



BERRIEN COUNTY
FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION
BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN



Call to Order: 0834-

Date: March 15, 2023

Old minutes: Old minutes emailed out. Motion to accept old minutes by SJT1 and seconded by Sodus. Motion passed. None opposed.

Treasurer's Report: Starting balance: \$6373.94. Deposit \$100.00. Ending balance \$6473.94. All member departments are now current with dues. Four agencies have submitted representation letters: Bridgman, Niles City, North Berrien, Weesaw. One non-voting agency has paid dues as well. Motion to accept treasurers report by Lake Twp. and seconded by Benton Twp. Motion passed. None opposed.

Communications/Bills: None

New Chief/Visitor:

Committee Report:

Red Cross: None. Red Cross at the fire call this morning helping families.

Discussion on HART. HART has gone out of business. Lost backing support and vehicle problems. Chief Myers to talk to HEART to see what it would take to get them going again, and what we as an association can do to help.

Great Lakes Drone: No rep present. Dispatch stated they have signed a contract with Coloma City to provide MFR services.

DNR: Gerry stated DNR has some new vehicles will have then posted to the web when get new pictures. . Link on county firefighters association website to the used equipment as well.

EMS:

Medic-1: Fully staffed. 17 HS EMT students in the CTE program. 13 EMT students in the adult class. Working with S.M.C.A.S. for the adult EMT classes. Received a grant for Medic and S.M.C.A.S. to put on a paramedic class. Grant covers 21 students, full tuition paid and 1000hrs of class time at \$15.00hr. Class will start in July. Chief Harper Thank You to Medic crews for assistance at structure fires. Medic crews helped at structure fire this morning as well. Thank You!

S.M.C.A.S.: None

Med Flight: LZ classes available. Contact Mark if interested.

Med Control: None

Funeral: Berrien Springs.

Dispatch/911: Please acknowledge calls when dispatched so dispatch know you received the call. If you want an 11FG please ask for one. Discussed support letter that Caitlin has drafted for the BC fire chiefs to sign in support of the new dispatch/EOC center and new tower, simulcast, etc... Dispatch would like to reconvene the dispatch committee to discuss additional topics. Boxcard discussion. Used based on when department needs them. SJ had a call under the new call type when got on scene SJ city requested auto aid and worked out as expected. Started as utility and upgraded to structure. Discussion on use of county all call 11PG911, for box alarms. When county all call used it notifies/wakes up the whole county. County all call 11PG911, opens all pagers in the county. Now with 800 paging, dispatch can page all departments at same time. Discussion lead to not use county all call for box alarms. Use county all call when dispatch needs to notify all agencies in the county of a situation. New boxcards are now in use. If you have submitted them dispatch has them in a binder ready to use. Dispatch had Niles City boxcards open and ready during their fire yesterday. Discussion on fire ground use for incoming units when fire operations are going on, on the fireground. Dispatch felt it can pose a safety issue while crews are making a fire attack as units are answering up and responding. Discussion on use of 11FG for simple calls. Wasting use of 11FG for the simple calls. Powerlines calls, fire alarm, etc.... Dispatch committee to discuss 11FG use and if need be move it to communications committee.



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If you have a viewpoint or input on use of 11FG contact Chief Myers with your input. Chief Harper Thank You to dispatch for outstanding job with the rash of calls lately. Jennifer stated have 3 in training and 8 openings. Discussed Great Lakes Drone now Great Lakes Rescue for MFR operations. GLR does not have 11E911 so they will be using an 11FG until radios are reprogramed. Chief Knisley discussed the use of UIC talkgroup on recent MVA semi truck vs car. Had limited personal and fire command did not hear move to UIC talkgroup. Can dispatch wait for command to make determination of need for UIC. . Chris stated if you cannot move to another talkgroup then please relate that to dispatch. Chief Myers stated if the call has all three entities on the scene there is a need to move to a UIC. Frank inquired if PD has our 11FG in their radios to bring agencies together? Chief J. Flick stated yes. Captain Adams stated the UIC are to common talkgroup to bring all the agencies together on the scene. Chris to review the call. T. Knisley asked if FD does not need a UIC can they say they do not need a UIC. Chris stated yes advise dispatch FD will be staying on F911. No new information on the new tower. Architect and design portion being done now. Should be digging location soon. Captain Adams stated there were never Indian bones. Every time that is stated it puts more pressure on political leaders and makes it more difficult to get these projects moved forward.

