

**Minutes of the Geary County Rural Fire Board Trustees Meeting
For August 6, 2014**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Fire Board Chairman Larry Hicks.

Roll call was taken. Districts present: Oliver Schmutz (Lyon), Bob Forman (Milford), Chris Ross (Smoky Hill), Ron Blomenkamp (Wingfield), Chairman Larry Hicks and Fire Chief Garry Berges. John Poole (Jefferson) had contacted Garry to let him know he wouldn't be able to make it. Districts absent: Blakely and Jefferson. The township trustee for Jefferson has moved out of state and a new trustee will need to be selected. Also present was Assistant Fire Chief Curt Janke and County Extension Agent Chuck Otte.

Minutes: Minutes of the June meeting were reviewed. **Curt moved to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded and passed 7 – 0.**

Fire Chief Report: Garry reported that year to date there have been 138 fires in 2014 compared to 92 in 2013. Garry indicated that the big jump occurred in late winter and early spring when it was very dry. County Commissioners approved annuities to retired fire fighters Bill Pence (20 years), Brian Clark (20 years) and Richard Witt (21 years). Mutual aid agreements with the Junction City Fire Department, town of Milford and town of Grandview Plaza have been updated and sent to the respective units for their approval and signature. There were no major changes, just an updating of documents that had become somewhat dated.

One of the older fire trucks had been returned to the Kansas Forest Service. In return the district had received a 1999 E-One pumper that had been at Ft. Riley. This truck has a value of over \$200,000. As is the case with this surplus equipment, it is on loan until the district no longer needs it and then it is returned to the Kansas Forest Service. Bob asked if a determination had been made yet as to where it would be housed. Garry indicated that this had not been determined yet. This truck is the third pumper and he and Curt were working on determining the best fit. Bob felt that given the amount of housing in Milford Township that Station 8 would be a good place for one of the pumpers. Chairman Hicks asked about training for the new truck. Curt indicated that training would be crucial and this was not a truck that everyone would be trained on due to its complexity. It is NOT an off road truck and is vastly different from the standard fast attack trucks. It is designed strictly for structure fires.

Garry indicated that the county budget is still a work in process. Currently the fire departments budget has been put into the county budget with all salaries coming from the general fund instead of half from general fund and half from fire department fund to allow more dollars for equipment upkeep and purchase.

Assistant Fire Chief Report: Curt indicated that all trucks are up and running, but Truck 102 has several issues, not the least of which is no parking brake. There has been some discussion about re-chassisng this vehicle. There have been discussions with Doonan's at Great Bend but still early in the investigation of this. There will be no funds available until 2015.

County Extension Agent: District elections need to be held between October 1st and November 26th.

Unfinished Business: There was no unfinished business.

New Business: Chairman Hicks inquired as to why the increase in fires as compared to last year. Garry felt that this was primarily due to the dry spring, especially March and May.

Bob said that they were still working on an open house at Station #8. Felt it would be a good time to get decision makers, candidates and the local citizens in to the station to see what was being done and where volunteer help could be provided.

Next meeting will be October 1, 2014.

Bob moved to adjourn the meetings. The motion was seconded and passed 7 – 0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Chuck Otte, Secretary