

MINUTES
UTAH STATE LPG BOARD
March 13, 2015

Pending Approval

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Richard Martin	Chair, LP Gas Board
Don Adams	LP Gas Board Member
Amanda Clark-Cross	LP Gas Board Member
Karl Humphrey	LP Gas Board Member
Les Whitney	LP Gas Board Member
Ellis Willson	LP Gas Board Member

STAFF PRESENT

Ted Black	State Fire Marshal's Office
Boyd Cook	State Fire Marshal's Office
Kurt Nielsen	State Fire Marshal's Office
Robert Erickson	State Fire Marshal's Office
Jana DeMille	State Fire Marshal's Office
Marcus Yockey	Assistant Attorney General

EXCUSED

Coy Porter	State Fire Marshal
Tracy Halladay	LP Gas Board Member

PRESENT

Members of the public were in attendance at this meeting. The attendance log is kept with the full record of the meeting, recording, and all other related paperwork.

Item #1 The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Richard Martin. Tracy Halladay was excused from today's meeting.

Item #2 Board Member Don Adams made motion to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2014 Board Meeting. Board Member Les Whitney seconded the motion. All Board Members voted in favor. The December 12, 2014 Board Meeting Minutes were approved.

Item #3 As part of the law, this Board is to hold elections in the first meeting of the year every year. Current officers can remain in place or new ones voted in. Karl Humphrey made motion to continue with Richard Martin as Chair, and nominated Don Adams as Vice Chair. Les Whitney seconded the motion and nomination. All voted in favor and motion carried.

Item #4 Bret Folkman, a citizen, made a presentation to the Board regarding his concerns over fees. He is concerned that there are at least 2 entities who want to regulate propane: the State Fire Marshal's Office and the local fire authority (in this case Unified Fire). Both charge fees. Mr. Folkman would like to see if the Board can unify that and have one group regulate it

and communicate to the other group. It seems that every year fees are higher and service received has gone down. Fire Marshals are no longer giving training like the used to. He also expressed concern that two Fire Marshals arrive together to inspect the facility where he works – why? Mr. Folkman works for General RV – he attended this meeting as a citizen and not as a representative of General RV. He expressed concern that employees do not receive training and that they have been unable to access online training/testing.

Board Member Ellis Willson requested Staff to investigate and if/when more than one fire marshal goes to one location to do inspections and why. He would also like a listing of fees and why some can be so high.

Board Member Karl Humphrey requested copies of invoices to General RV. Mr. Folkman is to e-mail them to Ted Black, Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal.

Board Member Amanda Clark-Cross pointed out that fees may be high if a large number of employees are certified. That decision is up to each individual company.

Chairman Richard Martin requested that Robert Erickson of the State Fire Marshal’s Office review the current fee schedule. Fees are assessed annually for the company and each certified technician.

Class I - \$450.00/ year – Bulk plants, propane suppliers

Class II - \$450.00/year

Class III - \$105.00/year – RV places, HVAC

Class IV - \$150.00 / year – gas stations that are only selling propane from a dispenser

Individual dispensing propane is \$20/year. There is no additional charge for the initial exam or the 5-year recertification exam.

Bobtail driver, service technician, RV technician is \$40/year with a \$30 exam fee (the initial exam and the 5-year renewal exam).

Kurt Nielsen, State Fire Marshal’s Office, addressed the Board. He stated that if technicians can show proof of training (i.e. CTAP, RCBA classes), the test fee is waived and only the certification fee is charged.

Board Member Don Adams summarized Mr. Folkman’s concerns as follows:

1. Conflict of regulation between SFMO and Unified Fire
2. Certification costs
3. Unhappy with online training/testing

Mr. Folkman confirmed.

Chairman Martin asked if Mr. Folkman used a local propane supplier at his place of employment (General RV). Mr. Folkman answered “yes.”

