

**Minutes of the Geary County Rural Fire Board Trustees Meeting
For April 1, 2015**

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

Roll call was taken. Districts present: Mike Strauss (Blakely), Oliver Schmutz (Lyon), Bob Forman (Milford), Chris Ross (Smoky Hill), and Fire Chief Garry Berges. Districts absent: Jackson and Jefferson. Also present was Assistant Fire Chief Curt Janke.

Minutes: Minutes of the February meeting were reviewed. Corrections noted: stated February minutes were reviewed, should be December. Under new business, proposal needs to be changed to proposed. **It was moved to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded and passed 6 – 0.**

Fire Chief Report: Garry stated that there have been 53 runs for the first three months in 2015, compared to 67 for the same time in 2014. There was 7 runs in January, 9 runs in February, and 37 in March.

The retirement ceremony for Tim Hansen, Milford TWP, was held and there was a good turnout. The local media covered the event and did a good job.

E-Dispatch is up and working great. Staff has received good comments from the firefighters about how well it is working. Grandview Plaza Fire and Milford City Fire are also on the system using the county frequency for E-Dispatch. Junction City is on their own E-Dispatch system and both systems are paid for thru 9-1-1 funds.

Recently, a used Military 5 ton was purchased for \$4,000. It will go to Station 2 as TK 102. The current TK 102 will become TK 101 at Station 4. That truck will be removed from service and put up for auction. It does not have enough power and no longer fits our needs. We have a spare tank that will hold 737 gallons of water that will go on the truck. A new pump motor was ordered and has arrived. Next step is to paint the truck and then start putting the tank, pump, and necessary plumbing on the truck. The majority of the work will be in-house and by the volunteer firefighters.

Garry announced that they applied for the 2015 V.F.A. Grant thru Kansas Forestry. They are requesting 12 new booster nozzles to replace the aging one on several of the fire units. Each booster nozzle with shutoff valve is running \$180.00. Total project is \$2,160.00 with Kansas Forestry reimbursing us for ½ the cost (\$1,080.00)

Assistant Fire Chief Report: Curt reported that Truck 105 is back in service. While it was down, they removed one of the booster reels. They added a ladder storage unit in its place. It now carries a 20 ft extension ladder. It also received a different light bar due to electrical problems with the old one.

Truck 104 is still in Salina and is getting close to being done. Truck 115 is currently getting a new motor installed. It appears as though the heads were warped on the old one and antifreeze was getting into the engine area.

He also reported that 4 new volunteers have come on board to the Fire Department. Several of them were volunteers for volunteer fire departments back in their home state.

County Extension Agent: No report.

Unfinished Business: Garry stated that he, Curt, and Chuck have not met yet concerning the makeup of the Board. They should meet in the near future to start looking at the issue.

New Business: Westar Energy is putting on an Electrical Safety class for Junction City Fire on April 27, 28, and 29th. It goes each day from 1300 -1500 hrs. The 1st hour is classroom and the 2nd hour is demonstration out in the bay area. Garry is working to have them do the class one of those evenings for the volunteers. (Following the meeting, the evening of April 28 1800-2000 hrs was arranged to be the date for the volunteers.)

Next meeting will be April 1, 2015.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05p.m.

Chuck Otte, Secretary