

**Butler County Fire Chiefs Association  
Meeting Minutes  
April 22, 2010  
Benton, KS**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Grant Helferich	Butler County EMS
Jim Woydziak	Fire District #3 (Rose Hill)
Tom Pyle	Towanda Fire Dept./Frontier Refining
Barry Black	Fire District #10 (Burns)
Jim Schmidt	Butler County Emergency Management
Rick Whiteside	El Dorado Fire Department
Alan Black	Fire District #10
Kelvin Jantz	Fire District #10
Jim Shaver	Andover Fire/Rescue
Rex Stephens	Fire District #7 (Benton)
Craig Murphy	Butler County Sheriff's Department
Kelly Herzet	Butler County Sheriff's Department
Jim Neese	Butler County Communications
Jeff Armantrout	Butler County Communications
John Ford	Fire District #8 (Douglass)
Ray Marbut	Augusta Department of Public Safety
Heath Austin	Potwin Fire Department
Darren Grow	Cowley County Fire District #2 (Atlanta)
Darryl Claassen	Whitewater Consolidated Fire District
Ron Long	Butler County Chaplains
Melvin Linot	Fire District #3
Kathy Guy	Secretary

**1. Call To Order**

Chairman, Ray Marbut, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. in the Community Building in Benton. Ray thanked Rex Stephens and the Circle SADD group for providing dinner.

**2. Approval of Meeting Minutes – January 2010**

John Woydziak made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. John Ford seconded. Motion passed.

**3. Old Business**

**a. Fire Hose Repair Equipment**

Ray Marbut reported that he had talked to Tony Yaghjian who stated that the Community College has lost interest in the hose repair program. The equipment is currently stored at the El Dorado Fire Department and the college wants to sell it. Ray reminded everyone that the Fire Chiefs Association has a \$1,650 investment in the equipment. Rick Whiteside

suggested addressing this issue with Tony and if there is no response, going to Tony's supervisor at the college. Rick reported that El Dorado Fire has tried to use the equipment to do some hose repair but that there have been problems with the couplings leading to failure of the repaired hose. A general discussion took place among the members. Ray asked if any department was interested in housing the equipment if it could be secured and whether the Association wants the equipment or the money back. Jim Shaver reported that he would be attending a Fire Science Advisory meeting on Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at the college and will address the issue then. Rick Whiteside made the motion to have Jim Shaver address the issue to the college and work on getting the equipment donated to the Fire Chiefs Association. Rex Stephens seconded. Motion passed.

#### **4. New Business**

##### **a. KDHE/EPA Burning Issue in the Flinthills**

Jim Shaver reported that KDHE and EPA have ozone limits which have been exceeded due to rangeland burning in the Flinthills. An overage of these limits affects federal funding and the State of Kansas is looking for an exemption during the burning season.

##### **b. Burning Guidelines**

A question was raised on where the County was on the proposed burning guidelines. Ray Marbut reported that he had sent out a press release on burning guidelines. Jan Satterfield (Butler County Attorney) has promised that her office will send a letter to those who are considered problem burners. Craig Murphy reported that this issue has come before the Board of County Commissioners who is at a loss as to how to resolve this issue. Craig recommends that the Fire Chiefs and affected ranchers work together to resolve the problem. A general discussion took place. At the end of the discussion, the consensus was to leave the current system in place unless advised otherwise by superiors.

##### **c. SB 262**

Grant Helderich reported that SB 262 was signed by Governor Parkinson on April 19<sup>th</sup>. This bill affects certification, changes the names of the different types of certification for EMS and revises the scope of training required for certification. Grant reported that he has not received any feedback from the Fire Chiefs on the proposed interlocal agreement presented at the last meeting and asked if the Fire Chiefs could move forward on the proposal. Jim Woydziak made the motion that the Fire Chiefs Association adopt the proposed interlocal agreement with EMS. Darryl Claassen seconded the motion. Motion passed.

##### **d. Volunteer Award**

Ray Marbut stated he would like to see the Fire Chiefs Association create a "Volunteer of the Year" award. A general discussion took place on proposed criteria. Jim Shaver made the motion that Ray work on developing the nominating criteria. Heath Austin seconded. Motion passed.

## 5. Other Business

Jim Neese reported that the Communications Department has not been able to order equipment in as timely a manner as they had hoped but hope to have the order in by May. The Andover site is moving along and the BCESA is working on talk groups. Jim reported that there will be 6 sites for paging (simulcast). Jim reported that he is currently the acting 9-1-1 Director and that Jeff Armantrout is now working for Butler County Communications on the new system. Jim asked that if anyone feels they are having problems with the County's PSAP, call or email him. Jeff Armantrout asked if the Fire Chiefs could meet with him and Jim within the next couple of weeks to go over channels. Ray Marbut volunteered to have this meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup> in Augusta at 7 pm.

## 6. Reports from Members

Benton – Rex Stephens reported that their new pickup is still being built.

Rose Hill – Jim Woydziak reported that he has some fire fighters in Colorado training.

Douglass – John Ford reported that they received a \$15,000 grant for bunker gear and are going out to bid on a new rescue truck.

Potwin – Heath Austin thanked Ray for coming to the court case he was involved in. Heath reported their department has been offered an old home to burn for fire training and extended an invitation to other departments to participate. The burn should take place in either August or September.

## 7. Next Meeting/Adjournment

**Due to the December 2009 meeting being moved to January because of weather, the Fire Chiefs elected to have their next meeting in June. The next scheduled meeting will be held June 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Fire Station in Andover.**

Heath Austin made the motion to adjourn. Rick Whiteside seconded. Motion passed.