



BERRIEN COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

Call to Order: 0830-1015

Date: October 20, 2021

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

Treasurer's Report: Starting Balance: 4564.94; Dues Deposits: \$50.00,\$200.00; Ending Balance: \$4814.94 Motion to accept treasurers report and seconded. Motion passed. None opposed.

Communications/Bills:

New Chief/Visitor: Guest: Dan Carrick from Senator Kim LaSatta's office. Dan spoke about his first attendance at fire chiefs meeting 3 1/2 years ago in the discussion on the need for an 800 tower in the south east portion of the county Dan thanked the Fire Chiefs Association for bringing that need to their office because of this they were able to get \$6 million in funds for a new tower in the south eastern portion of the county as well as \$600,000 for a new public safety building at the Berrien County Youth Fair. They have made the tower a high priority and working to get the funds released very soon hopefully within the next month or so.

Dan advised the county has until 2023 to use the funds for the tower and the new Berrien County Youth Fair public safety building.

Dan also discussed the Michigan redistricting after the last census. The redistricting project is done by an independent group and the proposed redistricting for Berrien and County has Berrien and County split into three districts a North the south and the coast line. It was requested that people provide input during the public comment portion of the redistricting process.

Discussion on HB4172 the fire fighter cancer support bill. Dan advised that Kim is in support of this bill.

Committee Report:

Sheriff: None

Red Cross: None

Great Lakes Drone: Changes to their attached with 104 calls 16 calls since last month. 52 missing person calls. Great Lakes Jones has a new command vehicle see attached picture and is available for use at calls as well should be up and running by the first of the year. Chief Mattix thanked Great Lakes Drone for the help on the missing person call that North Berrien had.

Dispatch/911: VHF SIMULCAST SYSTEM WILL BE ENDING BY DECEMBER 31, 2022.

Caitlin discussed VHF signal issues from the Coloma Tower. Stated there was timing and mux clock issues. Issues should be fixed let her know if any issues continue.

Caitlin stated that the new South County tower proposals have come back at \$7.8 million for the new tower that also includes adding simulcast to our current towers. The six million dollars from the state will be a huge help towards this tower. Caitlin reminding all of the Berrien and County low interest loan program for mobile radios. Caitlin remind all to please send 800 radio ID's into dispatch so that they can have those input it into CAD. Caitlin discussed the new CAD configurations should be up and running by February 2022 and stated there is a module for fire departments called crew force that can be added for fire department. Fire departments would have to absorb the cost for this addition. Caitlin to get more information on it.

Discussion on dual dispatching 11F911 and Berrien county primary one. Caitlin advised with more departments using the MPSCS 800 system that it is difficult to put dispatches out over 11F911. When busy dispatches may not go out over 11F911 so as to not hold calls until 11F911 clear to dispatch on.

Discussion on 800 pages do we need to continue with two dispatches for 800 paging. Some departments have requested only a single 800 page. Chief Chairello made motion to move to single 800 dispatch page. Seconded by Chief Whitney. Discussion...South east county departments expressed concern dropping down to a single dispatch page due to the limited 800 reception in that area.

Dispatch protocol is to retone department if no response after three minutes. However, three minutes is a long time in an emergency. Question..can the paging be staggered instead of immediately after one another?

Discussion lead to if department answers up after first page no need for second page.

Allen Weich brought up about the short antennas providing better reception on pagers as well.

Frank inquired timeline for the new tower now that funding is priority. Caitlin stated 18-24 months to build tower and have it in service. She will be working with county administrators to get everything signed and ready by months end so the 18-24 month timeline will start with November 2021. Looking to build tower in the Buchanan area.

Caitlin discussed what three words app. It is a free app with mapping that has the entire country mapped out in 10 foot sections Dispatch is able to send a link to a cell phone that the caller can open up and dispatch can ask them what are the three words they see? This is able to pinpoint their location to within a 10 foot section.

Frank inquired about the Michigan State trooper shooting incident in Niles on October 06, 2021. Niles Fire was not dispatched to that call and did not receive an Active911. Niles dispatch is stating the county handled all of the call.

Caitlin stated she was forwarded my emails to Niles dispatch and would look into the incident.