Chairman Martin then asked if Rick Maughan of Freeway Propane would address the Board. He asked Mr. Maughan if his company trains new attendants for propane dispensers and if they charge for that service. Mr. Maughan stated that if dispensing to public, you must be certified by the State. Freeway Propane will go out and train attendants, who can then take the test and be certified. If the attendants are dispensing for their own use (i.e. forklift bottles, etc.) they will

still train them, once per year, but they don't need to go through the State. That location does, however, get a plan review by the State to have a propane tank placed there. Freeway Propane does not charge their customers for this training service. They schedule an appointment with their customers for training time once per year.

Chairman Martin requested that Staff review invoices to General RV and provide copies to the Board. The Board will review them and get a response mailed out to Mr. Folkman at the next meeting to see if there is a solution to his concerns.

Rob Wolfey with Garkane Propane addressed the Board. Is it possible to do inspections and renewals on a bi-yearly basis instead of annually? Do statics show that going more than 12 months affects safety?

Chairman Martin requested Staff look at this and respond to this question as well. He also asked Staff to address the intricacies of having two authorities looking at the same appliances/pumping devices.

Item #5 Chief Deputy Ted Black on the 2015 Legislative Session. A handout was provided to Board Members showing legislative updates that were of specific interest to the SFMO. Deputy Black brought attention to HB 29. HB 29 allows the use of e-mail when polling the Industry for Board Member nominees. SB 234 expanded the Fire Prevention Board by 3 members - it is now a 13 member Board. SFMO also serves as Staff for that Board. Also of note, is HCR 11, a Concurrent Resolution recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the State Fire Marshal's Office. Board Members were presented with a coin and a pin commemorating this occasion.

Item #6 Boyd Cook, Deputy State Fire Marshal, gave an update on the status of online testing. The "last snag" should be worked out by Utah Interactive by the end of next week and then Staff can do their part on the combination test. Once that is ready to go, the online testing will be activated again. Boyd believes this will be up and going by the end of this month. Boyd also assured the Board that anyone who does not have access to the internet for online testing can continue to do paper testing.

New Business:

- a. Boyd Cook presented information on a cabin explosion at Fish Lake Utah. It was determined to be a propane explosion. There were no injuries (no one was there at the time), and the building was still intact other than places where the paneling on the inside had blown out. The cabin has been in place for a number of years, and has had several add-ons. There was some fire, but most of the damage was from the explosion itself. The fire was put out on the exterior portion by shovels. The exterior piping near two 500-gallon tanks was intact. There were no issues with the regulator, the piping, or the tanks themselves. As the line went to the building, it came up at the building with a 2nd stage regulator. There were signs that snow coming off the roof had maybe pushed that down. There was snow down along the piping (the piping was installed horizontally) and a lot of it was covered so it was not possible to inspect the whole system. Everywhere else the inspector looked appeared intact. There was nothing the investigator could find to determine where the leak came from. It is assumed that the water heater was the ignition source.

- b. Chairman Martin invited Tom Clark from the audience to come to the podium and give information about an upcoming Idaho meeting. There will be important training there.

Tom Clark, President of the Rocky Mountain Propane Association: The Annual Spring Meeting will be held in Idaho Falls next week starting Thursday. There will be training classes throughout the day Thursday (appliance, pump, safety training etc.). Anyone is welcome to come. Friday is the Spring Board Meeting and again everyone is welcome to attend. Chairman Martin said these are good meetings and informative to the LP Gas Industry.

Item #7 The next Board meeting will be held Friday, June 12th, 2015 at 10 am at Murray City Hall, Council Chambers, 5025 South State Street, Murray, Utah 84107.

Board Member Don Adams made a motion to adjourn, and Ellis Willson seconded. All members voted in favor. Meeting was adjourned.

Action items:

- 1. Staff to investigate when and why two fire marshals may go to one location to do an inspection.**
- 2. Staff to review invoices to General RV and send copies to Board Members**
- 3. Staff to address bi-annual license and certification renewals versus annual.**
- 4. Staff to address the intricacies of having two authorities inspecting/assessing fees on propane concerns.**