

Berrien Fire Chief's Association

7-20-11

Meeting called to order by Chief Davidson at 1902 hours.

ATTENDANCE: Agens-BC911, Sexton-BC911, Maynard-SJTFD#1, Heyn-LTFD, Davidson-CTFD, DeLaTorre-SMCAS, Lamb-NFD, Jesswein-BTFD, LaBaBard-BC911, Knuth – BFD, Koebel – RTFD, Stover-BSOFD, Adams-BCFD, Hall-NTFD, Rainwater-Cook, Ott-Baroda, Flick-TOFD, Todd-STFD, Burkett-LTFD, Long-Sodus, Huston-NBFD, Lijewski-NBTFD, Spiegel-NBFR.

TREASURER'S REPORT – With the addition of \$200 in Dues the total in checking is 2482.17.

MINUTES – Minutes from the May meeting were approved as presented. Motion & Second with all in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS / BILLS –

COMMITTEE REPORTS

911 – Director Agens asked Chief Jesswein to discuss the extensions that he received on the closeout for the Communication Grant. Tim reported that the equipment is being assembled and will be installed soon. We are still short one frequency pair but we can use the pair that we do have to get the system dialed in. AEP can't approve the use of their tower until we know the new frequencies, but the project is pushing forward.

Dave discussed the difficulties faced by dispatchers when the storm came through last week. Close to 300 calls were receive and difficulty getting everything out in a timely manner was experienced. Dispatches were in essence lined up waiting to be sent. Dave has met with Chief Spiegel about the integration of a 3 phase dispatching model. The first would be normal which would be how we operate now. The second which we would call Emergency could be activated by toning out all departments and putting them on standby. In the event of a potentially severe storm that would create multiple calls in a brief window, dispatch would tone everyone out with the Civil Defense Tone and ask them to report to their station. This would allow Dispatch to bypass tones and simply transmit the addresses greatly saving time. Additional use of the 800 radios by opening up a Special Events Channel which would allow quicker information exchange out to each department could also be a part of the plan. Finally, a recommendation of quicker activation of the EOC, fire ESF could help as well by operating a status board and helping to relaying calls out to each station. Dave will get the plan out to everyone for review in the next week. Chief Eliejewski also so suggested that we consider the use of web based notification systems as they have become extremely effective with notification or personnel. With AEP looking at CODE Red for the county its use will be looked into.

DNR –.NONE

Funeral Protocol – Everything is back in Berrien. Chief Stover has pulled a sample policy from the web that will be with the kit. Though the honors that are given is up to the local chief and the family, this will serve as a good guide for local jurisdictions torn between providing honors to a lost firefighter while they preserve those honors and distinction for those we lose in the line of duty deaths for example.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT –

The team has been out doing Damage Assessment from the storm. Cory is participating in the Fair Tabletop tonight.

LEPC – None

SHERIFF- None

HAZ-MAT- None

BCFFA - Ready for Corn Dog Night??????

BCYF – Several tents lost in the recent storm. Fortunately, animals were not in them. Additional planning with look to utilize

TRAINING – Instructor Tom Hall reported that applications for next year FF1&2 should be out by the Fair Meeting. \$300 per student which includes the book. St Joe Fire is hosting a Fire Officer 1&2 being taught by Lieutenant Bob Ruff. Contact Bob at 269-591-1210 for more information.

MABAS- Larry reported on the upcoming Michigan MABAS Deployment. The drill will take place on Thursday July 28th at roughly 1420 hrs. MABAS 3501 will meet up with MABAS 3502 at North Berrien's Station in Coloma as part of the first Michigan Fire Deployment Drill. Each task force will include 3 engines, a Rescue, a Ladder, and Ambulance, and a Chief. In all 7 Divisions around the state will be asked to provide resources. A test of our local Task Force Development Plan will be held on Tuesday at about the same time so that the personnel and equipment for Thursday's Response Force can be established.

Captain DeLaTorre put together a Helicopter landing plan which was distributed to the Division for review.

OLD BUSINESS -.. Chief Davidson reported on the process of the Training Trailer Project. The RFP's have come back and include 2 companies which are Fire Blast and Kidde. Both make a good product and the committee made up of Chief Davidson, Stover, Burkett, and Knuth have done a lot of work to assure we are getting the most for our money. They have found that all of the units are still in operation with some completing 2 decades of service. There are all the bells and whistles including sloped roof simulators, sound enhancements, burning props, smoke and fire production adjustable rooms, etc. There are minor differences in design including the type of fire system. The Kidde proposal seemed to be the best deal with an additional connected 53 foot trailer that can be used for search and rescue and expanded scenarios. The members in the room were very much in favor of what these new tools would do for firefighter training, especially our FF 1&2 entry level training. The trailers are portable and plans are already in the works to be able to take the system on the road throughout the county.

The committee is already hard at work on coming up with the roughly \$100,000 match required for the project. It is hoped that additional funding can be raised to cover costs like insurance, supplies, and instructor stipends. The Sheriff has already submitted a grant to AEP to help fund our match. The committee needs support from the local Chiefs in order to make this once in a lifetime chance a reality. What they need is for

Chiefs to help by championing the project and sending out a few letters to area businesses and civic groups. Any donation will help and nothing is too small. Each donation would be made to the individual departments making it tax deductible. Sample letters will go out within the week. This won't happen without the support of the Local Fire guys. We need to have funding in place by Fire Prevention Week. Contact Chief Davidson or Stover for more information.

NEW BUSINESS-

Welcome to Chief Ed Elijewski, newly appointed Chief in New Buffalo Twp.

Adjourned 1956 hrs

RS Larry Lamb