

# BERRIEN FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION



## Meeting 7-19-17

Called to order by Chief Davidson at 1835 hours

### ATTENDANCE:

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – Chief Lamb reported no changes with a balance of \$2462.62, approved with all in favor.

**MINUTES** – Minutes from 6-28-17 were approved

**COMMUNICATIONS / BILLS** – None

Berrien County Fire Chief's Association Attendance Sheet July 28th, 2017		
Print	Signature	Dept.
1. Mike Davidson	Mike Davidson	CTFD
2. Dave Stager	Dave Stager	BCOFD
3. Dave deBost	Dave deBost	Cook
4. Larry Lamb	Larry Lamb	NFD
5. Gary Magwood	Gary Magwood	STFD #1
6. David's Sevian	David's Sevian	BC911
7. Ramon Bush	Ramon Bush	BCSO/EMO
8. DAVID AGENS	David Agens	BC 911
9. Robert Adams	Robert Adams	BCFD
10. Caitlin Sampson	Caitlin Sampson	BC911
11. Mike Phillips	Mike Phillips	BC911
12. Tom Crick	Tom Crick	STFD
13. Dave Jones	Dave Jones	WFD
14. Ramon Harbuel	Ramon Harbuel	RTFD
15. Gerry Kabelman	Gerry Kabelman	SJCTFD #1
16. Bob Tutko	Bob Tutko	CTFD
17. Brandon Charnio	Brandon Charnio	LTFD
18. Harold Clayton	Harold Clayton	LTFD
19.		

### PRESENTATION -

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

### PAGER GRANT-

**911** – Mike asked Dave if Departments could page themselves out like currently is being done with VHF. Dave said that this could be done with newer equipment but he wasn't sure about the older units. The sirens at the stations were discussed. New Buffalo and Three Oaks using VHF radio for Store Sirens. Dave discussed the benefits to the dispatch when putting out multi-agency responses. System uses groups but doesn't actually send out tones. The pager actually puts the tone out so the time for dispatching is greatly reduced.

Coverage was a big question along the state line and the dune area. Chief Chase discussed his experiences with 800 coverage in Galien. Site maps are pretty poor. Dave has a computer models on the coverage. Indiana is also in process of moving to 800. They are required to be on the new system by the State. Warren and New Carlisle have already switched and right now Michigan Mutual aid Departments do not have adequate communication with them. Help at the state level is needed in both states to get this issue corrected.

The Sheriff has had issues over the last 16 years to get radio channels put in their radios allowing them to communicate across state lines. Currently they are working from a radio in the Dispatch Center.

With the knowledge that grant programs may be reduced in the future and a known issue with our current

equipment, neighbors moving to 800, and the benefits of maintaining a single system Chief Davidson moved that now is the time to make this move. Agens agrees to pay the match required by the grant.

DeLaTorre asked about EMS agencies. We will need to look closer at the grant language. Chief Jesswein asked that a Motorola Technician might come to one of our meetings to answer questions. It was also recommended that we wait a year while the infrastructure issues along the state line are improved. Chief Heyn made the statement that he felt that 800 was the future and now was the time. Benton Harbor was also in favor.

The Sheriff added that Deputy Bush would now be serving on the interoperability board and could provide a voice in making the improvement in the infrastructure that were necessary. Chief Stover added that even if successful we would be at least 2 years out. Chief Flick made a motion to apply for the grant asking to upgrade all current equipment to the 800 spectrum with County 911 funding the match with Chief Jones in Support. All members present voted in favor with only Chief Jesswein in dissent.

Bruce also discussed the possibility of increasing our match to make the grant more competitive. Radio models will be selected later. Amplified pager bases were discussed Frank said they work well and run about \$150.

**DNR** – None

**Funeral Protocol** – Berrien

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/LEPC** – Dave discussed wide area search class at the Fair. School drills will be distributed. More classes to come. Crisis Management school intro to continuity of government plan, mass fatality planning, are all posted in MiTrain. Dave can help with issues. LEPC the meeting moved. Next meeting August 9<sup>th</sup>.

**EMS-**

Captain DeLaTorre from SMCAS is looking for MABAS responses back on his recent card. He also reported that Red Bud went well.

MedFlight – Now accredited. Ken is retiring. He let everyone know that it has been an honor and privilege to work with each of them. President Davidson extended to Ken our wishes for a great retirement and thanked him for his help over the years.

**SHERIFF-** Summers going well. Starting the receiving area reno at the end of the month. 1.5 years for completion. Looking forward to the improvement. The Sheriff has received a request from a local Supervisor asking how and if departments pay “stand by stipend pay.” Watervliet does for their First Responders only.

**RED CROSS-** None

**HAZ-MAT-**Dave reported that 3 new team members have come on line. Sampling Tech Class a Berrien was held. HM team Members from all around attended. Hazmat refresher course coming up in 3 oaks. Additionally, propane course is also coming up for HM. See Dave for availability. CAMEO course coming up as well. Class and software is free. All training is posted in MiTrain.

**BCFA-** August 2<sup>nd</sup> Corn Dogs at the Fair. Looking for help with the Fire Safety Tent at the fair. Berrien is also looking for fire protection help. Contact Gerry or Bruce to help out.

**TRAINING** –Dave reported that the committee is now putting info out over Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook. Vehicle Extrication at Berrien Springs. CEU available. FF1&2 class will soon be posted. State is still funding a wide variety of training programs.

**Mi-TRT-5-** New Executive Board Selected.

**MABAS-** Eau Claire Agreement in.

**OLD BUSINESS -** None

**NEW BUSINESS** – Radio Grant.

Next Meeting. 8-23-17 @ 0830

RS Larry Lamb