

**Minutes of the Geary County Rural Fire Board Trustees Meeting  
For October 5, 2011**

**The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by County Commission Chair Larry Hicks.**

Roll call was taken. Districts present: Jackson, Lyon, Milford, Smoky Hill, Wingfield, Fire Chief Garry Berges and Chairman Hicks. District absent: Jefferson, and Blakely. Also present were Assistant Fire Chief Clark and County Extension Agent Chuck Otte.

Minutes of the August meeting were not available for review.

Garry passed around an invitation for Donnie Whitebread's wedding. He talked briefly about insurance coverage for all volunteer firefighters. Garry reviewed the year to date 2011 fire runs. So far in 2011 there have been 148 runs, compared to 119 in this same period in 2010. (A breakdown of the runs is attached.)

Extension Agent Chuck Otte reported that district elections need to be done by November 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Unfinished Business:** None

**New Business:** There was a review of the proposed bylaws changes that will be voted on at the annual meeting in December (attached). It was asked whether the County Attorney has looked at the proposed changes. Garry indicated that he had as well as K-CAMP, the county's insurance.

Commissioner Hicks expressed his desire to keep the Rural Fire Board full focused on supporting all County Emergency Management activities including rural fire.

A question was asked on how the fire districts were set up. Garry and Chuck explained that those districts were set up when the original system was established in the 1960's and 1970's. Concern was expressed over parts of the county that are in a fire district outside of Geary county. Garry indicated that he visits with and works well with those other districts in Alta Vista and Dwight.

John Poole had been doing some repair and upkeep work on the gator and one of the trucks. John is donating this work to the fire district.

A new gasoline transfer tank has been acquired and can be used to take fuel to fire trucks working on big fires.

Concern was expressed that if there was ethanol in any of the gasoline that it could cause an issue in any engines where it sits for an extended period of time. Dennis Cox will be contacted about this.

Garry announced that the tower light unit had been upgraded and was available for use. There had been a training session in September on the dump tank and to test how well the pumps could push water uphill. Our equipment functioned very well. Training sessions are normally held on the second Wednesday of the month although the holiday season at the end of the year sometimes conflicted with that.

The next meeting will be the annual meeting on December 7, 2011.

**With no further business, Oliver moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed. The meeting was declared adjourned at 7:53 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Chuck Otte  
Recording Secretary

# Geary County Rural Fire

## Incident Type Report (Summary)

Alarm Date Between {01/01/2011} And {09/30/2011}

| Incident Type  | Count     | Pct of Incidents | Total Est Loss   | Pct of Losses  |
|--|-----------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| <b>1 Fire</b>  |           |                  |                  |                |
| 100 Fire, Other  | 2         | 1.31%            | \$0              | 0.00%          |
| 111 Building fire  | 4         | 2.63%            | \$163,000        | 55.53%         |
| 112 Fires in structure other than in a building          | 1         | 0.65%            | \$0              | 0.00%          |
| 114 Chimney or flue fire, confined to chimney            | 1         | 0.65%            | \$0              | 0.00%          |
| 131 Passenger vehicle fire                               | 9         | 5.92%            | \$103,000        | 35.09%         |
| 132 Road freight or transport vehicle fire               | 2         | 1.31%            | \$2,000          | 0.68%          |
| 134 Water vehicle fire                                   | 1         | 0.65%            | \$5,000          | 1.70%          |
| 138 Off-road vehicle or heavy equipment fire             | 2         | 1.31%            | \$20,200         | 6.88%          |
| 142 Brush or brush-and-grass mixture fire                | 31        | 20.39%           | \$0              | 0.00%          |
| 143 Grass fire   | 23        | 15.13%           | \$0              | 0.00%          |
| 162 Outside equipment fire                               | 1         | 0.65%            | \$0              | 0.00%          |
| 170 Cultivated vegetation, crop fire, Other              | 1         | 0.65%            | \$0              | 0.00%          |
| 171 Cultivated grain or crop fire                        | 3         | 1.97%            | \$300            | 0.10%          |
|  | <b>81</b> | <b>53.28%</b>    | <b>\$293,500</b> | <b>100.00%</b> |
| <b>3 Rescue &amp; Emergency Medical Service Incident</b> |           |                  |                  |                |
| 311 Medical assist, assist EMS crew                      | 38        | 25.00%           | \$0              | 0.00%          |
| 322 Motor vehicle accident with injuries                 | 2         | 1.31%            | \$0              | 0.00%          |
| 324 Motor Vehicle Accident with no injuries              | 1         | 0.65%            | \$0              | 0.00%          |
| 381 Rescue or EMS standby                                | 1         | 0.65%            | \$0              | 0.00%          |
|  | <b>42</b> | <b>27.63%</b>    | <b>\$0</b>       | <b>0.00%</b>   |
| <b>4 Hazardous Condition (No Fire)</b>                   |           |                  |                  |                |
| 411 Gasoline or other flammable liquid spill             | 1         | 0.65%            | \$0              | 0.00%          |
| 413 Oil or other combustible liquid spill                | 3         | 1.97%            | \$0              | 0.00%          |
| 421 Chemical hazard (no spill or leak)                   | 1         | 0.65%            | \$0              | 0.00%          |
| 444 Power line down                                      | 1         | 0.65%            | \$0              | 0.00%          |
| 445 Arcing, shorted electrical equipment                 | 1         | 0.65%            | \$0              | 0.00%          |
| 463 Vehicle accident, general cleanup                    | 3         | 1.97%            | \$0              | 0.00%          |
|  | <b>10</b> | <b>6.57%</b>     | <b>\$0</b>       | <b>0.00%</b>   |
| <b>5 Service Call</b>                                    |           |                  |                  |                |
| 553 Public service                                       | 6         | 3.94%            | \$0              | 0.00%          |
|  | <b>6</b>  | <b>3.94%</b>     | <b>\$0</b>       | <b>0.00%</b>   |
| <b>6 Good Intent Call</b>                                |           |                  |                  |                |
| 600 Good intent call, Other                              | 1         | 0.65%            | \$0              | 0.00%          |
| 611 Dispatched & cancelled en route                      | 7         | 4.60%            | \$0              | 0.00%          |

