



ALASKA FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION

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MINUTES Spring Conference 2010 February 10, 2010

CALL TO ORDER: President Jeff Tucker called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. President Tucker thanked International Code Council for their support of the legislative reception last evening, which was sponsored by both ICC and AFCA. President Tucker reviewed the agenda with the membership.

Mark Drygas, President of the Alaska Firefighters Professional Association. Our members respond to 90% of the fire calls in the state. Mark is a Battalion Chief with Fairbanks Fire Department. One bill we are working hard on is the PERS Gap bill. Two years ago we had a presentation put on by PERS in the FFD for public safety employees. We found out there is a gap in there. If you are PERS 2 or 3 if you are disabled on the job you receive workers comp until you reach our normal retirement date; then you are retired out of the system. If you are injured on the job and reach your normal retirement date you are retired out of the system. What happens with ff, public safety, police, if you are injured in line of duty and have 19 years of service you receive workers comp until you reach 20 years; if you got injured line of duty on our 26th year you go to direct retirement and you will not receive health insurance for you and your family until you are fully retired at the age of 62. HB87 and Senate Bill 79 will correct this GAP. No cost to the municipalities, the state would be picking up the tab. Make it known to your legislators we support these bills (HB87 and SB79)

Introductions and Roll Call: Kraig Stevenson, ICC; George Keeney, Jodie Hettrick, Matthew Johnson, Jack Smith, James Steele, Benny Cottle, Mitch Flynn, Rob Borland, Jack Willard, John McNutt, Mahlon Green, Buddy Lane, Bob Ciccarella, Mark Beals, Betty Svensson, Jeff Tucker, Rocky Ansell, Crosby Grindle, Warren Cummings, Scott Learned, Jim Styers, Brian Long, Jason Elson, James Baisden, Gordon Orth, Mike Chihuly, Doug Schrage, Scott Davis, Tom Kurth, Bruce Bartley, Eric Mohrmann, Dave Tyler, Beth Weldon, Dan Jaeger, Rich Etheridge, John George, Gordon Descutner, Susan Sanborn

Business Meeting called to order at 8:54 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda as presented made by Warren Cummings, second by Scott Learned. Motion carries.

Reading and Approval of Minutes of January 7, 2010: Motion to approve the minutes as presented made by Warren Cummings, second by Rocky Ansell. Motion carries.

Reports of Officers and Standing Committees:

- a. Treasurer Report: Secretary/Treasurer Susan Sanborn reported we currently have \$25,539.18 in operating checking account. Received \$1,303 from the Fire Service Bookstore for the last quarter of 2009. \$5,209.36 in the gaming account.
- b. President's Report: Jeff Tucker
Legislative Priorities: Sponsor legislation to outlaw novelty cigarette lighters. Residential Sprinkler Legislation SB129, HB202 – an act relating to municipal building code requirements for fire sprinkler systems in certain residential buildings – Senator Paskavan is in charge of this bill. We are not opposing residential sprinklers; we are opposed to the process when we already have a system in place. ALMR funding – working on making representatives understand our fair share is buying the radios and the state needs to pick up the cost for using these radios. Capital funding for fire departments in Alaska. Looks like there will be money for capital projects this year. We support capital funding for the fire service. Support the funding of the State “Code Blue” EMS grant program. Funding for the “Code Blue” grant was left out of the Governor’s budget and we are supporting the EMS services efforts in having this funding reinstated. This was not intentional, but was an error that it was left out. We need to support having the Code Blue EMS grant program put back in the budget. EMS Radio Legacy System – We need to support reinstating the funding for the EMS Legacy system.

LOCAL CHIEFS ASSOCIATIONS UPDATE: Mike Jenkins is here from Gakona Fire Department who is the Acting President of the Copper Valley Fire Chiefs Association. Who is the new fire chief in Skagway? Who is the new fire chief in Haines? Who is the new fire chief in Cordova? We have holes in our membership right now. We need to do an outreach and fill these gaps. President Jeff Tucker assigned James Baisden will take up this challenge.

