

**Minutes of the Geary County Rural Fire Board Trustees Meeting  
For April 2, 2014**

**The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Fire Board Vice Chairman Bob Forman.**

Roll call was taken. Districts present: Mike Strauss (Blakely), Oliver Schmutz (Lyon), Bob Forman (Milford), Chris Ross (Smoky Hill), Ron Blomenkamp (Wingfield), and Fire Chief Garry Berges. Chairman Larry Hicks was absent due to illness. Districts absent: Jackson and Jefferson. Also present was County Extension Agent Chuck Otte.

Minutes of the December meeting were reviewed. (The February meeting was canceled due to a snowstorm.) It was noted that in the December minutes Old Truck 104 should be Old Truck 113. **Mike Strauss moved to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded and passed 6 – 0.**

**Fire Chief Report:** Garry reviewed the fire runs for 2013 (see attached breakdown) as well as runs by month since 2000. Year to date there have been 65 runs including 29 in the last week of March alone. Garry indicated that the assistant fire chief position had been advertised and applications were being taken. New truck 112 is back from Weis Fire Equipment and is in service. Old Truck 112 is now Truck 113. The new station at McDowell Creek (Station #7) has an estimated cost of \$28,000. The annual Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) grant request through Kansas Forest Service has been filed. The grant contained a request for an electric spray unit for Truck 100 and two more chain saws with cases. Total cost was \$1,994.98. The 2015 budget is in process. State law places a limit of 5 mills on the fire budget. Calvin Pottberg (county accountant) is looking at all options and ramifications of the state law. Vehicles are getting older and parts are getting hard to find. There is a need for more volunteers.

**County Extension Agent:** No report

**Unfinished Business:** There was no unfinished business.

**New Business:** It was noted that some of the radios may need some programming work. There is probably a need to do radio checks, possibly coordinated with the pager test. There seems to be some occasional problems with one of the repeaters.

There will be a training at Station #2 on Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> starting at 4 p.m. The next training will be April 16<sup>th</sup> at Syngenta on Ascher Road.

Next meeting will be June 5, 2014.

**Vice Chairman Forman adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.**