



## **BERRIEN COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION**

**Call to Order:** 0830-1035

**Date:** December 15, 2021

Chief Davidson attending meeting. Chief Davidson stated for those who were not aware he suffered a minor stroke just before Thanksgiving. Chief Davidson stated he is here, however, differed running the meeting to VP Mattix and Sec/Treas. DeLaTorre. Chief Davidson wished everyone a good Holiday Season.

**Old minutes:** Old minutes emailed out. Dispatch Director Sampsel requested correction to October minutes to reflect New 800 tower location to be listed as in Buchanan area. Motion to accept old minutes and seconded. Motion passed. None opposed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bank has now changed again. Started with Chemical, Then TCF, Now Huntington. With change to Huntington was locked out of online banking. After a few hours yesterday with Huntington I now have access to out online banking again. November starting Balance: \$4814,94. No transactions for November. Ending Balance: \$4814.94. Motion to accept treasurers report and seconded. Motion passed. None opposed.

**Communications/Bills:** None

**New Chief/Visitor:** MIMABAS Director Trent Atkins attend the meeting. <https://www.mabasmi.org/>

Director Atkins gave a brief description of MIMABAS and how MIMABAS works. Director Atkins advised MIMABAS is a statewide mutual aid agreement, as well as the facilitator of mobilizing fire resources in the state. Illinois/Indiana/Michigan/Wisconsin/ and Ohio are now part of MABAS and now make up the Mid West MABAS. Director Atkins stated every division is a part owner in the organization and that Chief Mike Mattix is our division Leader and Lieutenant Frank DeLaTorre is the Division Plan Coordinator. IRS recognizes MIMABAS as government entity. MIMABAS receives about 1million in funding from the state. Half goes to training. MIMABAS currently working with Detroit on training at no cost to Detroit. Other half goes to purchase equipment/ replace equipment/maintain equipment and MOB center as well as part time salary for the MIMABAS director and MOB supervisor. MIMABAS has a MIMABAS store where MABAS apparel can be purchased and MIMABAS gets 15% of all shop sales. MIMABAS does not have any dues/charges for divisions or members. Question: What part of Indiana is part of Division 3501. Indianan is MABAS 201, consisting of Clay Fire Territory, and several other fire departments along the IN/MI state line. Our MIMABAS agreement gives MIMABAS members reciprocity with Illinois and Indiana. Currently working on it with Wisconsin. Gave example of sawmill fire in UP that exhausted resourced in Menominee county and surrounding counties. Fire Department 10 miles away in Wisconsin unable to come due to restriction within the state of Wisconsin. MIMABAS had to request MI governor request an EMAC, a governor to governor mutual agreement to be able to release resourced from Wisconsin to cross over into Michigan.

Dispatch/Communication Video: <https://www.mabasmi.org/index.php/dispatchers/dispatch-comms-training>

Divisions allowed to decide their own dispatch system and weather or not to use boxcards. Boxcards are a way to preplan and manage an event. Director Atkins recommended everyone to sign up for the members area on the MIMABAS website. Director Atkins discussed the MRP (Mission Ready Package) and advised they are available to download on the MIMABAS website. Discussed the large grass fire the spread to several hundred acres of field and buildings involved, in Ingham county. MIMABAS was able to move three engine strike teams and three brush strike teams from three different divisions into Ingham county in 45 minutes. The MABAS system works and works well. Discussed the electronic Knox box system. Knox box system can be set up specifically for MABAS. Question on MABAS vs local EOC. Director Atkins advised MABAS does not replace Local EOC. When Local EOC activated and local fire desk managing resources, the EM goes to district coordinator who then contacts operations desk at MSP who contacts the MABAS Red Center. The only people who orders resourced direct are the division dispatch center or the state of Michigan. The EM through the state EOC or the division dispatch center is the only way to activate an out of division MRP. MABAS does not replace local EOC. MABAS can be used before stated of emergency. Example of large commercial

manufacturing site that is on fire. Will we have enough resources in the county? If not boxcard may have engine strike team listed on it. Division dispatch contacts red center who contacts closest engine strike team. If they are able to muster up and respond. If not then red center looks for next closest engine strike team. Just because you have an engine strike team on paper does not mean you are required to respond. For instance, our division has an engine strike team. today at ten o'clock we may not be able to muster up a engine strike team, however after six pm tonight we may be able to muster up a engine strike team. Nothing defiant MIMABAS does not dictate how division operates. Director Atkins thanked us for letting him come talk to our Chiefs association today. Mutual aid is important. Not one of our communities can manage every incident and we have to work together and come together to create a safer environment for our communities and the only way to do that is with mutual aid. How many county departments are participating: One has officially requested to drop out. Two others mentioned possible dropping out but nothing officially yet. One department looking to join. Director Atkins advised that there is no value to dropping out and you lose a lot of resource capabilities. Exercises and moving are all voluntary. Isn't nice to know that if you have a major incident, as the incident commander, one call to dispatch center opens up resources from around the state. Currently 14 department in the division. Current MABAS departments: Bertrand; Bridgman, Buchanan City, Chikaming, Eau Claire, Galien, Lake Twp. New Buffalo Twp., Niles City, Niles Twp, North Berrien, Royalton, Three Oaks, Watervliet.

