



**BERRIEN COUNTY
FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION
BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN**



Meeting Notes from the Fire Chiefs Assoc.

January 17th 2024

The Fire Chiefs meet was held at Corewell Hospital in St Joe Michigan on January 17, 2024.

Al Dibrito gave a presentation on Corewell Health's security department and an overview of how they operate. WE would like to Thank Corewell Health and Al for putting together the meeting at the hospital. And special thanks for lunch.

The meeting was called to order, minutes were approved by Chief Weich and Kazmierzak

No treasurer report was given, Frank was absent from the meeting.

-Discussion about spending money for the retirement clock given to Sheriff Bailey. The FF Association purchased the clock with the hopes the Chiefs Association would cover half the cost. The total cost of the clock was \$275.00, a motion was made to pay the FF Association \$137.50 for our portion of the clock.

Motion was approved by:

Chief Steinke and Chief Dwan

Funeral Protocol:

-It was discussed that the funeral bunting and other items needs to be replaced. It was last used in Benton Harbor; Brian advised it was in bad shape and should be replaced. The kit was used several times in the last few months.

-Gerry would like information on FF deaths to update the web-page.

-It was determined we are good with bibles at this time

General Communications:

-The body was reminded about paying their dues to the association.

-It was asked that a sheet be emailed out with who has paid/who has not paid their dues

-Chiefs asked that another email be sent out to sign another voting members up from their department.

-Mark Berger from Med Flight expressed he tendered his resignation with Med Flight to take on a position as paramedic with Memorial Hospital. His replacement is unknown at this time, in the meantime contact Steve Shed if you need something.

-Niles Twp has a pancake breakfast on February 11th



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-If anyone has Bio-Care coming in, please contact Dave Albers, he has a couple of guys that need their physical.

New to the meeting:

EOC introduced Jordan Bauer, she is the new Business Manager/Senior Accountant that will be assisting EOC, happy to have her attend the meeting.

Medic 1:

- Talked about the expansion into North Berrien
- Business as usual for Medic 1
- Meeting with Berrien Spring/Oronoko Twp on the possibility of having a new station in their area.

Med Control:

- Advised new protocols for MFR's will be coming out

Dispatch:

- Caitlyn advised they are supposed to be drilling this month for the foundation on the new tower site
- She has 3 in training, and a new call taker in training
- Still hiring, there are 4 open positions
- Still working with Active911 on issues with address not coming in right.

Training:

- Benton Twp to hold a hazmat training on February 17th at their station
- Oshtemo Twp to hold a food truck inspector training January 25th at station 52
- Sport and event planning February 23rd – register in MI-Train
- K-12 behavioral assessment training April, and July 18th
July will be a train the trainer class
- PIO class June 11th-14th - register in MI-Train
- ICS 300-400 class will be coming out again, still working on best times to have the class.
- February 5th is the last train the trainer on the Mayday policy, it will be held at Sodus FD

LEPC:

Dates for LEPC are – February 6th, June 4th, September 3rd and November 5th

EOC:

- Advised on above trainings



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-Captain Adams talked about Palisades and the defueling process going on. He stated that as of today, any issues that Palisades would have would be an on-site issue. He stated that they are looking at getting their license back to start the plant back up. Palisades will be kept on the hazardous action plan in case they do refuel the plant and it goes active again.

FF Association:

- February 7th meeting will be held at Michiana Shores FD, possible program will be on car blankets
- Car show coming up on June 29th, looking for help and donations
- Potential for a water ball tournament during the car show.

Old business:

- Mayday implantation throughout the county by March 1st
- Again, thank you to the committee for their hard work
- Looking forward to building on the Mayday policy.
- Kaz brought up that Mike Clark asked if the Association has thought about a "Rescue Task Force" policy for the county, school shooting, and mass causality incidents. Advised it would be talked about.
- The need for a communication policy to go along with the Mayday policy.
- More discussion on the potential for an Open House Day where vendors can come in and departments could do multi department purchases. It was believed to have much interest and it was determined to be set aside, and a survey will be sent out to decide what departments needs/wants are.

New Business:

It was brought before the members about getting a new Fire Chiefs Logo made. It was thought to be a good idea. A company "Jobtown Graphics" was brought up as a someone we could talk to.

Meeting was adjourned approx. 1140hrs

Motion was given by Chief Weich and seconded by Chief Dwan.

1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31

JANUARY • FEBRUARY • MARCH • APRIL • MAY • JUNE • JULY • AUGUST • SEPTEMBER • OCTOBER • NOVEMBER • DECEMBER

MONDAY • TUESDAY • WEDNESDAY • THURSDAY • FRIDAY • SATURDAY • SUNDAY

NAME	DEPARTMENT
DOUG MYERS	BSO FD
JAMIE FLICK	NBTFD
Everett Stunke	STFD-
Les Rodriguez	RTFD
ROB HARPER	BCTFD
Bill Knudtz	Bertrand
Nick Gowan	Niles W
Georg Keldman	S.I.C.T.F.D. 1
Jason Why	Medical
Rocky Adams	BERRIEN County SO
Jordan Bauer	Berrien County SO
MARK BERGER	Med Flight
Allen Weich	Chikaming
Jennifer Flick	911
Caitlin Sampson	BC 911
Tim Jesswein	Buchanan Twp / Niles Twp
Brian Dwan	SJCTFD 2
David Allen	BCSO

Attention Agency Chief Officer,

Attached is the Berrien County Fire Chiefs Association Authorization letter.

This letter is needed if your agency will have someone representing your agency at the Berrien County Fire Chiefs Association that is not a Fire Chief, Assistant Fire Chief, Battalion Chief, Public Safety Director or Deputy/Assistant Public Safety Director. (This letter does not need to be filled out if the person representing your agency is one of the positions just listed).

Please fill out the attached form on department letter head replacing the items in red with your agency information.

The authorization letter will expire on December 31 of each year.

A new authorization letter will be required yearly or anytime your agency has a change in representation.

The authorization letter must be returned to the Berrien County Fire Chiefs Association Secretary/Treasurer.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Thanks and Be Safe.....

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Frank DeLaTorre". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Frank DeLaTorre

Secretary/Treasurer

Berrien County Fire Chiefs Association

269-208-6761

delatorre-01@comcast.net

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