

Berrien County Fire Chiefs Association

Date: September 21, 2016

Call to order: 0835

Captain DeLaTorre filling in for Chief Lamb on minutes.

Old Minutes Emailed out. Motion to accept July minutes by Chief Durham. Seconded by Chief Jones. July minutes approved.

Communication/Bills: None

Sheriff: Things going good. Technology changing. Need grants to keep up. Sheriff stated he has been replacing 5-6 800 radios at sheriff department each year. Sheriff state dafter September 11, 2001 we have to compete with nine other county's for money. Sheriff stated moving forward with jail renovation. Cost about 7.2 million dollars. Sheriff stated changes at both court houses to help prevent any further tragedies. Sheriff also stated a lot happening across country. A lot of attacks on police officers. A large Black Panther movement in country. Sheriff reminded all be aware of your surroundings. Citizens are stopping at incidents and video them or getting involved. If see this let officers on scene know and back off.

Red Cross: Nothing new. Ride to remember was September 11, 2016. Minor motorcycle accident in Watervliet.

911: Dave stated made it through the summer.

Now that schools are back in session will be working on plans with schools.

Discussion on future communication plans as pertaining to radios/pagers. Assistance to firefighter grant period opening up October 11, 2016 and closes November 18, 2016. What is status of upgrading county pagers? Dave recommended looking into the Unication G5 dual band 800/VHF pagers for moving forward. Dave stated the assistance to firefighter grant would cover the new dual band pagers. Captain DeLaTorre asked about the \$1,500.00 cost for the tones. Will grant cover that also? Or will individual departments/county cover the cost? Extensive discussion on 800 vs VHF.

800 not cost effective to put in hand of every firefighter. Every firefighter needs own radio. Most department are paid on call and do not know who will show up.

Question on if move to 800 paging will individual department be able to set off tones from department radio. Denny stated 800 radios can be programmed to set off tones. He had the 800 paging test radio with him.

Discussion on the 800 pager testing. Denny stated he has had several departments do 800 pager test. Some good some not so good. Would like to do some repeat test now that additional towers have been added to system.

Dave talked about the future of data technology and the potential of having data and voice on same system. County looking into First Net company for possible future data communications in county.

Discussions on our current VHF system is 5-6 years old now. Will be at end of life in 2022. By that time county should have access to the data network. If forced into another narrow banding all new equipment will have to be purchased. The 800 system went online in 1999-2000.

Dave again stated we need to start deciding future of county radio system. Do we continue to build three systems? Minitor V are at end of life. Some departments have begun purchasing pagers themselves. Minitor VI have now been out about 2-3 years with life expenicy of 8-10 years.

Chief Davidson stated committee needs to get back together and discuss issue. Chief Lamb stated about only 6 departments responded to information request on radios/pagers for grant. Chief Davidson stated we need minimum of 16 department to show interest to move forward with grant. Chief Davidson asked committee to meet again and sent out to all departments in county Yes or no interested in radio/pager grant.

DNR: None

Funeral: Berrien Springs

Emergency Management: Captain Adams stated there has been a lot of information sharing. Captain Adams reminded all how important community involvement is in recent events. Captain Adams reminded everyone? If you see something, Say something and say it now.

UAS systems has had rules changes. Government operations fall under commercial rules.

MSP has license. County working on a license. County waiting on approval. Has been working on this for over a year. Captain Adams talked about kickback on BC Chiefs listserve. In looking into kickbacks most are due to mailbox full. Reminded all to check clean out email boxes. Captain Adams discussed the flood damage in south county and northern Indiana. Funds are available for flood damage. See him for more info. EAS upgrades. County moving to an 800 pager for EAS warnings. Audio will be clearer and able to send clearer messages to radio stations. Captain Adams discussed amateur radio service upgrades to trunked system and adding to hospitals also so if towers damaged in storm hospitals still have communications. Captain Adams discussed the carfentinal issues in state. It is 10,000 more potent then morphine and 100,000 times more potent then fentanyl. Please remember to where PPE.

Medic-1: Operations manager Hale Discussed tracking the new P2 and P2 MFR dispatch codes for past six months. Was tracking to see how many P2 and P2 MFR responses ended up as P1 responses to hospital. The data did not show any significant increase in P2 and P2 MFR dispatches that resulted in P1 transports. Thus resulting in decrease in emergence responses causing a positive decrease in P1 responses. Will continue to track the data.

S.M.C.A.S: Captain DeLaTorre Thanked BC dispatch for continued effort in having CAD info sent to CAD computer of responding unit for Cass County calls. Captain DeLaTorre asked if could remind dispatchers to use the additional active 911 designators as when multiple calls crews are not getting active 911. Denny had set up additional active 911 CAD designators.

MedFlight: None.

LEPC: Cyber security a big topic of discussion. Many attacks on government and healthcare sectors. Educate employees.

BCFFA: Gerry thanked all who helped and supported education center at fair. Still needs more help from all. Thanks you to Dennis Graham for setting everything up. October meeting in Chikaming.  
Servpro doing smoke alarms again this year. Will give departments same numbers as last year. If you did not get any or need more contact Gerry or Servpro. Three Association officers will need to be replaced on association board. Please encourage younger firefighters to participate. Now have access to digital camera for web.  
October 04 Gerry and Larry will be on radio.

Training: High School class has eleven students. Meet and greet for adult class September 28. All fire chiefs invited to meet the class. Instructor 1 program Jan 06-07-08 and 21-22 2017. This is a 40 hour class and all days are eight hour days.

MABAS: Chief Lamb : Grand Rapids and Detroit and looking to join. Detroit possible own division. GR chief from Illinois. Had two MABAS requests, One in Lansing with a MABAS engine strike team activation and one in Muskegon, county to county deployment. VB coming on line with all departments except Mattawan who joined Kalamazoo. Allegan is coming on line. Julie Secontine MABAS legal rep is now state fire marshal. She is working on having MABAS coordinate fire service in the state. Chief Lamb asked about our out of division box card that he sent out a couple months ago. Are we as a division going to do it? Also need agreements back. Change in agreements to cover cost recovery for MTF 1.  
We need to decide as a division if we are going to stay on with MABAS.

Old: None

New: Watervliet Fire hosting MFR class. Cost \$400.00Get with Chief Jones if interested.

Motion to adjourn.  
Meeting adjourned 1028 hrs.

Minutes submitted by:  
Captain Frank DeLaTorre  
S.M.C.A.S.