



**Fire Marshal's Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
State Fire Marshal's Office
221 S Central Ave
Pierre SD 57501**

**January 24, 2024
9:30 A.M.**

Call to Order & Roll Call:

The meeting was called to order and a quorum was present.

Board Members on Conference Line:

Mike Harstad, Michael Roemmich, Brian Bowker, Rick Gustad, Calen Maningas.

Department of Public Safety Staff Present:

Doug Hinkle, Glenda Marks and Paul Merriman.

Approval of August 2, 2023 Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Brian Bowker. A motion was seconded by Mike Harstad. There were no comments or edits and minutes were approved.

Fire Marshal's Office Updates:

Paul Merriman and Doug Hinkle provided a legislative update with a focus on bills having a direct impact on the fire service:

SB83 – An Act to make an appropriation to support firefighter training efforts in the state.

SB114 – An Act to create a presumption of worker's compensation coverage for occupational cancer for firefighters.

SB122 – An Act to ensure the availability of law enforcement and emergency services in certain state parks and to declare an emergency.

HB1062 – An Act to make an appropriation for costs related to the suppression of wildfires impacting the state and to declare an emergency.

Specialized license plates for retired firefighters was also mentioned.

Last day for the introduction of individual bills and resolutions is January 31.

Doug Hinkle gave a status update on several grant programs currently being administered by DPS/SFMO.

The MLFTU's have been purchased and received. One is located on the campus of LATI in Watertown, the other is located at the Huron Fire Station. Use of the trailers is set to begin as early as this spring for district and state fire school training venues.

The burn tower project in Rapid City is ongoing. The total amount allocated for the project is \$850,000; amount paid out \$681,000.

The PPE Grant Program has received 256 signed agreements thus far; total amount paid out in reimbursements thus far \$263,000.

Member Updates:

Mike Harstad discussed upcoming changes that will impact the cost of purchasing fire apparatus. Largely due to EPA emission requirements costs could increase as much as 30%. Despite the increasing costs and time it takes to build Mike reported that Rosenbauer received the highest number of truck orders ever in the month of December 2023.

Brian Bowker briefed the group on some trends they continue to see. Challenges of property valuation in a depressed market. Over valuation of rural properties has become an issue which raises arson concerns.

Rick Gustad talked about a plan for use of the new MLFTU's beginning this spring. The SDFFA Board continues to work on logistics and details. Radio upgrades continue but starting to slow as everyone is beginning to catch up.

Calen Meningas provided updates on the status of the new training facility in Rapid City and some of the other projects that they continue to work on locally.

Mike Roemmich indicated that the number of fire calls is way down locally. Kind of a different year as far as call volume and types of calls.

Next Meeting Date:

The date, time, and location of the next board meeting TBD.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned.