



## BERRIEN COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION



**Call to Order:** 0830-1026

**Date:** July 15, 2020

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

**Treasurer's Report:** No change in balance \$3888.29. Check 1040 written for \$162.40 for POD totes

**Communications/Bills:** None

**New Chief/Visitor:** None

### **Committee Report:**

**Sheriff:** Things are going good. Remember to wear masks. Masks are now mandated per the Governor. However, mask are not required if you have a medical condition and you do not need to prove you have a medical condition preventing you from wearing a mask. Calls to 911 for people not wearing masks will be told to contact store owner/manager. Will respond for disturbances, but not going to chase people around the stores. It is stores responsibility to ensure masks are worn and stores right to refuse entry to store if you choose to not wear a mask. Hired 03 new people. Has 1 opening currently. Interest in becoming a police officer has decreased due to recent events. Some departments around the state are now instating a no-confrontation policy. Only allowed to grab the wrists and if person resists officer to let it go.

**Red Cross:** None

**Dispatch/911:** Two more department moving to 800 paging on August 01, 2020. North Berrien and Watervliet. Pride Care now working on getting 800 pagers. ASR site at Lakeland Hospital Watervliet still ongoing. Expecting to be operational by end of 2020. VHF Bertrand tower is still down. Continues to have issues with clicking and static. Tower is currently not transmitting. Berrien Springs stated they have a transmitter if needed. Dispatch has 02 openings. See Caitlin if interested. Dispatcher Chris Lyon is retiring on July 17, 2020. Discussion on departments only getting one page now on MPSCS verses the 02 they were getting on VHF. Caitlin stated 800 paging was initially set up for single paging of multiple department at the same time. Doing a second page would require more work to remove the other department from the que to complete a second 800 page. Most department present acknowledge they would like 2 pages over the MPSCS 800 system due to network/connection issues/and/or being in bad location. Second 800 paging would be very helpful. Vote on having dispatch due 2 pages over the MPSCS 800 system: 11-yes. 01-no. Caitlin stated second 800 page could be done and would talk to her team. Still working on cross boarder connection with Indiana. Discussion on how many dispatchers are on duty, what is the minimum number of dispatchers? 05 is minimum number of dispatchers. Number of dispatchers on duty depends on the time of day. With the option to call more in if need arises. Question asked if Niles Dispatch has the same setup as county for 800 paging? Niles Dispatch was asked to do an 800 page and Niles dispatch advised they have no idea what was being asked. If Niles is the back up do they have ability to dispatch via MPSCS 800 as well? Caitlin to follow up with Niles Dispatch. Caitlin asked to please be courteous to dispatch and please do not call dispatch asking for your second page. Dispatchers are busy answering 911 calls and dispatching out the calls. Remember you have active 911 as well.

**DNR:** None

**Funeral:** In Berrien Springs

**Emergency Management:** Sargent Bush advised the county emergency declaration are due to expire on July 10, 2020. The state EOC will only fill certain gowns and masks now as most are now readily available. It is now local agency responsibility to get PPE. Please remember to fill out the hot wash form. EOC has only received 5-6 and these will be used to update county EOP. MPSCS has agreed to allow departments to activate 800 pagers. Base station radio and Command portable will be allowed to be programmed with ability to activate department pagers. Please be patient as this is a new process and will take a while to get set up. Cross boarder 800 connection with Indiana still moving forward. Currently in state to state testing. Goal is to get Dispatch in Niles and County to have consoles that allow patching of MI talkgroups to IN talkgroups. Critical

connect is still moving forward as well. Reminder that all departments along state line can now have radios programmed with Indiana system. Fire departments are allotted 2 Indiana 800 radio ID's. Department must send an updated 800 template to MPSCS holding 2 zones for Indiana. Once template update approved by MPSCS the radio must go to an Indiana 800 vender to be programmed. Kenwood radios may not be approved for Indiana 800 system. Tele-Rad representative and Sargent Bush to find out more information on Kenwood radios and Indiana system.

**EMS:**

**Medic-1:** None

**S.M.C.A.S.:** RedBud has started, but is scaled back. Continue to deal with COVID and working to keep employees safe from COVID.

**Med Flight:** None

**Med Control:** None

**LEPC:** Scheduled to meet 4 times per year. Due to COVID there has been no meetings recently. Looking into virtual/zoom type meeting for future meetings.

