



BERRIEN COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

Call to Order: 0830-1020

Date: September 16, 2020

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

Treasurer's Report: Starting Balance: \$3725.89: Check for \$29.45 for additional POD items: Deposit \$180.00 coin money: Ending Balance: \$3876.44

Motion to accept treasurers report and seconded. Motion passed. None opposed.

Communications/Bills: Aerapy flier from Dinges Fire

New Chief/Visitor: None

Committee Report:

Sheriff: None

Red Cross: None

Dispatch/911: New QA Sara Blerton. 800 paging talkgroups now on one console. Contact dispatch to set up test paging dates and times. 800 radio testing in Bertrand and Galien. Galien had 50-60 reasonably good coverage and plan to switch to 800 paging soon. Bertrand had 85-90 reasonably good coverage and switching to 800 paging Saturday September 19, 2020. Discussion on importance of having 800 radios serviced and tuned an annual basis. Capt DeLaTorre stated he has S.M.C.A.S. 800 portables serviced and tuned and has noticed improvement in reception. Dispatch now has active911. Critical connect dry run scheduled for this afternoon and functional test scheduled for September 24, 2020. Caitlin stated she looked into The all call that happened on 08-11-2020 and was unable to find it.

DNR: None

Funeral: In Berrien Springs

Emergency Management: SGT Bush stated the county has an MOU with the state EOC to warehouse PPE for the state. It is not for EM to give it out. SGT Bush reminded all to please provide feedback to the BCOEM as this information will be used to update the county EOP. Bi annual exercise coming up for palisades.

Discussion on unication microsite. This is an out only site and field testing planned for Grand Traverse county. MPSCS template builders shorthanded. Planning to hire 15 new programmers. Currently having to pull staff from other jobs to write templates. This causes errors that must be corrected. Only Lansing controls system keys for programming. Discussion on the Regional Dive Exercise in Niles on September 10, 2020. 10 dive teams, 6 in Niles. Regional COW was there. The set up 8TAC91 to be repeated for the drill and it worked very well with reception going several miles.

EMS:

Medic-1: all is good

S.M.C.A.S.: RedBud hosted the National event over the Labor Day weekend. All went well. Only riders and family allowed to stay on site. No spectators were allowed to camp at redbud.

Med Flight: All is good. Call if needed

Med Control: discussion on the EMS Strike Force tabletop drill. Tabletop drill was held on August 25, 2020 at 1900 hrs. Drill went well, DR Beyer/Al Debrito/Chief Davidson/Chief Mattix/Capt. DeLaTorre were on zoom during the drill. All MFR agencies except Eau Claire and Michiana Shores responded. Capt. DeLaTorre stated he did not know Michanian /shores was part of the EMS Strike Force and will have to make sure they are included in future drills. Eau Claire is currently short staffed and that may be why they did not respond. Plan is to do one of these a quarter.

LEPC: None have not met yet due to COVID. November is membership review.

BCFA: continuing to meet via zoom. Did not have a quorum for September meeting. Planning for zoom meeting in October as well. When in person meetings resume plan to start where left off on schedule and continue to follow schedule. Hoping to start in person meetings in November. Continue to work on fire education center front. Replaced a lot of rotten wood. Pictures on fire association web site. Serve-Pro planning smoke detectors again along with some CO detectors. Spectrum brought in AreoMed helicopter pictures will be

up on web soon. There are banners up along the bluff supporting military and first responders. Drive by and take a look. Web was down for a while.

Training: FF1&1 packets sent out including schedule and applications. Class scheduled to start October 10, 2020 with Saturday classes again. State denied hybrid class. Changes on how make up classes will be handled. HS class has 7 students. Small class due to lack of promotion for HS class due to COVID.

HazMat: All good. SJT-1 had a hazmat call

MITRT5: MITRT5 had a call out yesterday in Buchanan at the sewage treatment plant. Victim fell 12-15 feet into a vat. It was a local county response. 800 worked well for response. Everything went well. Remember call early.

MABAS: Michigan MABAS continues to participate in Great Lakes MABAS with IL/WI/MI. Discussion on CA and recent Hurricane requests. MIMABAS has included wording specifically pertaining to COVID that the requesting state cover all COVID related costs for any MIMABAS members that either have to be quarantined or contract COVID from the response. MIMABAS was able to put together 17 personnel for the CA request. After 72 hrs with no response from CA MIMABAS withdrew offer. October 14, 2020 will be tanker POD drill. Planning to use Niles Twp. South station for the POD drill. MIMABAS has put together credentialing documents for UAS teams. Working on developing IMT/water rescue teams as well. Crawford County welcomed as a new MABAS member 3702. MIMABAS Ball asked Capt. DeLaTorre to pass on best wishes and thank you to retiring Chief Lamb. Chief Lamb was instrumental in getting MAMAS started in MI along with Chief Nelson. MIMABAS would not be what it is today without Chief Lambs help. Thank you and best wishes on your retirement.

Old Business: Chief Davidson advised all that Chief Stover was having hip replacement surgery. There has been no response on grant.. Departments need to start looking into their own plan B options. VHF will be ending by December 31, 2022, so departments have time to plan their plan B options. Discussion on VHF fireground FCC licenses. Dispatch currently has the FCC license for VHF firegrounds. Some departments have their own FCC licenses, most do not. Will Dispatch continue to carry the VHF fireground license after the December 31, 2022 for departments that plan to use VHF fireground for fire ground operations. Caitlin stated she would look into it. Question asked on why 2 pages on 800. Chief Davidson advised vote took place last month for 2 pages on 800 paging especially as we go through this transition phase. Question asked why dispatch needs active911. Caitlin advised it helps dispatch know that the call goes out over active911/assists in monitoring the system. Question on if Niles dispatch has access to department paging talkgroups. Niles dispatch still does not have access to paging talkgroups.

New Business: Discussion on patriot tour. The Patriot tour will be here in Berrien County on October 12, 2020 There are several stops planned and confirmed and other still needing to be confirmed. Chief Davidson had tentative schedule. Request from dispatch to use 800 talkgroup for the tour. Caitlin advised 11SPEV1 for the tour.

Question on ideas for fire prevention since unable to go into schools this year due to COVID. Suggestion on providing schools with fire prevention information for teachers to pass out to students.

Plaque presented to retiring Chief Lamb of Niles City Fire Department.

Next Meeting: October 21, 2020 at 0830 hrs.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn and seconded
Meeting adjourned 1020.