



MSFCA

Meeting Minutes Montana State Fire Chiefs Association Board Meeting Teleconference

Wednesday, February 7, 2009, 10:30 am MST

Called to order by Chairperson Rich Cowger at 10:33 am MST.

ROLL CALL

Career Chiefs' Section

- Steve Larson
- Jeff Miller
- Jason Shrauger, 2nd V.C

Combination Chiefs' Section

- Rich Cowger, Chairperson
- Tom Kuntz
- Brett Waters

Volunteer Chiefs' Section

- Leonard Lundby, Vice Chairperson
- Kraig Hansen
- Bruce Charles

Ex-Officio: Ted Mead

Staff: Jen Winans and Jessica Heintz

CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Tom Kuntz seconded by Steve Larsen to approve the Board Meeting Minutes dated 2-17-2010 and financials dated February 28, 2010. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

MSFCA Position on Interoperability – Moved to April Board Meeting

Eastgate License Plates Status – Board representatives met with Chief Mergenthaler; had productive conversation regarding license plate funds. No additional action by Board needed at this time. Any agreements will be done in writing.

Accountability for MMA FEMA funds – Discussion by the Board on accountability; no money changing hands yet. The IAFC is printing books that are supposed to be available at the next MMA meeting.

Strategic Plan Update – Moved to April Board Meeting

Letter to Memorial Committee – **Moved by Tom Kuntz seconded by Leonard Lundby to approve letter to Memorial Committee with suggested change of removing the wording of Board member and replacing with a representative selected by the Board. Motion passed.**

Mutual Aid Frequencies – Working group will be assembled to review book. Four MSFCA Board members will be in attendance. Location TBD.

NEW BUSINESS

Bookstore Proposal – The WFCFA Fire Service Bookstore has extended an offer to merge with the MSFCA Bookstore. WFCFA would begin by looking at MSFCA's inventory; WFCFA would then formally propose a dollar amount for current purchase rates on resalable titles in MSFCA's inventory. As of December 31, 2009 the MSFCA Bookstore had \$6,000 in accounts payable and \$6,000 on credit. Board questions whether the \$21,000 in inventory asset is owned by MSFCA and what portion is resalable. Board Chairperson will speak with Curt Petrik about the WFCFA Fire Service Bookstore proposal.

Legislative Meeting – Helena, March 12th at the Montana State Firemen's Associations house (as of March 4th moved to Helena Fire Station One, Conference Room, 11:00 am). Purpose of the meeting is to receive input from the various Fire Service organizations. The

goals will be to have an open discussion regarding legislative issues, to find common ground in order to lead the Montana Fire Service with one voice, [and to not do damage to each other if and when we disagree](#). The MSFCA Board has offered to find a larger space for the meeting and coordinate lunch service.

SECTION/BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Career Chiefs' Section – Still need to have discussion with Fire Marshals group, re: Mid-Winter Meeting discussion.

Combination Chiefs' Section –Tom Kuntz's fire district is looking to add an ambulance district. In the process Tom is discovering there are some issues with the way the laws for fire districts are written. Would like MSFCA to entertain the idea of modifying the laws which may clear-up the process and could allow a district a per house EMS assessment. Kuntz will bring language to next meeting for discussion.

Volunteer Chiefs' Section – Montana PERS is doing a rewrite of the Volunteers Compensation Act. Meeting is Monday, March 8th in Helena from 1-4 pm. Documents will be sent out to the Board. Issues with PERS and volunteer retirement will be brought up at the meeting. Hope is to fix things without going to Legislature, but will if necessary.

County Co-op Engine Liability – Environmental Quality Control meeting this week in Helena. Bob Harrington, DNRC Forestry Division Administrator, will be attending. Portion of discussion will focus on fire suppression. Fire Wardens will be attending and plan to raise the question regarding the needs the County Co-op Engines.

STAFF REPORT

Request made for interested Board Members to join the Conference Committee which will begin planning the 2011 Chiefs conference. Hope is to begin promotion at the Alliance Conference.

Next Board Teleconference: 7 April 2010, 10:30am MST

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 11:32 am MST.

Respectfully submitted,
Jen Winans, Administrative Staff