**BCFA:** July meeting was a zoom meeting. July did not meet a quarm. Planning a zoom meeting for August meeting as well. No corn dogs. Hope more will attend August meeting as need a quarm to conduct business and approve work on new front for education center. Looking into doing the work on what would have been fair week. Zoom is a free account.

**Training:** 6 failed from the adult class with 1 failing both written and practical. Some will retest in Cass. High School class had 1 fail written and 2 fail written and practical. Planning to meet with state to see what will happen for next years classes. RIT class still planning on moving forward in September. Burn trailers are available for use. Bertrand will be hosting a training in September as well.

**HazMat:** Things are good. Training again. Call if needed.

**MITRT5:** No call outs recently. Discussion on use of county all call for TRT requests. Since the MITRT5 team is made up of members of departments in county the all call makes sense to get team members mobilized and notify neighboring departments that some personnel and equipment are being dispatched. Please pay attention if you are not a MITRT5 member you do not need to responded to the MITRT5 call out.

**MABAS:** The POD kits are made up for Chikaming and Niles Twp PODS. Captain DeLaTorre showed everyone what was in POD kits and reminded Chikaming and Niles Twp to take their POD kits with them. Midland County thanked MABAS for the help/response to the flooding. Discussion on MI/IL/WI MABAS holding monthly meetings. August 12 will be tanker strike team tabletop drill. October 14 will be the tanker strike team to POD drill. MABAS is looking into water rescue training in the future in response to the Midland flooding. MABAS will be reaching out to the Coast Guard for possible training. MI MABAS had a meeting with the Governor. The Governor stated she did not realize everything MABAS did and asked what she can do to help. MABAS requested to fully fund MI MABAS and MITF1 and expressed how important this funding is.

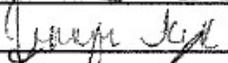
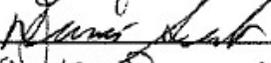
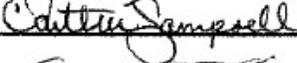
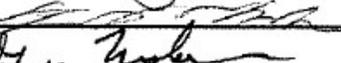
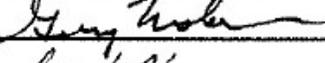
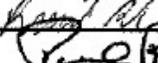
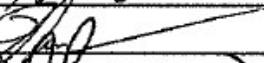
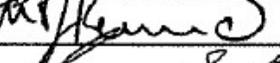
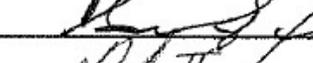
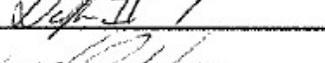
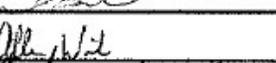
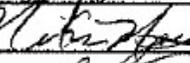
**Old Business:** Chief Stover stated AFG Grand awards are delayed due to COVID grants now being given out. Possible August now for AFG. There is a hazard pay grant available and volunteers are eligible for it. The payroll reimbursement grant is due tomorrow. Hazard pay grant is due in September 2020. These grants were sent out to municipalities.

**New Business:** Biocare dates: North Berrien: July 27; New Buffalo July 28; Baroda July 29; Cook August 10 and 13; Bridgman August 14. Please get resource directory updates to Gerry so he can keep resource directory updated. NIFERS all but 7 departments current. Please keep up to date.

**Next Meeting:** 0830 August 19, 2020

**Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn and seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1026hrs.

**Berrien County Fire Chief's Association  
Attendance Sheet  
July 15th, 2020**

	Print	Signature	Dept.
1.	Mike Davidson		CTFD
2.	JENNIFER FICK		BCPSCC
3.	Dennis Sexton		BC 911
4.	Caitlin Sampsell		BCA11
5.	Tom Gillespie		Telco-Road Inc
6.	Gary Kibelman		S.J.C.T.F.D.1
7.	Bernard Busch		ALSO / EMHS
8.	Paul Bailey		BCSO
9.	Mike Phelps		BHORS
10.	Krandon Chianelli		LTFD
11.	Tim Jesswein		Buchanan TWP
12.	Matt Remms		Bertrand
13.	BRUCE STORCK		BSOFD
14.	Donnie Johnson II		Weesaw FD
15.	HAROLD HAYN		Lake Twp.
16.	Paul Busch		Fire Square
17.	Allen Weich		Lake / ME-TRT-5
18.	Mike Matter		North Berrien
19.	Frank Debatore		S.M.C.A.S.