

Dixie Firefighters Association

Official Business Meeting Minutes

Elizabethtown Fire Department Station 1

January 26, 2017

Members Present: 32

Guests Present: 2

Officers Attending

X Dale Dobson- President

X Mike Cottrell – Vice President

X Bill Mullins– 2nd Vice President

X Scott Thompson – Secretary

X Steve Sheets– Treasurer

X Froman Peters– Sgt. at Arms

X Present Absence

Meeting Called to Order: by President Dale Dobson 1853 hrs.

Meal Blessing: Chaplin Bill Mullins

Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Sgt. at arms Froman Peters

Presentation of certificate of appreciation:

- Presented to Elizabethtown Fire Department, Chief Mark Malone

Recognitions: Our guests for the evening

- Ronnie Bishop of Fire Department Service and Supply

Secretary's & Treasurer's Report

- Motion to approve Secretary's Report from September 22nd, Motion by Steve Lowery, 2nd by Scott Lawson, motion carried unanimously.
- Motion to approve Secretary's report from November 17th, Motion made by Scott Lawson, 2nd by Steve Lowery, motion carried unanimously.
- Motion to approve Treasurer's Report, Motion made by Chris Crawford, 2nd by Froman Peters, motion carried unanimously

Branch Directors Report

- **Fire:** (Scott Lawson) Fire School season will begin after Green River Officers School which will be Feb. 26, 27, 28th. There has been a lot of recent talk and rumors flying around about the Fire Commission may be moving, there is a senate bill (98) out there for KBEMS to be moved to public affairs, the Fire Commission moving to Homeland Security etc. also possibly moving the Fire Marshals office. Currently it is in the rumor stage at this point. Scott feels that the most likely to happen would be the fire marshals office moving. Fire Commission is moving forward, just purchased a new flashover trailer and in the process of bidding 3 more. Drivers simulators, hopefully by the end of next year we will have 3 new drivers simulators and we will be getting rid of the big one that we currently have. There will be 2 training stations on each of the new ones. The Commission is purchasing 3 new Pump simulators. All the Areas are getting new FLIR Thermal Imaging Cameras. There will be committees forming over the next month to review the possibilities for the smoke maze trailers. Fire Training grants are out, they have been mailed to the departments. State Aid, please make sure all departments are keeping up on their requirements to receive this funding, \$11,000.00 is a lot of money.
- **Industry:** No Report
- **Farm:** (Joe Hart) October last year 3 girls were killed in an incident involving an ATV on the roadway, all were under 16 yrs. Old. Grayson County is cracking down on ATV's on the roadway, actually confiscating them and selling at auction. Last Tuesday an employee at the stockyards in Sonora was injured, found unconscious, not for sure what happened. Out of state, a 3 yr. old child was killed in a grain cart, the community came together to finish the harvest and raised money for the funeral, this can happen anywhere, make sure the kids are safe on the farm. On a side note, Dale mentioned that there will be a farm rescue class up coming in the Meade County area.

- **Rescue:** No report
- **EMS:** No report
- **Red Cross:** Since October the Red Cross working with Volunteer Fire Departments has installed over 3200 smoke detectors, this is a very successful program.
- **Ham Radio:** (Steve Sheets) Ham Radio operators are ready to respond if needed. Nelson County is starting a HAM radio club, Joe Prewitt with NCEMA is working on this.
- **State Fire Marshal:** (Chris Crawford) Combined report from KFA and Fire Marshals report.... Recent fatal fires, proven facts that smoke detectors save lives. Rumors of the Fire Marshals office moving out of the Department of housing and building construction, possibly moving to public safety, possibly coming together with other agencies to all be under one group, unsure of what is going to happen. Governor is aware. With this the Fire Marshals office will no longer have take home vehicles in order to make a response, they still have their vehicles but no more responses after hours, these are the wishes of the current commissioner. Big grain cooperative coming to Meade County area for a class. Meade County just completed the construction on their training tower, 2 story, burn room, ventilation prop, excellent opportunities for training.
- **Ky. State Police:** (Steve Lowery)

Standing Reports:

- SFRT Area 5: (Rusty Todd) Everything is moving forward for the school, (see new business)
- Ky. Fire Commission: (Scott Lawson) See the above Fire Branch Directors report
- Kentucky Fire Chiefs: No Report
- Ky. Firefighters Assoc.: (Chris Crawford) . KFA, currently in legislative session. February 22nd is Firefighter appreciation day in Frankfort, there will be a chili supper later that day at Buffalo Trace. If you are able please attend, meet with your legislature, the KFA will have a sheet for talking points. Current bills that the KFA is watching: SB31, this is the bill to raise the State Aid funding from \$8250.00 to \$11,000.00, this is in the budget for another year but it needs to be put into law so it can't go back the other way. SB98, this is the bill to move KBEMS, HB 15, this is the bill that is for a tax credit for Volunteer Firefighters, this will most likely go to the senate appropriations committee and dies like before. HB60 is the house version of SB31, please contact your senator and representative to let them know that you support this bill.
The legislature is in a short session, only approx. 30 more days to go, they may be saving up days by not using the full 30 days to go into a special session later this summer.