Frank also asked that when Berrien county dispatch Niles Fire they use the 11PGNC67 for fire calls, MVA, and the 11PGMR67 for the medical calls. There have been issues when Berrien county has dispatched Niles Fire for medical calls using the 11PGNC67. Caitlin said she would look into it and asked if Niles Fire is still only responding to priority one calls. Frank advised yes as of now still only responding to priority one medical calls.

DNR: None

Funeral: Berrien Springs

Emergency Management: None

EMS:

Medic-1: Busy call volume up COVID calls are down. Cost per call up 40%. Brought up a motor vehicle accident on October 17 that had a possible chemical issue stated that all around communication went less than smooth and requested that the call be reviewed.

S.M.C.A.S.: Currently waiting on new radios. S.M.C.A.S. now performing monoclonal antibody infusions for COVID positive patient. They have done these infusions in Van Buren in Kalamazoo County but S.M.C.A.S. now offering them as a drive-through at the S.M.C.A.S. Niles station.

Med Flight: all going well in a lot of fog this month is affecting flights currently still offering landing zone classes if interested get in touch with Marc. All thanked Med Flight for bringing donuts in for the meeting this morning.

Med Control: Al DiBrito offered to host the December meeting at the new Spectrum Lakeland conference center.

Offered to have breakfast for the meeting. All were in favor so AI will check on availability for the room and let Frank know.

COVID numbers spiked in the past week. On October 14 they had 15 COVID positive patients and October 19 they had 27 COVID positive patients.

LEPC: None

BCFA: Buchanan Township will be hosting the November meeting. Chief Jesswein stated it will be a spaghetti dinner.

Training: Chief Mattix stated that North Berrien will be hosting hybrid and electric vehicles on Monday, October 25 1900 hours at our Hager station.

HazMat: None

MITRT5: Allen Weich stated there have been no calls and the upcoming training will be a rope operations course held at Niles City Fire on October 30th and 31st and November 13.

MABAS: The MABAS meeting was held on October 15 there is a new dispatch video and hand out. Frank will be sending that information out soon.

We discussed a new software system for the state EMABAS. Wisconsin is currently using EMABAS. When you input/update your box cards it will automatically email the departments on your box cards requesting their approval for the position on the box card. When a piece of apparatus goes out of service department can log in and note that that piece of apparatus is out of service and then it will notify all agencies that have that piece of apparatus on their box card that it is out of service. It will integrate with active 911 and I am responding. It is not meant to replace CAD but it will help assist dispatchers with the box alarms. However, there are fees associated with it so MIMABAS is currently looking into how this could be integrated.

MIMABAS has been asked to participate in the 2022 northern exposure exercise with the Michigan National Guard.

However, this exercise coincides with the three day Michigan chiefs conference in Novi in which MABAS will also be participating in.

MIMABAS is it looking into performing level two staging exercises in 2022. These exercises would be divisions going to their local PODS and then traveling from their PODS to a level two staging area. Director Adkins is looking into funding for this type of exercises for the departments that participate.

Old Business: Chief Davidson provided a current NIFRS list.

Grant: retired Chief Stover stated that they have continued to have paperwork issues with the grant

Originally only a quote was needed, now they're requesting actual invoices with dates of orders and shipment. This time around they should have first installment of \$210,000 on Friday. Checks for the departments that have submitted invoices will be released on Tuesday.

There will be about \$30,000 leftover. Those funds to be dispersed to the departments that spent over their allotted dollar amount. Question asked on why only departments that went over. Retired chief Stover advised that if you didn't spend over your allotted amount that you didn't need the extra.

THANK YOU to Chief Myers and Retired Chief Stover for managing the grant.

New Business: Discussion on holiday food for dispatch. In the past the Fire Chiefs Association has split the cost with the Firefighters Association. Motion by Chief Myers to spend up to \$200 for holiday food for the dispatchers second by Chief Mike Mattix.

Capt. Bronson stated there is a catering business in Weesaw that is willing to come to your fire department event/scene and provide food free of charge. Captain Bronson to get information to Frank to be sent out.

Next Meeting: 0830, December 15, 2021 at Lincoln Twp . Fire Department.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 1015hrs