

**Minutes of the Geary County Rural Fire Board Trustees Meeting
For April 3, 2013**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by County Commission Chair Ben Bennett.

Roll call was taken. Districts present: John Poole (Jackson), Nathan Seward (Lyon), Bob Forman (Milford), Chris Ross (Smoky Hill), Ron Blomenkamp (Wingfield), Fire Chief Garry Berges, Chairman Bennett and Assistant Fire Chief Brian Clark. Districts absent: Blakely, and Jefferson. Also present was County Extension Agent Chuck Otte.

Minutes of the February meeting were reviewed. It was noted that there is no E in Tony Wolf's last name and the correct abbreviation for the State Capital Area Firefighters Association is SCAFFA. **Nathan moved to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded and passed 7 – 0.**

Fire Chief Report: Garry reviewed the fire runs for 2013. Year to date there have been 36 runs compared to 68 at this time in 2012. Garry reminded everyone that during the month of April only agricultural burns could be done, no brush piles. The department had recently been involved in a joint operational burn venture with Ft. Riley and the Kansas Forest Service. It was a good experience.

Assistant Fire Chief Report: Brian reported that Truck 106 is back in service. It had a leaking inner seal that was replaced. All trucks have recently been worked over for maintenance. The ball joints in the old ambulance needed repair. The pump unit on Truck 112 was replaced as was rusted out plumbing on 100 & 112.

County Extension Agent: Chuck reported that the USDA had announced that any conservation program areas that were in native grass that were to be burned in 2013 were exempted from that requirement this year because of the drought conditions.

Unfinished Business: Old Fire Station #9 (Miller Trailer Ct) has been dismantled and hauled away. There is some debris that still needs to be hauled off and will be done after 1:30 p.m. Thursday April 4th.

New Business: The Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant through the Kansas Forest Service is due on Saturday. There has been a suggestion of purchasing 3 new chain saws (Stihl model 360/361/362) @ \$770 each. That price includes the saw, an extra chain and a carrying case. At the 50/50 cost share requirement of the grant, that would make the county's portion \$1155. These would be placed on the brush trucks. There was consensus to go forward with this grant request.

Garry handed out maps of the new fire station location. A developer has expressed interest in developing lots across the road from the fire station. The county property (which was deeded over from the Corps of Engineers although the county still doesn't have the final deed yet) apparently extends across the road. Therefore the county needs to grant an easement to allow driveways to cross over the county property to gain access to the county road. There is also a confounding issue because one of the water district's main water lines goes under this property

as well. **Ron moved that the fire district allow the granting of an access easement IF all other factors allow it. The motion was seconded and passed 7 – 0.**

Chairman Bennett informed the board that due to the hosting of Symphony in the Flint Hills on Ft Riley, there is a strong desire to clean all the brush off of the north slope of the area known as Grant Ridge (a.k.a. Atomic Cannon Park). The county owns the property (former Ft. Riley property that was separated by I-70, therefore deeded to the county). Volunteer labor as well as assistance from the leasee (Richard Roeser) will be utilized to perform the brush/tree removal. Chairman Bennett simply wanted everyone to be aware that this was going to be occurring in the next couple of months.

Bob Forman reported some upcoming developments in regards to the proposed lodge construction at Acorn's Resort. The Water District Board as well as the Milford Township Board is going to have a meeting with the Developer to begin work on resolving some of the potential challenges that have been discussed concerning this project.

Announcements: Next meeting will be June 5, 2013.

With no further business, Chairman Bennett adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Chuck Otte
Recording Secretary