



BERRIEN FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION

Meeting 12-16-2015

Called to order by Chief Davidson at 1830 hours

ATTENDANCE:

TREASURER'S REPORT – Chief Lamb reported the account is currently showing at \$2018.58.

MINUTES – Minutes from the October 21 meeting were approved. All in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS / BILLS – None

PRESENTATION -

COMMITTEE REPORTS

911 – Director Agens discussed primary 2 paging in New Buffalo. Possibly looking at replacing T-1 with Comcast. Concerns with reliability. Plan B is looking at a Point to Point that we would install however TelRad had concerns about elevation. We may be able to place a VHF antenna on the 800 site we own in Grand Beach. Possibly an omni directional from the State Line looking back into Michigan. Dave is checking with the State to see if they will allow bandwidth.

Chikaming reporting hearing Chicago units on the VHF.

Dave reported on cut over to next gen 911 equipment postponed till the first week in January. Equipment not networked correctly however but it's live. CAD system on backup servers since June when it crashed and whipped out the settings when it cut over. Dave has a ticket in to fix it. We can call dispatch for a detailed run report which they can email it to you until rip and run system is back up and running.

Active 911 paging interface was also wiped out.

Box Alarm dispatch using CD tones for quicker alerting of multiple agencies was discussed. On a few of the most recent mutli-agency responses dispatchers have chosen to push the CD tone and then give then simply list the due agencies in favor of hand selecting each agency and then waiting for each departments individual double tone to finish. This method seems to be clearly easier for dispatchers however several chiefs have concerns that excessive tones like this could lead to their people turning off their pagers. A lengthy discussion was held with the agreement I think not to use the practice on the initial still or box alarm but it would be ok to do it on later alarms. Proponents cited their desire to know when major alarms were underway in other areas of the county.

Dave reported on ratification of EMS first responder communication plan. On February 1st dispatchers are going to assign an 800 talk group putting all agencies on a single channel who are assigned to a specific call. It is the hope that this will improve scene

Berrien County Fire Chief's Association Attendance Sheet December 16th, 2015		
Print	Signature	Dept.
Mike Davidson	<i>Mike Davidson</i>	CTFD
Greg Maynard	<i>Greg Maynard</i>	CTFD
Carlin Sampson	<i>Carlin Sampson</i>	BCPC
Bob Hale	<i>Bob Hale</i>	medic 1
Greg Kadelman	<i>Greg Kadelman</i>	SJCTFD #1
Larry Lamb	<i>Larry Lamb</i>	NFD
Chris Hester	<i>Chris Hester</i>	M.O.C.F.D.
Bill Kniskern	<i>Bill Kniskern</i>	Bertrand FD
Corey Burns	<i>Corey Burns</i>	BCPC
David Agens	<i>David Agens</i>	911
Dave Jones	<i>Dave Jones</i>	WFD
Ken Newnes	<i>Ken Newnes</i>	MedFlight → 911
Paul Kerkhof	<i>Paul Kerkhof</i>	RTFD
Bill Bond	<i>Bill Bond</i>	Medic 1
Frank Pelotone	<i>Frank Pelotone</i>	S.M.C.B.S.
Norwood Knapp	<i>Norwood Knapp</i>	1st FD
Ron Smith	<i>Ron Smith</i>	1st FD

communication effectiveness as well as assuring that Dispatch will no longer have to serve as a middle man between agencies. Beta testing will start in January. Concerns from responders who will now have to receive calls on a VHF pager, talk back on a VHF portable, and then communicate on an 800 radio were lodged. There is no doubt that this is an effective step on larger multi-agency responses however 95 percent of the EMS calls are a single EMS unit and possibly a MFR with very little communication needed. Dave did offer that SMCAS may operate slightly different than MEDIC areas of service.

DNR –None

Funeral Protocol – Bridgman lost an active member of their department Firefighter Doug Miller. Chief Davidson asked for a moment of silence to honor his service.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/LEPC – None

EMS- Medic1 Bob Hale their new operations manager was introduced. SMCAS Frank DeLaTorre discussed their VHF – 800 link and its effectiveness. Memorial Medflight – Ken let everyone know that he was scheduling their 2016 training schedule. Any department that would like to have a landing zone class should call now.

SHERIFF-

RED CROSS- None

HAZ-MAT- None

BCFFA- Gerry has put up photos of Skips funeral and its now going to be an honor pager. If you would like to add a member get with Gerry. It's a way for us to honor those members with extraordinary time or distinguished service.

BCYF —.None

TRAINING –. Half way through the FF1&2. Lose rate has been customary. Twenty four firefighters remain in the class. Firefighter safety and survival will be held on Saturday. The committee could use help from departments. Should last 4 hours or so. High School program progressing nicely. Tommy has posted photos of the kids. Guidance councilors were impressed with the program when they visited and Tommy Hall got a ton of praise for the course.

Many courses coming soon. Training money coming from the State is a bit confusing. If you want funding you need to touch base with Corey. Additional Money through to be available for specialty training has been coming from FF1&2 funding. Corey will be exploring political leaders to help to work through the red tape of the fireworks funding.

Chief Jones let the group know that their department would be offering a Bridge course from MFR to EMT in Watervliet. They have had an 80% success rate. Let him know if you're interested in attending.

MABAS- Larry informed the group that State MABAS President Bill Nelson had stepped down for health reasons and that Chief Alan Stiles from Muskegon will be our new president.

OLD BUSINESS -. None

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NEW BUSINESS – the group was very sorry to hear that Dan Vanderhulst from Nye Uniform, who served our area for over a decade, had passed away recently. His family will be in our thoughts.

Adjournment 1945 hrs.

Next Meeting January 20th at 0830 hrs.

RS Larry Lamb