



## BERRIEN COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION



**Call to Order:** 0835

**Date:** August 19, 2020 (revised)

**Old minutes:** Sargent Bush requested the following corrections:

The Lakeland Hospital Watervliet site is not a mini site, but an ASR site. Declarations was plural, The county only had one declaration due to expire. Goal is to have consoles that will have the ability to patch IN and MI talkgroups together. Change radios updated to template updated. Caitlin requested change to minimum dispatchers on duty (5). Motion to accept minutes with corrections and seconded. Motion passed. None opposed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Beginning balance: \$3888.29; Check for \$162.40 for MABAS POD totes; Ending balance \$3725.89. Motion to accept Treasurer's report and seconded. Motion passed. None opposed.

**Communications/Bills:** None

**New Chief/Visitor:** None

**Committee Report:**

**Sheriff:** SGT. Bush stated Sheriff says Thank You to everyone.

**Red Cross:** None

**Dispatch/911:** As of August 01, 2020, Eau Claire/North Berrien/Watervliet now on 800 paging. Only south eastern corner and a few departments in northern portion of county still on VHF paging. Second page added as requested. There are 03 new dispatchers. Chris Lyon retired and will be filling her QA position in near future. Dispatch now has an active911 account. Call volume was down during the initial COVID-19 outbreak, but is now back up to normal level. Great Lakes Drone has been approved to operate on MPSCS system and has MOU's from Van Buren and Berrien. Berrien has allowed Great Lakes to use 11FG 1-5 /11UIC1-3/and 11SPEV1-2. Dispatch has requested update to consoles to add all county department 800 paging talkgroups. They will also be adding some additional alert tones for use with the Public Safety Departments. County got a quote for replacing Bertrand tower equipment. County trying to decide if feasible to replace Bertrand tower equipment for short term or put that money into 800 upgrades. Discussion on 800 paging coverage in south eastern corner of county. Bertrand stated they have about 50% 800 pager coverage and very poor VHF paging coverage. Sheriff Department offered up cash of 800 radios for additional 800 testing. Critical connect moving forward with local testing next week. HIP discussion: Please do not ask for AEP ETA. AEP: does not give dispatch ETA during storms. Please listen to the HIP dispatch message. The message will be tailored to the event. Discussion on use of department proprietary talkgroups during HIP. Discussion on fire department proprietary talkgroups in pagers. Captain DeLaTorre stated most templates were planned with mutual aid departments proprietary talkgroups in them. Discussion on adding zones with department proprietary talkgroups in radios. SGT. Bush stated trunked tactical talkgroups can be added to radios instead of adding multiple zones with all county proprietary talkgroups in radios. Discussion on VHF paging issues in Galien. Discussion on making sure volume is turned up on pagers and using the fixed alert option on pagers to see if that helps with VHF paging issues in Galien. Discussion on heat and humidity effecting VHF signals. Chief Jesswein thanked Caitlin for the communication and keeping us updated. Chief Jesswein asked if County got multiple quotes for replacing Bertrand tower equipment or other options for the tower. SGT Bush reminded that the Bertrand tower when operational has to be linked to the simulcast system. Caitlin stated she has had discussions with Niles Dispatch and will be working to train them on 800 paging. Chief Stover thanked dispatch for planning ahead and calling in extra staff ahead the storms. Thank you to Emergency Management for the advance notifications and updates on the storms. Discussion on an 11PG911 pager trip on August 11, 2020 at 0503hrs. 800 pagers activated, but no voice or active911. Probable accidental trip.

**DNR:** None

**Funeral:** In Berrien Springs

**Emergency Management:** SGT. Bush discussed the difference between ASR/Mini site/Micro site. Micro site is a one way site to help improve pager reception. The site in Watervliet is an ASR site and will be linked via fiber

optic from Diamondale-Watervliet-dispatch. This will allow another pathway for the MPSCS system into Berrien County. Watervliet site planned to be operational by end of year. Critical connect discussion. Different options discussed for testing to see if this can work. State partners discussion tomorrow. SGT Bush reminded all to continue to track/document PPE usage and plan for second phase of COVID-19. Emergency Management in process of updating EOP. Gayle is no longer in Emergency Management. Can contact EM at bcoem@berriencounty.org

**EMS:**

**Medic-1:** Continue to follow COVID-19 policy and procedures. No significant increase or decrease in COVID patients. Still have plenty of PPE. Had an MVA in south county on 94 and everything went well and all worked well together.

**S.M.C.A.S.:** RedBud Nationals is planned for Labor Day weekend with Pro and amateur races. No spectators on site. Only riders and rider families are allowed on site. This will reduce number of EMS needed for the event as well. Captain DeLaTorre advised all that there is a firmware update for our Unication G4/5 pagers and that the firmware update email was forwarded out over the Fire Chief's list serve.