Unfinished Business

- *President Dobson discussed the need to grow Dixie and how we can accomplish this as an association. Some of the ideas are as follows: Offer assistance in times of need to Dixie Members, ie: fatality at an assoc. member department, \$500.00 to the family, if attended 25% of the meetings, that goes to a \$1000.00 payment, if a member has a house fire, \$500.00 benefit etc. There is a definite concern on this to make sure there is no issue with the Association status as a 501-3-C, this will be followed up on to ensure there are no violations. Chris Crawford will talk to the Fire Commission on their life insurance benefit that they have. **UPDATE: Chris hasn't had a chance to talk with American Income Life however their meeting is next week and he will discuss it then. Dale is still working on what we can do as an association, if anyone has any ideas of suggestions, please let us know. For the 5013C information, Steve Sheets will talk to the tax people, UPDATE: Chris Crawford hasn't had the opportunity to speak with the insurance company to see what we can do. Richard Peters mentioned that he spoke with Supporting Heroes and they are a 5013C organization like us and we should be able to follow the same structure when wanting to send assistance, we just have to announce what we are wanting to do. We just need to establish what, how and when to offer assistance. **Update: Chris Crawford has given this information to Dale so we will table this until our next business meeting. UPDATE: American income life contacted Steve and the last information that they got was that The Dixie Firefighters Assoc. could offer the same benefits that the KFA are with the 3000.00 accidentla death insurance.***

- *Another item that was discussed was Dixie Firefighters Assoc. purchasing and maintaining a child's safety house. Membership departments could use this for their fire prevention/public education events. There is grant money available out there for the funding of these type projects; we believe the IAFC has this. Dale will contact Mike Hulseley to help follow up on this. ****Update: Dale has discussed this with Mike Hulseley and he will continue to follow up on this. UPDATE 1-26-17 Rusty has asked to take this project over and will pursue the Fire Safety House. Rusty is pursuing this through the AFG grant which is a 90/10 grant. He will update as progress is made. Scott Lawson mentioned that local insurance companies like to participate and get their names on things like this, only caution is would the safety house be expected at all of their events where not always trained personnel are there to maintain and operate it. Joe Hart asked what the rough cost of a safety house would be and Rusty answered with it really depends on what features and options it has but roughly 35~40K.***
- Update on the SOKS truck, (Save our Kids) This truck is a partnership build between Dixie, Pulaski County and The Kentucky Fire Commission. Dale and Bill were there this past week to check on the progress and the truck is located at a paint shop currently. Dale encouraged everyone that if anyone has any ideas, programs or projects that could benefit Dixie and or the audiences that we are trying to reach please feel free to make your ideas known!
- *Dixie Fire School update:* Dale asked Laurie Jagers with the Red Cross that last year they asked if they could help more and they said that they want to be there and help. Rusty reported that the school is moving forward, he feels like registration is a little slow but it is early yet. There are some classes that are already filled. We need to ensure that we continue to work nurturing a professional relationship with the college as we have a new president. Rusty is looking forward to maintaining the relationship between Dixie, SFRT and the college.
- For the February 22nd Firefighters day in Frankfort, Froman asked if there would be any interest in a caravan going up representing The Dixie Firefighters Assoc. Chris Crawford recommended contacting your representative to set up an appointment that day. The KFA will be there by 0900
- *There was discussion on combining dues with the KFA, some departments who are members of Dixie don't want to join the KFA, a lot of departments are members of both. This will be brought back up at the May meeting. ****Update:*** Discussion on this is now for the logistics, some feel that it would be like the departments are being forced to join both organizations, some departments are members of Dixie but not KFA. Would it be possible to give discounts for joining both? We have 14 departments out of 61 that we can't even get free training to and they aren't likely to join either. To change the KFA it would take a lot to change their fees, it's set in their by-laws what the membership fees are and it would take a resolution to accomplish this. For Dixie we could possibly lower our membership fees, would we gain more members? Rusty could discuss this with the Chiefs when he attends their meetings, this will also be important because Rusty can give more insight on one of our problems and that is; what does Dixie Firefighters Association do? What's in it for me? It would be good to also attend their business/Board meetings due to the fact that if the Chief is the cause of the communication breakdown then the information will not get back to the department. Chris Crawford noted that he would like to see a Department that is in good standing with Dixie go to the KFA Conference sponsored by Dixie. Dale feels like we can discuss it now and plan for it for the 2017 conference; it's too late at this point. Ashley noted that the majority of our income for Dixie comes from the fire school, not so much from the dues so could we gain more members by lowering our membership dues, Freddie agrees. Membership is \$10.00 for individual and \$50.00 for Department for Dixie, KFA is 85.00 for Department and \$25.00 for individual. Rusty feels that we need to make sure that we are engaging the young people within our association; it's not just for the older folks in the fire service and the decision makers. Bill Mullins brought up an excellent point: With State Aid and Incentive pay increasing, let the departments know that we had a hand in that, let them know that this is what we are doing, we are a voice for them. This issue will be tabled until Rusty can attend the Chief's meetings and bring back some much needed feedback. On a side note Rusty asked for a fact sheet on the Dixie Firefighters Assoc. or a brochure about Dixie, we need to market ourselves. Update: Scott is currently working on the new brochure and this item will remain on old business until its completion. **Tabled until the next business meeting. UPDATE 1-26-17: There was no feedback from the Chiefs meetings. As it stands the dues and fees will remain as they are.**