President Tucker discussed how important Code Blue, capital funding, etc., is to the small rural fire departments to survive or there only means to obtain new equipment, as the funding is not in their budget.

Warren Cummings talked about the Western Fire Chiefs Association and the Daily Dispatch; cards on tables to sign up for the Daily Dispatch which is very informative; you can advertise on the Daily Dispatch for jobs or surplus equipment. Fire Rescue GPO – Crosby took off his NFPA hat and put on his old hat of WFCA. Ready to complete an SCBA RFP bid process where you can piggy back off another department – real advantage of GPO for time saving benefits. Sprint is available to all fire chiefs in Alaska and gives a great discount. www.firerescue.gpo.com registers for these contracts and discounts. Warren Cummings advised Corporate Express is now Staples and we get a significant discount on office supplies. Fire Service Book Store – Royalties from the Fire Service Book Store to AFCA amounted to approximately \$10,000 because you are buying your books through the Fire Service Book Store. Grants: Three other grants awarded under Fire Act Grant – Fairbanks received two grants, Palmer received one and Sitka received one. SAFER Grant – 6 awarded in Alaska for one million 4; Fire Prevention Safety Grant – only one awarded last year and that was to North Star Volunteer Fire Department.

Jodie Hettrick advised they are supplying specific training to rural fire departments on grant writing. If you want this training or workshop in your community, please let Jodie Hettrick know.

Lighthouse Uniform has chin straps for hats with commemorative striping in memory of 9-1-1. There will be a link on AFCA's web site to obtain these chinstraps. Cost per chin strap is \$10 each with \$5 being donated back to AFCA. Visit our web site at www.alaskafirechiefs.org

Two proposals to put in for legislative capital budget request for Alaska Fire Chiefs Association for the Fairbanks Conference 2011.

Request for training funding through Department of Commerce Designated Legislative Grant program for Fairbanks Conference 2011 in Fairbanks. Total project is \$136,353 and AFCA would be asking for \$50,000 from the state. Motion to proceed with this funding request of \$50,000 for training at the Fairbanks Conference 2011 made by George Keeney, second by James Steele. Motion carries.

Marine Shipboard firefighting for land-based firefighters grant request to do a two-day seminar; total funds requested is \$ 127,000. AFCA would be submitting a bid for this legislative grant and would manage the grant, as well as administrative costs to the grant. Motion to approve AFCA moving forward with putting in a bid for Marine Firefighting for Land-Based firefighters training made by Buddy Lane, second by Eric Mohrmann. Discussion followed. Motion carries.

GOOD OF THE ORDER: Doug Schrage received an urgent request from the DC fire department; they need fire chains for their ambulances – in a blizzard situation. Sue Sanborn to forward request to the AFCA email list.

Break – sponsored by L.N. Curtis. Thank you L.N. Curtis.

Business meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m. Will reconvene tomorrow morning.

Thursday, February 11, 2010

President Jeff Tucker called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

ROLL CALL: Mark Beals, Jason Elson, Bob Ciccirella, Scott Learned, Warren Cummings, Doug Schrage, Crosby Grindle, Jim Styers, Beth Weldon, John George, Gordon Descutner, Matthew Johnson, Jack Willard, James Steele, Mahlon Greene, Benny Cottle, Jeff Tucker, Rocky Ansell, Betty Svensson, Dave Tyler, Tom Kurth, Dan Jaeger, Beth Weldon, Bob Borland, Mitch Flynn, John McNutt, Bruce Bartley, Orth, James Baisden, Buddy Lane, Susan Sanborn

Kathie Wasserman, Director Alaska Municipal League, talked at length about the "Anti-Corruption Act" and the affects it will have on non-profits, state government and many private businesses.

the "GAG LAW"

This August, on the Alaska primary ballot, an initiative will be voted upon that will be pivotal to AML and many other organizations, as well as the state government and many

private businesses. The initiative is called the “Anti-Corruption Act,” and does absolutely NOTHING to stop corruption.