**Med Flight:** Med Flight currently not doing PR events. Will do educational classes for First Responders. Discussed drones around landing zones. If drones flying around LZ they must be grounded before helicopter arrives.

**Med Control:** Captain DeLaTorre brought up a discussion he and Al DiBrito had about doing EMS strike force tabletop drill similar to the MABAS tabletop drills. Would like to do one EMS strike force tabletop drill a quarter. With no objections there will be an EMS strike force tabletop drill on Tuesday August 25, 2020 at 1900hrs. Information will be sent out and Captain DeLaTorre will work with dispatch on script.

**LEPC:** SGT. Bush stated there have been no meetings. Membership will be reviewed and memberships will be confirmed in November. Continued outreach to hazmat businesses.

**BCFA:** Chief Davidson played video from thepatriottour.com. the tour will be stopping in Bridgman on October 13, 2020. They will be coming from Fort Wayne. Unsure on where they will be headed when they leave. Chief Davidson would like departments to have units along the route when they come in and leave. Chief Buist is the point of contact for the event. Will get incoming and outgoing route information. SGT. Bush will see if the Motorcycle unit is available as well.

Discussion on giving challenge coins to FF 1 and 2 graduates. There are 22 graduates so 11 coins each from firefighters association and chiefs association. Motion to give 11 chiefs association challenge coins to graduates and seconded. Motion passed. None opposed. Graduation limited to 100. Gerry showed picture of the Fire Education Center at fair grounds. Old front has been torn off. There is some rotten wood that needs to be replaced. Planning to continue work on building Saturday 0900 contact Gerry if can help. Next meeting September 02, 2020. Planning to be via zoom again. Zoom meetings have been borderline on quarm. Need 01 person from each department to attend via zoom to conduct business. The association has received a \$5000.00 check and a \$1000.00 check will be coming soon. These funds will be used to help with smoke detector program with ServePro. Looking to possible purchase CO detectors as well this year. Chief Jesswein suggested to check with LOWES and they donated about 80 CO detectors to Niles Twp. for installation.

**Training:** Let Cory know your numbers for the fall class. The high school class is still set to go as well.

**HazMat:** None. Chief Davidson discussed HAZMAT call at the Sawyer truck stop. County HAZMAT team on scene.

**MITRT5:** None

**MABAS:** Discussion on the tanker/tender tabletop drill. Everyone on the out of division tanker/tender boxcard responded and if the tanker/tender strike team was needed we would have been able to meet the request. Captain DeLaTorre thanked everyone for their participation in the drill. Next drill will be tanker/tender to the POD in October. Request to use Niles Twp. POD for the October drill.

**Old Business:** Radio grant. Nothing new to report. Still doing COVID-19 grants. Chief Stover stated he will be retiring September 30, 2020. He will stay on to assist during the transition to a new chief.

**New Business:** Chief Davidson reminded all to make sure stay up on NIFERS reporting. Chief Davidson stated everyone doing a great job of staying updated and he brings updated NIFERS information for each meeting.

**Next Meeting: September 16, 2020 at 0830hrs.**

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

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

	<b>Print</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Dept.</b>
1.	MIKE DAVIDSON	<i>Mike Davidson</i>	CTFD
2.	Harold Heyn	<i>Harold Heyn</i>	Lake Twp
3.	Ronald Hoyt	<i>Ronald Hoyt</i>	BCSO/EMTSO
4.	TREVOR H. STODER	<i>Trevor H. Stoder</i>	BSOFD
5.	Dennis Sexton	<i>Dennis Sexton</i>	BC 911
6.	MARK BERGER	<i>Mark Berger</i>	Med Flight
7.	Matt Kemmo	<i>CM Kemmo</i>	Bertrand
8.	JENNIFER FLICK	<i>Jennifer Flick</i>	Dispatch
9.	Brandon Nicoll	<i>Brandon Nicoll</i>	Lincoln Twp
10.	Jim Jesswein	<i>Jim Jesswein</i>	Buchanan Twp
11.	Dave Flick	<i>Dave Flick</i>	TOFD
12.	Gerry Kabelman	<i>Gerry Kabelman</i>	S.J.C.T.F.D. 1
13.	William Boyd, Jr	<i>William Boyd, Jr</i>	MEDIC 1
14.	Ted Chase	<i>Ted Chase</i>	GALLEN
15.	Dan Ducham	<i>Dan Ducham</i>	BCTFD
16.	Donnie Johnson II	<i>Donnie Johnson II</i>	Weesaw
17.	DAN JONES	<i>Dan Jones</i>	WAT F.T.D.
18.	FRANK DELAVOIE	<i>Frank Delavoi</i>	SUN GAS
19.	MIKE MATTI	<i>Mike Mattie</i>	NBFIR
20.	Caitlin Sampsell	<i>Caitlin Sampsell</i>	BC 911
21.			