March financials by Kobes, Sortland second. Roll Call vote passed.


8) COMMITTEE REPORTS

   A) FSB Training – S130 and S190 courses completed written and the field day will be completed once clear to do so. Looking at putting on a FADO class utilizing video conferencing around June 1st, anyone interested should contact Adam Kuenkel.

   B) EM USERS BOARD – Next meeting scheduled 17 April.

   C) BH Fire Advisory Board – No report.

   D) Pennington County Fire Chiefs Association – No report.

   E) SD Public Safety Communications Council – Carlson reported that they are unsure the funds set aside by the Governor for radio system will remain in place.

   F) SD Fire Chiefs Association – Walla reported they are holding weekly meetings on Wednesday’s at 1400 hours via videoconferencing. If you wish to participate make sure your email is given to t Brent Long at Rapid City Fire Department. Walla sated that information is out on a Google drive and can be accessed to get current information. Willet asked about a Statewide Burn Ban. Walla commented that it is an issue basically right now East River and that the Association is looking into asking the Governor to put this Ban in place. Comments from other members was that it would be best coming from the County’s themselves rather than from the Governor.

9) OLD BUSINESS

   A) City | County Meetings:

   i) Meade County Fire Association – No report.
ii) Custer County Fire Advisory Board – No report.

iii) Lawrence County Fire Chiefs Association – No report.

B) Legislative Update – McClure reported that items the group worked on this year were signed by the Governor. Walla commented that the same group and others need to begin preparing to work together in the 2021 Legislative session now.

10) NEW BUSINESS

A) Budget Update – *Motion to approve budget reduction as proposed by Kobes, Maude second, open for discussion*: Harvey commented on the 10% budget reduction that was requested by the County Commissioners for ALL departments. Lindblom asked if the money that is going away in this proposal would be available if the tax revenue comes thus providing the funds. Hadcock stated that at this tie not sure buy any money left over goes into reserves and the Fire Service Board can request those funds at that time. Kobes asked Hadcock if this was the worst-case scenario. Hadcock replied that this is a starting point because the Commissioners wish to get the reserves back to the 20% level. Willett added that this starting point of 10% across the board is in lieu of the expected shortfall in tax revenue and that there may e additional cuts coming. Harvey added that the COVID Family First Act could allow our Admin Assistant up to 12 weeks off, her salary needs to be covered. *Roll Call vote passed.*

*Motion to restart the Five-Year Plan calendar once we get through this pandemic and funds are available again by Dustman, Kobes second. Roll Call vote passed.*

B) Commissioners Report – Hadcock reported on the Governor’s report and COVID-19 status along with the Smithfield Foods in Sioux Falls raised the total in South Dakota dramatically. Also, a group of individuals are looking at putting a legal case against Rapid City for not having the authority to close businesses. Also, the Governor is not going to close our borders and that Representative Dusty Johnson is working on getting funds available to assist small businesses. Pennington County has offered to assist other communities and that the County did not issue a shutdown but put in place a Resolution that allows them to if it gets worse. Food assistance is available weekly at the Fairgrounds.

C) Emergency Management Report – Willett reported the EOC was up and running. An Emergency Shelter is being setup for sick, homeless individuals, and he is looking for anyone willing to open a Task Book to fill some of the positions to operate this Shelter (get more info from Willett). Kobes asked about the Governor’s statement of having the National Guard setting up a hospital. Willett stated that the hospital would be setup at Camp Rapid with an additional 100 beds available at Monument Hospital, with Monument Hospital caring for high-acuity COVID positive patients and the Guard Camp Hospital serving lower-acuity non-COVID-19 patients in order to decompress the primary Monument facility. Governor’s Office is thinking they will have 5000 beds and 1300 ventilators available across the State. Governor also stated that North Dakota and South Dakota will be trial states in using a medication given to malaria patients as a treatment for COVID-19. Comer asked Carlson how the ambulances in the County would be affected? Carlson stated, at this point in time, the Rapid City units transport patients to other care facilities and if needed at that time outlaying ambulances may be asked to assist with day to day responses to Monument Hospital.

11) NEW REQUESTS

A) County Fire Fund Request – Five-Year Plan, Battle Creek Fire District – ON HOLD.
B) County Fire Fund Request – Five-Year Plan, Doty VFD – ON HOLD.

12) REQUESTS TO BE ACTED ON

13) OTHER BUSINESS

14) NEXT MEETING: 13 May 2020, 1900 | Rapid City Fire Department, Rapid City – Will probably be another videoconference meeting to pay bills and pass on updated information.

15) ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn at 1950 by Kobes, Sortland second. Motion carried.