



Georgia Fire Sprinkler Association

P.O. Box 661 Grayson, GA 30017

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 8, 2008

The January 8, 2008, meeting of the Georgia Fire Sprinkler Association began at 10:40 AM at Chequers Restaurant. Jeff Trew called the meeting to order by requesting prayer, wishing everyone Happy New Year and welcoming everyone to the new meeting facility. The next general meeting will be the second Tuesday in March and the next Board meeting will be in February. Jeff asked for input and suggestions for speakers for upcoming meetings.

Jeff mentioned the recent steel pipe increase and said another increase appears to be planned within the month. Jeff reminded everyone of the August 2006 program where Greg Guandolo of Bull Moose Tube spoke of how the limited production and distribution of steel coils by the four coil manufacturers in the US may lead to tighter control of steel pipe. The mills are being limited on the coils they receive; their costs are rising and they will pass on these costs. Jeff wants everyone to be aware there may be some concerns about steel pipe prices and availability.

Jeff welcomed guests Angie Lee with Ferguson Fire, Coby Tarr and Dana Pearson with Simplex Grinnell, and Bryan Betancourt with RSC Rental.

Jeff asked for and received review and approval of the November meeting minutes. Jeff thanked Phil Bennett for accepting the position on the GFSA Board and thanked Jim Tuten for accepting the Chairman's position of the Codes and Standards Committee.

Treasurer's Report: John Pahr said we ended the year with \$2080.15 in the account. John just received some checks which need to be deposited. We do expect a significant amount of past due money from the Apprenticeship training program which should get us caught up. We ended the year on budget. Invoices for 2008 dues will be going out very soon. Jeff said the invoicing for the Apprenticeship program had gotten behind and is being corrected. Under Banks' guidance, the program has been an excellent tool to provide training and Jeff has received positive feedback from other chapters at the AFSA convention.

Executive Director's Report: Billy Wood said the material for the My House project in Cherokee County was being donated by Viking and the labor was being donated by Allsouth Sprinkler. He has received an increasing number of calls expressing interest in the apprenticeship program. Billy said the Georgia Industrial Children's Home in Macon is in need of four cottages to have sprinklers installed. Contractors and / or suppliers who would like to help should see Billy.

Codes and Standards: Jim Tuten said his plans are to sit down with Harry and pick a few issues we would like to work on. Jeff said if anyone has any issues to forward them to Jim. Dwayne Garriss said there is a new Cherokee County Fire Marshal and we may want to meet with him.



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Phil Bennett said his name is Rick Rue, and Rick and Phil have had a couple of opportunities to sit and talk. Cherokee has new flow test requirements which make a standard two hydrant flow test no longer acceptable. New requirements call for coordination with the County water department and documentation of tanks, pumps, elevation and other criteria. The requirements will be available to download from the GFSA web site. Rick will look at and possibly accept other documentation. Jim Tuten said this is very similar to the research his firm does on water supply analysis, attempting to comply with the NFPA 13 and State requirement to calculate systems to the worst condition and allow for future degradation of the water supply. There was discussion as to whether a sprinkler contractor was permitted to perform water tests or the contractor was required to pay the County to do the test. Jim said NFPA 291 is the recommended practice for flow testing, and whoever does the flow test should be following the recommendations.

Bobby McCullough said Gwinnett County has announced the need for an additional 5 psi cushion to be required between the system demand and the available water supply.

Banks said in DeKalb County Randy Thomas has been promoted to Chief and is the immediate supervisor for Jan Ellison.

Jeff said the upcoming SFPE conference will have one segment featuring an attorney who will speak on liability issues related to this industry and the importance of keeping everything in order.

Bobby said he has personally, not representing the GFSA, submitted code amendment requests to the State for the following. 1) To delete the requirement for a licensed COC holder to personally visit every job site to perform an inspection upon the completion of the project. It is his point the designee of the COC holder should be acceptable. 2) To clarify 120-3-3 regarding NFPA 25 inspections and limit the NFPA 25 portion of inspection report to the requirements of NFPA 25. Any system deficiencies which fall under NFPA 13, 14, 20 or other standards may be reported outside the scope of the NFPA 25 report. 3) To modify the 120-3-3 requirement to allow the COC holder or the licensed designer to sign shop drawings. As the COC holder is ultimately responsible for the design and installation, there is no need to mandate shop drawings be signed by a designer only. 4) To modify 120-3-3 to allow local AHJs to require customized FDC signs. 5) To modify 120-3-3 to adopt NFPA 25, 2008.

Dwayne said it makes a stronger case to change the Regulations if these or any other code change requests were supported by a majority of the association. It was suggested the contractor members be polled to determine support.

Regarding the signature on the drawings, if violations occur the State wants the option of disciplining the individual designer (vs. the COC holder) if the company is not going to do something about it. In lieu of the COC holder being required to personally visit every job site to



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perform an inspection upon the completion of the project, the State may want something from the COC holder saying "This is my designee and this is why he is qualified to represent me."

State Fire Marshal: Sherrie Clark reported 57 applications have been returned, 10 have been returned twice for varying reasons. Currently we have 122 contractors licensed, 158 COC holders, 69 designers, and 67 inspectors, for a total of 416 total licenses issued as of January 8.