**Geary County Rural Fire**

**Incident Type Report (Summary)**

**Alarm Date Between {01/01/2011} And {09/30/2011}**

| <b>Incident Type</b>                         | <b>Count</b> | <b>Pct of Incidents</b> | <b>Total Est Loss</b> | <b>Pct of Losses</b> |
|--|--------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>6 Good Intent Call</b>                    |              |                         |                       |                      |
| 622 No Incident found on arrival at dispatch | 1            | 0.65%                   | \$0                   | 0.00%                |
| 631 Authorized controlled burning            | 1            | 0.65%                   | \$0                   | 0.00%                |
|  | <u>10</u>    | <u>6.57%</u>            | <u>\$0</u>            | <u>0.00%</u>         |
| <b>7 False Alarm &amp; False Call</b>        |              |                         |                       |                      |
| 700 False alarm or false call, Other         | 1            | 0.65%                   | \$0                   | 0.00%                |
| 735 Alarm system sounded due to malfunction  | 1            | 0.65%                   | \$0                   | 0.00%                |
| 745 Alarm system activation, no fire -       | 1            | 0.65%                   | \$0                   | 0.00%                |
|  | <u>3</u>     | <u>1.97%</u>            | <u>\$0</u>            | <u>0.00%</u>         |

**Total Incident Count: 152**

**Total Est Loss:**

**\$293,500**

The purpose of this correspondence is to propose amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws for Geary County Rural Fire District Number 1.

The first proposed amendment references and changes paragraph 7 d of the subject document. Currently the language is as follows:

**“The Geary County Commissioners shall have general control and supervision of the Geary County Rural Fire Department, and shall receive, hold, manage, and control any and all property of the Geary County Rural Fire Department as trustees of the same, and shall prepare and approve an annual budget for the Geary County Rural Fire Department. This includes all equipment that is bought for fire protection and/or suppression to include buildings, vehicles, and other property purchased by others, to include township boards and individuals.”**

The proposed amendment would change the language to read as follows:

**“The Geary County Commissioners shall have general control and supervision of the Geary County Rural Fire department, and shall receive, hold, manage, and control all county purchased equipment and property of the Geary County Fire Department as trustees of the same, and shall prepare and approve an annual budget for the Geary County Rural Fire Department. Firefighting equipment, property, and structures purchased/constructed by entities/individuals for use in Geary County will remain the property of the purchasing/constructing entity/individual but will be under the operational control of the Fire Chief [less stationing of equipment]. Maintenance, insurance, and logistic agreements between the Fire Chief and owning individuals/entities will be prepared separately and held on file by the Fire Chief.”**

**Rationale: This amendment would remedy the conflict between individuals and entities that purchase firefighting equipment and attendant materials/property/supplies and the Geary County Rural Fire District. Current verbiage causes friction between individuals and entities that purchase equipment and other materials and the Fire Chief. Individually, firefighters may be reluctant to purchase individual equipment for fear of confiscation under the existing Constitution and By-laws. Moreover, [political] entities may be reluctant to purchase equipment that may be, under existing procedures, moved about at the will of the Chief/Commission; in essence taxpayers of a Township could purchase equipment only to have it stationed in another Township or sold with the proceeds not going to the purchaser. This amendment is not designed to inhibit the operational control of the Fire Chief, merely to clarify ownership and stationing of firefighting property/equipment purchased by individuals and entities other than the County.**

The second proposed amendment references and changes Article VI-Amendments, to the Constitution and By-Laws for Geary County Rural Fire District Number 1. Currently the language is as follows:

“Sec. 1. This Constitution may be amended at any annual meeting of the Geary County Rural Fire Department. Amendments shall be submitted in writing and may be adopted by two-thirds majority of those present, providing that the proposed change was discussed at the previous regular meeting, and that notices of such proposed amendment be given by U.S. Mail to all Fire Districts at least ten days prior to such meeting stating proposed change to be voted on.

The proposed amendment would change the language to read as follows:

“Sec. 1. This Constitution may be amended at either the June or December regular meeting of the Geary County Rural Fire department. Provided that amendments are submitted in writing, were transmitted via U.S. Mail to all Geary County Fire Districts at least ten days prior to the April or October regular meeting, and were discussed at the previous regular meeting [April or October], and are approved by two-thirds of those present at the June or December regular meeting.

Rationale: This amendment would allow more flexibility for change while retaining the principal of requiring due process and careful study prior to ratification. Current procedures require poor decisions and practices to be implemented for up to twelve months. Moreover, the December meeting coincides with the appointment of a new commissioner to the Fire Board. Political reality indicates that he or she will be less than inclined to support change as a new member of the board. Again, this is not designed to make the Constitution of the Geary County Rural Fire District Number 1 an easily changed or whimsical instrument; it is designed to facilitate change when required without being hidebound by intransigence.