

Minutes of Meeting of
GOVERNOR'S FIRE SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Room 130, State Capitol
Sacramento, California

January 25, 1967

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carrell at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 25, 1967.

I. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Charles N. Carrell, Chairman
Loren S. Bush, Secretary
Harry Bigglestone, Chief Engineer
Pacific Fire Rating Bureau
Elmer Brouillard, Chief, Chico Fire Department
John Garthe, Chief, Santa Ana Fire Department
C. E. Green, Solano County Fire Warden
K. E. Klinger, Chief Engineer
Los Angeles County Fire Department
Henry Lingus, Fire Commissioner
Santa Clara County
William Murray, Chief
San Francisco Fire Department
Glenn B. Vance, State Fire Marshal
Carl Weers, Chief Engineer
American Insurance Association
Joe R. Yockers, Fire Consultant

Members Absent: Norman Farrell, Chief, Division of Fire Control
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Phil C. Pifer, Fire Consultant

Others Present: Lee Anderson, Fire and Rescue Division, CDO
Richard G. Barrows, Fire and Rescue Division, CDO
Harold P. Bowhay, Chief, Fire and Rescue Division
California Disaster Office
John W. Gaffney, Director
California Disaster Office
George Kenley, American Rubber Company
Francis H. Raymond, State Forester
M. K. Reiley, Fire and Rescue Division, CDO
Charles Ulrey, Fire and Rescue Division, CDO

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on January 11, 1966, had been distributed to the members. No corrections being requested, the Minutes were approved as issued.

III. AUSTERITY PROGRAM

Chief Bowhay outlined briefly the Governor's program for reducing expenses to improve the fiscal condition of the State. Each department was requested to reduce spending by 10% of its budget, and all money for new equipment was temporarily frozen. In the California Disaster Office, this affected all fire truck replacements and some communications equipment. The committee unanimously agreed to support the Governor's program for working toward a balanced budget.

Chief Bowhay pointed out that certain positions had been budgeted but not filled, which would help meet the 10% reduction asked for.

Mr. Gaffney stated that in the past this office had taken a \$400,000 cut in combined state and federal funds, and he felt the present 10% reduction could be achieved without seriously hampering existing programs.

IV. STATEWIDE FIRE COMMUNICATIONS NET

Paul Scott reported on the present situation with respect to radio and microwave communications nets. Funds for all of the equipment called for in the 1966-67 budget are now frozen, but it was explained that considerable equipment on hand had not yet been installed by the State Communications Division; therefore the freeze would not necessarily delay the planned expansion. The 1967-68 budget proposal will include funds for another communications route in the eastern part of the state, to be tied into the existing net at the south, north, and central points. He pointed out that some of the equipment in the net is nearly 15 years old, which is about the life expectancy of the equipment. For this reason, and because of the obsolescence of much of this equipment, replacements will have to be considered in the near future.

V. REMARKS BY GOVERNOR REAGAN

Governor Reagan met briefly with the committee and was introduced to the members and guests by the Chairman. In his remarks the Governor emphasized his interest in the fire problems of the state by relating his personal experiences when his ranch was involved in the Malibu fires some years ago. At the request of the Chairman, the Secretary responded to the Governor's remarks by thanking him for his interest and offering the committee's support in his program to balance the budget, as well as by mentioning the availability of the committee for advice on fire problems.

VI. FIRE TRUCKS

Chief Bowhay discussed the state-owned fire pumpers. The California Disaster Office now has 123 fire pumpers, 100 of which were purchased in 1953 and 1954. Cost of maintenance on these pumpers is steadily increasing. His suggestion was that they be turned over to the local jurisdictions that have been manning them, with the understanding that they would respond under mutual aid conditions.

Discussion brought out the point that, since the new trucks were purchased as replacements, the State was not justified in keeping all of these pumps in service. Questions on the legality of giving these trucks away and on requiring their response on mutual aid operations if the pink slips were turned over were also brought up.

Motion 1 It was moved by Harry Bigglestone, seconded by Chief Brouillard, and unanimously carried,

That this committee recommend that five of the best trucks be retained in reserve and used as "loaners"; that the remainder of the trucks be sold by some approved method as replacements become available; and that the local jurisdiction that has been manning each of these trucks be given priority for its purchase.

Chief Bowhay then discussed some suggested changes in the specifications for new trucks. He strongly recommended going to diesel engines with automatic transmissions; it was his opinion that, by staying in the 200 HP bracket, this type of truck could be obtained for only about \$2000 more than the gasoline type.

Motion 2 It was moved by Chief Garthe, seconded by Joe Yockers, and unanimously carried,

That this committee recommend that the California Disaster Office not request additional funds for the 1966-67 FY to cover the inclusion of diesel engines and automatic transmissions in replacement truck specifications; but that the number of trucks to be purchased be restricted to the number which can be obtained under such specifications with funds now available.

VII. ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 21

Copies of Assembly Bill No. 21, dealing with a reorganization of the California Disaster Office, had been sent to all members and came up for discussion at this meeting. It was pointed out that this is a "skeleton bill", without enough detail to provide a basis for discussion of its merits.

It was the consensus of the committee that the bill should be watched to determine that it does not have any adverse effect on the fire services, but that no other action was warranted at this time.

VIII. INSPECTION OF TRUCK

During the lunch hour one of the new trucks was brought downtown and inspected by the committee.

Motion 3 It was moved by Chief Garthe, seconded by Joe Yockers, and unanimously carried,

That this committee recommend that all equipment for CDO fire trucks, and its placement on the trucks, be standardized to facilitate inventory and check.

IX. FIRE AND RESCUE DIVISION BUDGET

Chief Bowhay felt that the 10% reduction in the budget could be made without too much adverse effect on the service. He stated that the budget was being reviewed and would be presented to the Legislature in the near future. Copies of the budget, as submitted to the Legislature, will be sent to the committee members.

X. OTHER ITEMS PRESENTED BY MEMBERS

Report on Conflagrations

Recommendations of the Study Committee on Conflagrations, outlined in the Minutes of the meeting of January 11, 1966, were discussed briefly. It was decided that further consideration of this report be held in abeyance for the time being, due to the many other problems now before the Governor.

Training Centers and Pay Scales

Training centers and pay scales for firemen on mutual aid operations were discussed, but no conclusions were reached. The pay scale problem is to be reviewed again with representatives of the U. S. Forest Service, California Division of Forestry, and U. S. Park Service.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

LOREN S. BUSH, Secretary

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