

# **BERRIEN COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS MEETING MINUTES**

Call to order: 0830-1010

Date: February 19, 2020

**Old Minutes:** Motion to accept old minutes and seconded. Motion passed. None opposed

**Treasure Report:** For January 2020: Starting \$3505.29/Refund of Statement Fee \$3.00/Deposit \$330.00/Ending \$3838.29. Motion to accept Treasures report, and Seconded. Motion passed. None opposed.

## **Communications/Bills:**

MPSCS memo on Building code 916.1 and Fire Code Section 510  
(See attached)

## **Committee Reports:**

**Sherriff:** All Good.

**Red Cross:** No one present

**911:** New Phone system almost complete. VOIP moved over still need to move actual landlines. Commercial landlines must identify extension locations. CAD update next. CAD update will be a 15 month project. Paging console template ordered from MPSCS. MPSCS building paging template/footprint. Tele-Rad stated can get pagers programed in three days once they get the information from MPSCS. Continue to work on new site on Spectrun/Lakeland Watervliet hospital. This will be a new site. Critical connect moving forward. Michigan and Indiana have agreed to move forward with critical connect. Legalities being worked out between lawyers. Both Michigan and Indiana agree improvements along state line is important. With critical connect there is possibility to add phone PTT to system in the future as well. Dave Agens will be retiring this year. Dave's last day will be May 30, 2020

**DNR:** No one

**Funeral:** In Berrien Springs

**Emergency Management:** Discussion on radio encryption. MPSCS has put a halt on radio encryption as it has caused interoperability issues with some neighboring departments not being able to communicate with each other. Department of homeland security has created a new division, The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, CISA. The three main focus of CISA 1: Back up your network/information, 2: Reinforce basic cyber security system, 3: Have a Cyber response plan. Remind employees to be cautious with outside emails coming in on company email, caution when opening attachments, resist need to open unknown emails and attachments.

Shoreline erosion: House in Lincoln Twp. Scheduled for demolishment due to the shoreline erosion impacting home. Caution on septic systems that many years ago were installed between homes and bluff.

Be ready for spring flooding.

**EMPTF:** Discussion on Local energy assurance plan. Identifying critical energy user in jurisdiction. Working on grant to update Hazmat mitigation plan.

**EMS:**

**Medic-1**-Nothing to report.

**S.M.C.A.S.**-Nothing pertaining to S.M.C.A.S.. But Question in general for EMS agencies.....Captain DeLaTorre inquired into the structure fire in Bainbridge Twp. on January 27, 2020, asking why Benton Twp fire and Sister lakes fire were notified in their dispatch that Hazards chemicals were on site but when PrideCare was dispatched, EMS was not made aware of the hazardous chemicals on site. Captain DeLaTorre stated the importance for EMS agencies to be made aware of information like this as well. Dave stated this is an issue with dispatching over multiple systems, being able to get the same information to everyone. This is a reason for interoperability to dispatch everyone on the same system.

**MedFlight**-Landing zone classes available for anyone who needs one.

**Med Control**-Al Debrito discussed the active violence training Lakeland is offering. Reminded everyone that Med Control meeting are open to everyone. Discussed Spectrum has agreed to spend approx half million dollars to make Lakeland facilities 800 compliant. Discussed grant to purchase a med control response vehicle.

**LEPC**- EPA survey of the old aircraft components property. Waiting on results of the survey. Hazmat team members attending a hazmat conference.

**BCFA**- Meeting was February 05, 2020 at Lincoln Twp. DNR presentation on wildland firefighting. Next meeting Michiana Shores on March 04, 2020. Working on getting estimates to update front of Fire Education Building at fair grounds for this years Fair.

**Training**- Everything good. Discussed importance of filling out state paperwork and NIFRS information. Bertrand received a \$8300.00 training grant. Please keep your NIFERS updated. Chief Davidson state d14 departments still behind for January 2020. If departments need help/training on NIFRS Matt Romo from Bertrand offered his services to help/train anyone who would like help/training. Discussion on state fire marshal requires NIFRS to be current for past 12 months so that is a constant moving fluid time frame. Grant is requiring EIN and NIFRS numbers as well.

**HAZMAT**- All Good. Call if needed.

**MITRT-5**- None

**MABAS**- Discussion on the Out of Division Engine Strike Team Drill that took place Wednesday February 12, 2020. Division 3501 was able to assemble an engine strike team with team leader and assistant. There was some confusion on who notifies Red center once strike team assembled in the POD. Discussion on having extra people for paperwork and inspections. Discussion on departments having three ring binders at stations with the forms in them for department members going on deployment or fill out prior to arrival at the POD. Discussion on having team leaders have a lock box in the vehicle for confidential paperwork of those on deployment. Discussion on departments having go bags and/or totes with toiletries/water/etc... for deployments.

**Old Business:** Discussion on grant. Grant moving forward. Chief Stover gave a thank you to the departments that returned the needed paperwork. Chief Stover stated departments that do not return needed paperwork will have department names removed from grant. Dispatch rewrote their section of grant. MOU letter still in the works. New Buffalo Twp working on their portion of the grant. 410-420 firefighters in county. Grant looking like will be 1.7-1.8 million. About 494 radios requested. Grant due March 13, 2020.