This initiative has been funded by a wealthy fellow from New York City who has never been to Alaska and probably has no plans to come to Alaska (probably a wise choice). This initiative would make it illegal for public body (for our purposes, council, assembly, commission, school board, etc.) or candidate for any public office to directly or indirectly receive or facilitate the use of tax revenues (public money) for campaigning, lobbying or partisan activity. This includes payment of dues and/or membership fees to any person, league, or association which directly or indirectly engages in lobbying.

Any person, who knowingly spends or receives above funds, shall pay restitution and shall be ineligible to hold public office or employment with the state or any of its political subdivisions for ten years.

Also included in this initiative is language that states that no person may enter into a government contract if that organization employs, hires or retains the services of a current or former legislator or legislative staff member who is less than two years removed from public service. A person who violates this prohibition would be guilty of a misdemeanor. Any business that enters into a contract with the state and/or a political subdivision shall agree to cease making contributions, directly or indirectly, through any officer, employee or immediate family.

A contribution is defined as: a purchase, payment, promise, loan, gift, service, etc. to influence the nomination, election, influencing an initiative, or ballot proposition. Immediate family is defined as: spouse, child, spouse’s child, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, parent, sibling, grandparent, grandchild, step brother, step sister, step parent, parent-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew, guardian and domestic partner (have I missed anyone?).

This initiative is far reaching enough that it will seriously impede most everyone and their “immediate family” from taking part in the political process which is our first amendment right. If your municipality contract with a single individual (as an example) to do your IT services, that person can no longer take part in any political activities. All social services organizations that get public money through grants, loans, or appropriations would no longer be able to lobby (United Way; Big Brothers, Big Sisters; etc.) for any help to either the Legislature or to the municipal government. Tribal governments, the University, social services organizations, unions, Leagues, school districts, municipalities, would all be affected. Municipalities would not be able to employ or contract any lobbyists. They would also lose AML. All capital projects, legislative bills, Revenue Sharing, etc. would be activities that would take place without any input from you! Stay tuned. We have only just begun to fight!

Joel Curtis, NWS Juneau Forecast Office – Gave a very interesting talk on weather and it’s affects on what we do in Alaska. Where to go for assistance and how they can help us during a catastrophic event.

Terry Olliff, State of Alaska EMS Unit Manager

OLD BUSINESS:

President Tucker advised at the 2009 Fall Conference in Anchorage, the membership voted to adopt changes to the constitution and bylaws, which basically condensed and re-defined LIFE membership. These changes need to be voted on again by the membership present. Buddy Lane made a motion to approve the amendment of the bylaws, second by Rocky Ansell. Motion carries.

Fall Conference 2009 Anchorage – Doug Schrage was pleased to report books were closed for the Fall Conference 2009. Thank you to you and your organizations for attending the Anchorage Fall Conference 2009. Chief Schrage stated it was a big accomplishment for him to involve the Anchorage Fire Department with the surrounding communities through the Fall Conference. You can anticipate Anchorage winning the competition in Seward this fall. Dispatch was involved in the conference – they were 1/6th involvement within the conference. Doug Schrage presented a check in the amount of \$18,257.52 as AFCA's portion of proceeds from the Fall Conference. Doug Schrage wanted to thank and acknowledge the vendors, exhibitors and the sponsors for their support because without it we would not be able to put on these conferences.

Seward Fall Conference 2010: Jodie Hettrick advised they met with Seward on their training schedule for the Fall Conference and it is fantastic! Web site should be available soon. Make your hotel reservations early. There will be a host hotel for the Chief's Association where we will host our meetings. As soon as we know which hotel it is, we will let everyone know. It was suggested to bring your motor homes.

2011 Fairbanks Conference: Warren Cummings advised Westmark Hotel has been set aside for the conference; hope to have a lot of information available to you at the Seward Conference.

