

Berrien Fire Chief's Association

1-18-12

Meeting called to order by Chief Davidson at 0835 hours.

ATTENDANCE: Davidson-CTFD, Burkett-LTFD, Koebel – RTFD, Stiles-Eau Claire, Knuth – BFD, Heyn-LTFD, DeLaTorre-SMCAS, Gillespi-Telrad, Agens-BC911, Jones –WFD, Burks – BCEM, Lamb-NFD, Stover-BSOFD, Spiegel –NBFR, Jesswein-BTFD, DeBest-BFD, Sirk-RedCross, Bailey-BCSD, Sextion-BC911, Maynard-SJTDF#1

TREASURER'S REPORT – Lamb reported that the Checking currently holds \$1457.34, down \$99.83 for supplies to Berrien Springs for supplies. Lamb also reported on receipt of a check from Oronoko Charter Twp for \$2,054.56 from the trailer proceeds. Chief Stover asked that it not be cashed until he could check with them on the check. Motion with all in favor to accept the treasurer's report.

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

COMMUNICATIONS / BILLS –

COMMITTEE REPORTS

911 – Dave reported on the radio upgrade program. He has yet to receive the Frequency Forms back from all departments. They were due on 12-31-11. Telrad will need them to make sure each department ends up with all the frequencies they need. He also wants the information so that telrad is prepared with everything they need to program to avoid delays. Next month's meeting will be drastically shortened with the bulk of the time allocated to the completing the communication sheet and any other radio upgrade questions. Chiefs are asked to have a representative at that meeting on February 15th beginning at 1830 hrs. Please bring your Frequency Questioner with you, and any frequencies including RX, TX, and PL if applicable as the forms must be completed by the end of the meeting.

Corey discussed the 800 radio grants through the region. The local only pays a 20% match. They were due but Chief Davidson asked that the deadline be extended until Friday 1-20-12. Specific model and accessories need to be listed with the request. Send Corey an email with the information above if interested.

Contact Tom Gillespie at TelRad for any questions relating to equipment or frequencies on his Cell 269-487-6342 or by email at tom_gillespie@tele-rad.com.

DNR – Paul Rogers our new DNR representative was in and gave a presentation on the forestry divisions equipment, two bull dozers, an Off road tanker and two grass rigs. He asked that you get them in route as soon as possible due to the roughly 1 hour response time. He also brings extensive wildland experience and will not come in and take over. He cited their desire to operate in a Unified Command structure. The number to dispatch is 269-673-5819, his cell is 269-355-0309. His email is rogersp5@michigan.gov for any questions.

Funeral Protocol – None

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – March 19th Corey announced this year's weather spotter training will be held at the South Bend Regional Airport. He said that information is available on the National Weather Service Website. Classes will be held at 2 pm and 6 pm.

Corey also reminded communities to keep up with their special event plans. It is a good idea to get a jump on them prior to the festival season.

May 24th will be busy in the twin cities this year with the Senior PGA coming to town. Planning for the event is underway.

LEPC – Corey discussed the program presented by Teresa Halts of the EPA that listed the resources her agency can bring to a disaster. The Exercise subcommittee is also beginning the planning process for an upcoming table top this spring. Municipal leaders are encouraged to attend.

SHERIFF- The Sheriff informed the group of his success in raising over \$40,000 for the Training Trailer. Several checks are on the way. Way to go Sheriff!

HAZ-MAT- None

BCFFA - Denny discussed the groups desire to increase attendance at the meeting. Chief Davidson asked the Chiefs to assist with promoting attendance to this valuable organization. One suggestion offered was publishing information on the program. Including information on the Trailer Operation might also be a valuable series of programs. In the end Chief Davidson discussed the importance of the Brother and Sisterhood between firefighters in the County should be preserved.

RED CROSS- Jerry Sirk longtime Red Cross Volunteer expressed the organizations desires to continue to be an active player in County Disaster Management. They still are available to supply refreshments for long fires and will stay involved with the Disaster Committee. Chief Davidson shared an example where he worked with Jerry to set up a shelter. Chief Keobel asked for any input on the eventual display of the WTC beam being stored at the County Headquarter building on Niles Avenue. They are looking for concepts for its future display.

BCYF – None

TRAINING – Chief Jesswien updated the group on the School Bus Rescue Class he is hosting. He discussed that Berrien County personnel will receive a preference. An additional class may be needed.

The Sheriff reported that 8 St. Joe City Firefighters will be attending basic firefighting training over the next few weeks.

Chief Knuth announced an educational opportunity that his department is doing in January at the High School. It is one of the requirements to be NFPA compliant in RIT. It is 8 hours and includes Lunch for only \$49. You must be signed up by Friday. Call Rich if you're interested.

MABAS- Larry discussed the map he sent out to MABAS participants with the updated Divisions. The participation is growing with several new divisions coming on line. He asked for someone to step up as a Division Plan Coordinator. This person will meet with DPC from other divisions to assist with coordination of the State Organization. Additionally, someone from the Communication side is needed to represent our division with development of communication processes for MABAS.

OLD BUSINESS -.None

NEW BUSINESS- The Sheriff discussed a recent trend of Breaking and Entering in the South County. A coordinated effort from Border Police agencies have had some success with arrests. He asked everyone to stay vigilant and report suspicious activity. He also discussed the department's activity with Meth Lab enforcement and cleanup. We are seeing a slight increase in our area and the funding for cleanup has just been reinstated. The Sheriff had been funding the cleanups through a local drug grant.

Chief DeBest asked if anyone who would like to develop a joint purchase of hose in order to increase our buying power this year to give him a call. He offered to help coordinate.

Adjourned 0950 hrs

Don't forget Next Meeting February 14th at 1830 hrs. Chiefs are asked to have someone in attendance who can complete the radio questioner.

RS Larry Lamb