BCFA: Next meeting April 05, 2023 at Bertrand. Fliers for the car show. Currently have over \$3000.00.

Training: BHDPS has class on Saturday. Eau Claire has reading smoke in April, New Buffalo Twp. has Train derailment class May 20.

HazMat: There if you need us.

Emergency Management: Currently in DC Cook evaluation and audit. Public reception at Brandywine HS with Niles Twp. Niles Twp. need help with the drill. Emergency workers decon will follow at Berrien Springs HS. Berrien Springs FD will need assistance with that. See attached for dates and times. Captain Adams encouraged all to help out the departments. The EOC is also being exercised. Open to all who want to attend. 2025 will see a terrorist exercise.

LEPC: None

Sheriff: Good

MITRT5: None

MABAS: Nothing to report. Frank was at a conference and not able to attend the meeting.

Other Comments: Chief Myers thanked all who helped with the Van Buren coverage for the Paw Paw Firefighter funeral. Kalamazoo covered the east side of the county and Berrien covered the west side. Thanks to Watervliet for spreading their department thin to provide coverage. Discussion on the firefighters association covered the cost for food for the crews that provided coverage to Van Buren County. Niles Twp motion to split the bill with the firefighters association. Galien seconded. Motion passed. None opposed.

NIFRS. Chief Myers sent out email with departments that are compliant with NIFRS. Getting ready to close out the radio grant next month. If you are not compliant with NIFRS the FEDS can request your department return grant monies. We do not want that to happen. Rhonda is the contact if you need help with your NIFRS.

NFIRS Link - <https://www.michigan.gov/lara/bureau-list/bfs/nfirs>

Rhonda Howard contact info:

517-712-7720

howard2@michigan.org



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Pancake breakfast:

Niles Twp. March 26, 0800-1100

Sodus April 23, 0700-1230

Bertrand May 06, 0800-1100

Berrien Springs in April.

Fish Fry:

Buchanan Twp. May 06, and October 26, 1500-2000,

Easter egg hunt at fairgrounds April 08, 1230 registration. 1300 egg hunt.

Niles Twp. has challenge coins for sale.

Gerry stated send him the fliers and he will post on firefighters association website.

Old Business: None

New Business: April 09-15 telecommunicators week. We have gotten out of habit of providing something for dispatch that week. Discussion followed. Normally split between Firefighters association and Fire Chiefs association. Motion by SJT1 to spend up to \$500.00 for both telecommunicators week and Christmas/New Year for food for dispatch. Seconded by Lake Twp. Motion passed. None opposed. Chief Myers to work with Chris to get food to dispatch.

Chief Myers discussed the support letter dispatch has requested to seek grant funding for the new dispatch center/EOC. Chief Myers read the letter. No objections to having President Myers, VP J. Flick, and Sec./Treasurer. DeLaTorre sign the support letter.

Captain Adams discussed calls from municipal board members and county commissioners, concerned about major events like the train derailment in Ohio. Do we have plans for rail incidents? How robust are they? Answer is yes there is an emergency operations plan with all hazards. Plans start with us, activating the plan and system. Captain Adams advised a good idea to have an answer for your boards and explain how we are covered.

Next Meeting: April 19, 2023, 0800, Lincoln Twp.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by Niles Twp. Seconded by Sodus. None opposed. Meeting adjourn: 0944hrs.

