

BERRIEN FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION

Meeting 1-18-17

Called to order by Chief Davidson at 1839 hours



ATTENDANCE:

TREASURER'S REPORT – Chief Lamb reported a total balance of 2,551. Checks went out to Chief Stover to reimburse him for the dispatcher's food (\$283.98) as well as a check to Berrien Springs Fire for our part of the glove order (\$130.17). We deposited a check from the Berrien County Firefighters Assoc (BCFA) for (\$287.13), and (\$10) cash from coffee proceeds.

MINUTES – Minutes from the November meeting were approved.

Berrien County Fire Chief's Association Attendance Sheet January 18th, 2017		
Print	Signature	Dept.
1. Chris Horton	[Signature]	D.B.C.F.A.
2. Ken Reynolds	[Signature]	Med 2 Light
3. Dennis Sexton	[Signature]	BC 911
4. DAVID AIGANS	[Signature]	911
5. GUY MAYNARD	[Signature]	55750 #1
6. Day deSant	[Signature]	Cook
7. Gary Bueck	[Signature]	BCFFTC
8. BRUCE STOVER	[Signature]	RSO (FD)
9. Dan Spores	[Signature]	W.F.D.
10. Ryan Smith	[Signature]	B.F.D.
11. Steve Lambert	[Signature]	R.T.F.D.
12. Gerry Kabelman	[Signature]	S.J.C.T.F.P.#1
13. Tim Jesswein	[Signature]	Buc. Twp.
14. Mike Davidson	[Signature]	CTFD
15. Larry Lamb	[Signature]	NFD
16. Harold Hays	[Signature]	Lake
17. Paul Sailer	[Signature]	Perseus
18. BOB TUCKER	[Signature]	Lincoln Twp.

COMMUNICATIONS / BILLS – We received a thank you card signed by all the dispatchers for the appreciation meal. Chief Stover reported that he choose a hot pulled chicken meal this year. Chief Davidson expressed our appreciation for the important job that our Communication's Professional's do day in and day out.

PRESENTATION - None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

911 – Dave reported on new hires. New backup radios purchased through the region 5 grant are on line. They tested the system last week and it seems to be functioning well. If trunking fails everyone is reminded to switch to EVENT 1.

The issues in New Buffalo area were discussed. Gabe will talk to the engineer this week. He is also going to be working on the concurrence agreement. Commissioners must approve the purchase. Chief Huston discussed a call they had to the Stray Dog. The backup system seems to be working.

Denny reported on his efforts with New World to address the issues with the Rip and Run reports. He asks that anyone who continues to have issues to let him know so he can continue to forward them to NW. To their knowledge the system should be operating now as it should. Chief Jesswein asked if Dispatchers could include clear times in their notes so they wouldn't need to wait for the final rip and run to get their clear times. It would stop our need to call and request times.

Denny asked that we watch that we don't walk on other departments while they are out. A questions DC Cook siren test at the same time as Saturday tests to reduce the tones sent out were also discussed. Dave reminded the group that The Siren Test is very scripted and they would prefer to keep them separate to assure that all the steps are accurately performed. It was also reported that the Niles Test on Wednesday can often walk on departments that are out. Dave agreed to run it by Jenny Huff.

DNR – None

Funeral Protocol – Chief Stover had the drapery cleaned. No expense.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/LEPC – 800 MHz grant was discussed. Berrien County is doing a 300/400 class possibly on the weekends. Bertrand is offering a free class on drug awareness and recognition. (LEPC) the Sheriff discussed Mike Bradley's retirement. He will be taking a job for the Pokagon Tribe doing Emergency Management.

EMS- Medflight- Ken reported on a recent response they had. We need to work on Communications with our people. Important that everyone know the LZ channel is in our radio. They can communicate on VHF-VCALL10 however Ken said that they have better reception on MPSCS Zone E – AirLZ1 or 2. We recommend putting a label on your radio to remind users of the proper channel. He also discussed the importance of grounding all drones in the area when the chopper is inbound. Drone licensing was discussed. Chief Jones reported on his relationship with the Great Lakes Drone Company. They have FLIR capability, a night waiver. He is unsure of charges.