New Business

- A question was recently asked to Dale about Volunteer Firefighters and EMS getting free hunting and fishing license, this question was asked to Scott Lawson and Chris Crawford. This most likely wouldn't happen in Ky. Due to the sales of license is how the department of Fish and Wildlife makes their money and supports their programs and with as many volunteer firefighters as there are in the state it would really affect the funding for the dept. of fish and wildlife.
- The Red Cross will have a booth at the 2017 Dixie Fire School
- At the School meeting at Leitchfield we discussed the need for additional funding for Rusty to cover instructor needs for the Dixie School and if needed we would support the needs of SFRT if needed up to \$3000.00, Scott Lawson made a motion to raise the amount if needed to \$4000.00 and any funding left over would come back to Dixie. Second to motion by unknown person. This would be for the Educational part, not for facilities. Motion carried unanimously.
- Gun ticket sales, we still have 500 tickets to go that we need to sell. Dale brought it up to see if there would be interest in allowing the local friends of the NRA to set up a booth and they would help sell our gun tickets.
- Dixie Paul Banse Scholarships, the scholarships are due as follows: Spring Semester they are due by the September meeting, Fall Semester they are due by the May meeting.
- Recognition for Chief Frank Hall of the Rolling Fork Fire Dept. who is retiring in April and going back to the rank of Firefighter, also Congratulations to Chief Ronnie Greenwell who will be stepping up as Chief of the Rolling Fork Fire Dept.
- The nominating committee has been selected: Wally Sparks, Chis Crawford and Steve Lowery. They are assigned to talk to people to nominate and report back at the February meeting in preparation for voting.
- Steve reported that the taxes for the Dixie Firefighters Assoc. have been completed and ready to sign and submit.
- Steve Sheets is now the Chief of the Central Hardin Fire Department.
- Possibility of a high school fire program at the college. The structure is being worked on currently, it may be a possibility even for an emergency medical responders course. The Elizabethtown Fire Dept. is really supportive of this program.
- Lori Roberts went to the Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Frankfort and saw that there were some marble benches there. Currently there are 3 benches on display there and there is room for a third. Lori is asking that the Dixie Firefighters Association places a bench there. Motion made by Lori Roberts to purchase the bench for \$3300.00, amended by Scott Lawson with Lori bringing back the design idea for the bench to the February meeting. Seconded by Rhonda Young, Froman asked if the Dixie Counties could be added to the bench with the Dixie logo in the middle. Frank Hall asked if the bench would affect any projects and asked if there was sufficient funds in the bank to cover this, Treasurer Steve Sheets said that after the Dixie School that there definitely would be. Motion going to a vote; motion carried unanimously.
- Joe Hart brought up about the registration for the Dixie School on the web server that we are using. We are aware that it is outdated and does have problems. After the 2017 school we will have to get an updated program. Ashley is having issues with the web guys that the customer service side is very slow, we have the paypal set up through them and then Bernie Davenport set up the software. The good thing about our current website is that it is hosted on the KCTCS website, not just a link but the whole thing. We need to start working on this ASAP if we want it up and running in time for the 2018 school and Bernie said that he will still help us with the site. There will be a committee formed after the February meeting to work on this.
- Dale is unveiling the 2017 Dixie Fire School Shirt. Scott and Ashley worked to design the new shirt and it represents all branches of the Emergency services.
- The Fire Marshals office is reorganizing the areas after a retirement and Chris Crawfords area is moving away from Nelson County and focusing on Henderson, Owensboro, etc. Gordon Scott will be the Fire Marshal for Nelson County.

Time to set the meeting locations for the 2017 Dixie Firefighters Association meetings:

- January: Elizabethtown Fire Department, Station 1
- February: SFRT Area 5 training center
- March: New Haven/Rolling Fork Fire Department
- May: City of Bardstown Fire Department
- July: McDaniels Fire Department
- September: Northeast Nelson Fire Protection District
- November: Joint Meeting with the Green River Firefighters Assoc. location will be at Thruston Philpott Fire Dept.

Door Prizes: Donations from the Dixie Firefighters Assoc., Seigels Uniforms and Fire Department Service and Supply. The winners were: Everett Roberts, Richard Peters, Frank Hall, Wade Hibbs, Steve Sheets, Lori Roberts, Rhonda Young, Ronnie Greenwell, Chuck Masterson, Rusty Todd and Lorrie Jagers.

Announcement

- **Next meeting: February 23rd, 2017 at 1900 hrs. at the SFRT Area 5 training center, there will be a Dixie Fire School planning meeting beginning at 1800 hrs.**

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Chris Crawford, second by Scott Lawson, Motion carried at 2052 hrs. EST.