2011 Spring Conference – Jeff Tucker advised the Spring Conference 2011 will be held the first week in February. February 1 – 4, 2011. Baranof Hotel already confirmed and will be hosting the conference.

2012 Conference: Jeff Tucker advised we talked about a cruise ship; logistics may be too difficult to host it on a cruise ship, so we may be looking for an area to host the 2012 conference.

Congressional Conference in Washington D.C. Those who are attending are: Buddy Lane, Mitch Flynn, Mike Holzmueller, Doug Schrage, Scott Learned, Bob Himes, and Jeff Tucker.

X. Good of the Order

a. Fire and Building Officials Forum to be held March 24 – 27, 2010 in Anchorage, Alaska.

b. Fire Team USA – President Tucker reported that AFCA is a Co-Sponsor of the Fire Team USA Community Fire Protection Workshop. This workshop will be held June 16 & 17, 2010 at the Hilton Hotel in Anchorage, Alaska.

c. WFCFA President's Forum will be held March 18 & 19, 2010 in Waikoloa, Hawaii.

RESOLUTION:

A motion by Mitch Flynn/Doug Schrage was made to adopt Alaska Fire Chiefs Association Resolution 2010-01 "A Resolution Recommending the Creation of an Intrastate Mutual Aid Agreement." Motion passed.

Reports:

Dave Tyler, State Fire Marshal commented that he was impressed with the turnout of this conference and that AFCA should be proud of its evolution as an association. He talked with OMB about capitol projects. Fire Marshal may have a chance to look at projects submitted to OMB. He recommended that a copy of capitol project requests be sent to his office.

Director Tyler reported that he met with Commissioner Masters regarding the Field Training Program for Deputy Fire Marshals (DFM). This would allow DFM's to do fire investigations from start to finish. As it stands right now, once it is determined a crime has been committed, the case is turned over to the Alaska Bureau of Investigations. Once the DFM's are certified they will be able to take on these cases and see them through to completion.

Encouraged participation in the Fire & Building Officials Forum.

Tom Kurth, Division of Forestry reported that last fire season huge. Legislation allows for supplement Funding. Would like to change funding mechanism to include sales of two aircrafts and then reinvest in the purchase of 2 new, faster, safer aircrafts. Intrastate mutual aide encompasses 150 million acres with the bulk of it SOA's responsibility.

Issues include:

- Budget flat line- with no increase in preparedness funds due to access of supplemental funds. Eighty-five percent of forest fires are person caused.
- Recruitment and Retention – There is a high turnover rate. Use of Temp and EFF hires.
- Smoke management – working with legislators as constituents are concerned with particulate problems.
- Streamline Burn Permit Programs – Easier for public to obtain permits to better control dates of burning closures. Debris problem is number one fire starter.
- Cross training with departments
- Replacing Engines on regular basis. Surplus engines go to DOT for auction. These are available to fire departments exclusively for a short period of time (ten days). Some are in very good shape.
- Information dissemination. Emergency information is difficult to get out to the public. Looking into Twitter and Facebook.

Crosby Grindle, National Fire Protection Association commented that it is a pleasure to be working with the AFCA. Alaska is the only stand alone Legislative Conference held of all Western Fire Chief Associations.

NFPA has 80,000 members with 300 employees. Many resources are available to its members including data analysis, a research foundation and technical staff.

Fire loss data for 2008 is now available on their website. Clearly fire problem is in the home.

Fire sprinkler public information resource site is www.firesprinklerinitiative.org. There is a “green” aspect of residential sprinklers and new studies on cost benefits. Smoke Alarm Report of 2009 also available, will be mailed to President Tucker for distribution.

New position in Wild Land Fire Office – 50/50 partner program with Fire Wise.

No data available at this time on Fire Safe Cigs.

NFPA can help with research needs.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Minutes taken by Susan Sanborn/Betty Svensson