SHERIFF- The Sheriff reported on an MPSCS radio grant being offered by the Region 5 group. It is through Van Buren County with a 20% match for the local. He discussed the improvements made at the Court House. He asked everyone to spread the word relating the importance of locking your vehicles. Several areas throughout the county seeing theft from unsecured vehicles. In some cases openers allowed the criminals access to garages. He closed by thanking the group for their efforts.

RED CROSS-None.

HAZ-MAT- None

BCFA- President Kabelman reported on the low attendance at the December meeting. He also reminded the group of the upcoming meeting in Galien where they have announced that they will be providing fried chicken from Sonny's in Buchanan. February 1st at 1830hrs.

BCYF --

TRAINING – Captain Burks discussed the progress with FF1&2. The group is ½ way there and a Midterm was very eye opening for the students. Many have took it to heart and seem to be working hard. Corey is asking the group to continue to provide encouragement to these new members. 26 students remain in the class. The High School group is also doing well. Tommy received a surprise visit from the Regional CTE supervisor. They received very good reports from the visit with several of Tommy's ideas being championed by the region. Corey asks the Chiefs to take the time to interface with your schools to help promote the program. It's this time of year when students choose next year's schedule.

Corey also discussed the increase in funding coming from the Fireworks account. This will allow the committee to provide Officer Training. Baroda and Three Oaks are also offering training. Fire Officer 1-2-3 will now be provided at no or very low cost.

Doug Debest reported on an EdMeth Class which will be held on 4 Thursday evenings with 3 seats still available.

Corey reported that Jim Shinski will also be putting on a 2 day Arson Awareness Class and other training opportunities will also be coming. He asks that departments take advantage of these opportunities. There is an Instructor 1 course winding down that will increase our cadre of instructors to over 20 once complete. This should leave our county in great shape for years to come.

Corey also shared that the Training Committee is looking at funding a RIT train the trainer course for a few of its instructors. The class is pretty expensive but important as it will allow our instructors to teach RIT here locally.

Tim Jesswein asked about Ice Rescue Class. He needs to get a new person trained.

Doug Debest discussed his displeasure regarding his inability to get his designed classes approved by the State. The main reason he received the Instructor 2 designation was so that he could put together and present new classes.

He will be presenting a rope rescue class at Cook on April 18-21 from 7 am- 5pm daily with free lunch if anyone's interested in participating. The class, NFPA1670 compliant, will be taught by the MABAS 201 TRT team out of St Joe County. The class is free.

There will also be an 8 hour rail class held Saturday May 13 with some seats still available.

Hugh Gibson, NE manager for ISO, will be presenting a 3 hour ISO familiarization class in the spring. There are 50 seats available.

Mi-TRT-5-

Doug DeBest reported that the team will be doing a familiarity presentation at the February Firefighters Meeting in Galien. Quarterly Training was recently held to work on trench rescue. 11 new members are being considered for team membership from around the 9 county area.

MABAS- New agreements needed. Out of Division Cards need to be finalized.

OLD BUSINESS -. Selection of Officers was held. A unanimous Ballot was cast with all in favor to keep Mike Davidson as President. A second unanimous ballot was cast to keep Larry Lamb on as Sec/Tres. All in favor. A nomination from the floor for Bruce Stover was received for Vice President. No other nominations from the floor. A unanimous ballot was cast for Bruce with all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS – Newly appointed Chief of Lincoln Twp Fire, Bob Tutko was introduced. He thanked departments who helped on a recent fire and expressed his desire to help in any way he can.

Chief Dan Jones presented an idea that was also discussed in Van Buren County. He would like to put together what could best be described as a Mass Casualty Team in the County. Licensed individuals from EMS delivery agencies could participate and could be called in mass to respond to challenging incidents in a mutual aid type fashion. Incidents could include major injury accidents, derailments, plane crashes, mass shootings, collapses, explosions, etc. These members wouldn't replace the TEMS team but could provide incident commanders with another option of focused mutual aid. Dan will Chair the new Committee. We hope to have a sub-committee meeting at the next meeting of the Chiefs. A 2 day tactical emergency care class is also available that could help to coordinate the group.

Next Meeting February 2-15 at 0830

RS Larry Lamb