Discussion on pager training. Denny stated he and Frank can train about 30 people at a time. Question asked if training on a powerpoint. Capt. DeLaTorre stated not currently but would like to get it on powerpoint. Gerry Kabelman offered to help create powerpoint. Question asked about Denny and Frank doing the pager training for department training officer and/or another department member who may have/understand the pager technology so that they can take

information back to their respective departments. Denny and Frank stated that may be a great opportunity to get the information to everyone. Will work on setting up the training. Chief Stover offered his department for the training. MPSCS unable to have the time or resources to offer the 8hr pager programming training class. Discussion on if Tele-Rad can offer it as the local dealer Frank to check with tele-rad to see if they offer pager programming training. If not Unication would come do it if we get at least ten people for the class.

Discussion on how the switch to 800 paging will take place. Dave stated auto aid departments will need to coordinate the change to 800 paging together. Some department will be on VHF for a while as coverage issues get worked out. 800 pager test to follow VHF pager tests.

**New Business:** Discussion on HAZMAT/PEAS reporting for accident scenes. Chief Brovold asked dispatch if they are still entering into LEIN. Chief Brovold stated one of his members requested PEAS entered into LEIN and dispatcher did not know what he was talking about. Caitlin stated she would follow up to make sure dispatches are aware of PEAS input into LEIN. Discussion on getting the PEAS form for Gerry to put into resource directory. Dispatch will get that information to Gerry. Spiller ultimately responsible to report spill information to PEAS Chief Davidson stated Bio-care starting 2020 schedules. Gerry reminded all he still has county challenge coins available. Next meeting March 18, 2020 0830.

Motion to adjourn.

Motion seconded.

Meeting adjourned 1010

Minutes submitted by Captain DeLaTorre

**Berrien County Fire Chief's Association  
Attendance Sheet  
February 19th, 2020**

	Print	Signature	Dept.
1.	Mike Davidson	<i>Mike Davidson</i>	CTFD
2.	BRUCE STUCK	<i>Bruce Stuck</i>	BSSO/FI
3.	Gerry Kabelman	<i>Gerry Kabelman</i>	S.I.C.T.F.D. 4
4.	Al DiBrito	<i>Al DiBrito</i>	LAKELAND
5.	Dennis Sexta	<i>Dennis Sexta</i>	BC 911
6.	Frank DeLore	<i>Frank DeLore</i>	SIMCOLES
7.	DAN JONES	<i>Dan Jones</i>	WFD
8.	JAMIE FLICK	<i>Jamie Flick</i>	NBTFD
9.	Mike Mattix	<i>Mike Mattix</i>	NBFR
10.	Ryan Klaci	<i>Ryan Klaci</i>	SJCTFD #1
11.	Tim Jesswein	<i>Tim Jesswein</i>	Buchanan Twp
12.	Ron Busch	<i>Ron Busch</i>	BCSO / EMS/D
13.	DAVID AGENC	<i>David Agenc</i>	BC 911
14.	Caitlin Sampsell	<i>Caitlin Sampsell</i>	BC911
15.	William Boyd, Jr	<i>William Boyd, Jr</i>	MEDIC 1
16.	David Albers	<i>David Albers</i>	BCSO / BSO PD
17.	Matt Remmo	<i>Matt Remmo</i>	Bertrand
18.	MARK BERGER	<i>Mark Berger</i>	MED FLIGHT
19.	Dan Ditcham	<i>Dan Ditcham</i>	BCTFD
20.	Donnie Johnson II	<i>Donnie Johnson II</i>	Weesaw Fire
21.	Gary Brovold	<i>Gary Brovold</i>	NTFA
22.	Nathan Boyer	<i>Nathan Boyer</i>	Lake Twp
23.	Rocky Adams	<i>Rocky Adams</i>	BERRIEN CO EMS/D
24.	Jeremy Connell	<i>Jeremy Connell</i>	SJDPS
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STATE OF MICHIGAN  
MICHIGAN PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS INTEROPERABILITY BOARD  
LANSING

December 10, 2019

Attn: Michigan Public Safety Agencies  
Michigan Zoning and Building Commissions

Re: International Fire Code Section 510 & Michigan Building Code (International Building Code Section) 916.1

To All Those Concerned,

The Michigan Public Safety Communications Interoperability Board collaborates with Michigan's various public safety radio systems and telecommunications networks, to better help provide and promote statewide communications interoperability across all platforms. It also adopts procedures and best practices to help oversee the organization and operations of Public Safety Communications throughout Michigan. The Board is responsible for advising the Governor on all interoperability aspects of current and future technology in the state to ensure the public safety community is well prepared today and in the future with the emergency communications ecosystem.

As you know, a vital part of that emergency communications ecosystem is a reliable radio signal when our first responders are inside structures. We want to ensure our communities across all 83 Michigan counties understand the impacts of zoning and building materials on public safety communications. We highly encourage distribution and application of International Fire Code (IFC) Section 510 and MBC (IBC) Section 916.1 which references IFC Section 510. These require approved radio coverage for emergency first responders within new buildings including signal strength, installation requirements and acceptance testing. Additionally, it is the recommendation of the Board to apply IFC Chapter 11, specifically 1103.2 which addresses emergency responder radio coverage in existing building.

Sincerely,

Lieutenant Colonel W. Thomas Sands, Chair  
Deputy Director  
Michigan State Police

Mr. Bradley A. Stoddard, Vice-Chair  
Statewide Interoperability Coordinator  
Michigan's Public Safety Communications System  
Department of Technology, Management & Budget