Dwayne said the August meeting with contractors and AHJs took place and addressed 78 different issues. It was a very long and productive meeting. Rich Rutherford is presenting Dwayne with a summary of issues, and after review by the State, the intent is to develop this into a question and answer format. The response has been so good to the Marietta and Augusta meetings that the special hazard systems people want to do the same type round table discussions.

Athens-Clarke County has prohibited anyone from performing flow tests and a contractor called the State concerned about liability issues. The County is allowing installations to be calculated based on old water tests. Dwayne said Athens-Clarke County is writing a letter saying there is an emergency rule in place, here is what the rule says, and we (the County) want these flow tests delayed up to 120 days. The new installation will need to be yellow tagged and a note must be placed on the tag indicating the flow test must be completed within the 120 day period. For this situation, the State will allow the yellow tag on an initial installation; however, make sure the underground has been properly flushed.

The practice of recording water flow tests and locations is being addressed to the State Fire Inspectors Association at the next meeting. Some municipalities are already keeping these records.

Ask the Attorney: Scott Zucker asked about, and a discussion followed, on previous issues with local AHJs. Scott offered a recent legislative update saying the effort to get sprinklers in residential homes was shot down by the Georgia Legislature for 2008. Scott is hearing a lot of "slow pay" issues and suggested suppliers use documents with title retention language.

Dwayne is starting to see districts with revitalized areas where residential occupancies are being placed on top of commercial occupancies. It is a State mandate to try to revitalize some areas. Dwayne is talking to code officials and asking what is the opinion of allowing a 13R residential system on the residential floors of a facility four stories or less with a commercial occupancy on the lower floor(s)? What is the GFSA's opinion of installing a NFPA 13 system on the commercial floors and a 13R system on the residential floors?

Education: Jeff said the seminars which took place in July and October were successful and we are looking at our options for 2008.



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Membership: Jeff asked for the vendors to keep non-members informed of the benefits of GFSA membership.

Apprenticeship: Banks said the class is going well.

Essay Contest / Scholarship: Jeff said the activities went well in 2007 and we are looking forward to 2008.

AFSA: Jeff said the AFSA has issued new Chapter guidelines which we will be incorporating.

SFPE: Jeff provided details on the SFPE seminar to be held on March 17 & 18, 2008.

Jeff said the subject of a round table discussion at the January SFPE meeting was the auditing of sprinkler systems. Many engineering and insurance firms are performing detailed audits on one or two systems in their report to the owner instead of a NFPA 25 style inspection of all sprinkler systems in a facility.

Activities: Jeff thanked everyone who participated in the December gathering. Don Williams with the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation said he has had the opportunity to visit the burn center and said it is amazing how well the children respond to the toys donated by the GFSA members.

Bob Griffith let everyone know the Summer Outing will be June 5, 6 & 7 at the King & the Prince at St. Simons Island. Additional details will be available soon on the GFSA web site.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Jeff announced the invoices for annual dues will be going out very soon and it would be helpful for everyone to renew early in the year.

Business Practice Exchange: No Report.

Door Prizes were given to Doug Mitchell, Sam Beale, Steven Duckworth, Adam Pickett and Curtis Hayes.

Adjournment at 12:00



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Location: CHEQUERS

Date: 1-8-08

Name	Company	Phone
1. Phil Bennett	GA Piping	770 386-4384
2. Jeff Trow	Viking Supply Net	404 210 0131
3. Coby Tarr	Simplex Grinnell	678-410-9839
4. Dana Pearson	Simplex Grinnell	770-860-4989
5. Jimmy Hunt	Ferguson Fire	770) 908-9084
6. Angie Lee	Ferguson Fire	" "
7. JOHN PAHR	AMERICAN FAB	678 732-9495
8. BOBBY McUNOIGH	ATLANTA SPRINKLER	618 730 4312
9. Billy Wood	GFSA.	
10. Jim Tutey	HGT	770 504 3505
11. Floyd Thomas	Reliable	770-971-9200
12. Sherrie Clark	SFMO	404-656-0418
13. Don W. Williams	GFBF	404) 446-8031
14. Stephen Duckworth	Reco (Wilkins)	678-813-0679
15. DWAYNE GARRISS	SFMO	404-657-1168
16. Bryan Betancourt	RBC Equip Rental	678 410-9536
17. Bob Calkent	F.S.F.	678-249-5906
18. Curtis Hays	Reliable	678-858-4976
19. Scott Downey	Champion Fire Net.	770-682-0692
20. Bob GRIFFITH	WSC	770 242 6673
21. ADAM PICKETT	INTERIOR FIRE	770-831-7978
22. Doug Mitchell	Advantage Fire	770-822 4550
23. ADAM OWENS	VIKING	678 350 8702



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Name	Company	Phone
24. DAVID ADAMS	SANDY SPRINGS FIRE	770 730 2083
25. Scott Zucker	Wasserman + Zucker	4/364-4626
26. Brad Boswell	American FAB	
27. PANKS HALEG	AFFORDABLE EAST COAST F.P.	
28. SAM BEALE	S.M. BEALE & ASSOCIATES	770 4910610
29. JIM FARW	NH SUPPLY	770/414-1252
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