#### **Committee Report:**

**Sheriff:** Merry Christmas. Currently working jail staff 12 hour shifts due to deputies out with COVID. Very trying on staff now with the holidays. Assisting with crime scene in Benton Harbor and MSP with crime scene techs. All inmates COVID tested. Currently 5 inmates COVID positive. Busy in schools. Many schools affected by threats. Sheriff Department is handling COVID is real and people are dying from it.

**Red Cross:** None

**Great Lakes Drone:** See attached. Lindsey having a baby soon. 4580 is now in Kalamazoo, serving from M-40 to Calhoun County. 4584 is housed in North Berrien, serving M-40 to M-139. 4581 housed in Chikaming, serving M-139 and south. Now part of the MSP/UAS workgroup. 4585, command vehicle has had request to respond to Tennessee. It is not quite ready yet. Command vehicle will have 2 800 radios; 3 VHF/UHF radios; Marine radio; aircraft radio; Ham radio. Will have patch capabilities as well. 60 foot tower with two cameras. Cradle point WIFI with verizion and AT&T. Conference room and portable bathroom and tent that can be set up inside in cold weather and outside in warmer weather. Contact GLD for trainings. Question: is you model sustainable? Matt answered yes. Matt advised he writes some of this off. Instead of donating to charities being able to write off some of the costs is his donations. Matt advised to start up drone operations can cost 10-12 thousand dollars. Matt advised he has also received two grants to provide these services to public safety departments.

#### **Dispatch/911:**

**REMINDER ONE YEAR LEFT ON THE VHF SIMULCAST. VHF SIMULCAST WILL END BY DECEMBER 31, 2022.**

11F911 is becoming congested with adding dispatching. 11F911 was never meant to be used for dispatching. 11F911 is meant for response. To prevent dispatching delays not all pages will go out over 11F911 when busy. Plan is to eventually use the 11BCPAGE for the dispatches. Any departments receive programed radios yet. Retired Chief Stover stated no radios received by departments yet. Frank also advised departments had training to be able to program 11BCPAGE into pagers. Will start using 11BCPAGE when BC Fire Chiefs advise to do so. Paging talkgroups can be in station base radios and command radios. Caitlin requested to meet with PSO departments after meeting. South County 800 tower moving forward. Starting to receive equipment. Will be completed in two years. County making up the approx. 2.8 million difference. Remember no system is 100 percent. Please report specific problems/incidents to Caitlin. Reminder of county low interest loan program for radios. Please get 800 radio ID's to Dispatch. Reminder communications committee recommendation to not have emergency button activated on fire department radios exception PSO departments. If encounter a dispatch issue, please contact the on duty dispatch supervisor by phone so problem can be corrected. Reminder to send boxcards to dispatch. In EXCEL please. Only have 5 fire department boxcards, and S.M.C.A.S. BHDPS, Bertrand, Buchanan Twp, Chikaming, North Berrien, Niles, ST Joe Twp 1, Three Oaks. Please don't say strike a box when requesting box alarm just ask for a box alarm or second alarm, etc... CAD going live in February. Building multilevel mutual aid plans. Received a demo of crew force. Will forward to Frank to send out. Working with a vender for xport interforce in place that may work with fire reporting software. Staffing: two released from training. Two still in training. Looking to bring in two new hires. Have a very young

inexperienced staff. Half of them are under five years. One third longer than five years. If issues, please contact on duty supervisor so it can be corrected right away. Discussion on second tone issue. Departments toned twice 15 minutes later reached out to another department then twenty minutes later original department responds. Why can't we have initial set of tones and then reach out to next department, especially when we have maned stations nearby. We understand during the day everyone hurting for manpower, but we are all on the same team and it should not matter what fire department shows up in a reasonable time. Dispatch is getting busier and busier and dispatchers are not watching the clock. Governmental units need to decide if they will allow that to happen. Who is going to cover compensation for departments to cover calls? South county needs two pages as south county does not always receive first page. Dispatch protocol is three minutes and five minutes. However sometimes it may be five minutes before second page. Discussion on, the chiefs need to put egos aside and call mutual aid. Some departments are good at calling for mutual aid and others can't get past their egos and want their truck on that scene even if it takes 30 minutes to get there. Not all chiefs are able to make these meeting and dispatch looking to put out communication to officials to explain to them what is going on the 911 side. There is still too much old dog attituded...Its mine! It is not a dispatch issue and unfortunately dispatch is the one having to deal with it. This is on fire department and/or politics side. We have to do the best for the people we serve, If that means a fire department that is closer can respond and fix the issue and home department comes after, that need to be acceptable. Question...Rumer in Niles area.... dispatch putting a dispatch building in Buchanan. Caitlin stated there is two issues.....County commissioners came in during covid said dispatchers are too close together and have to expand. We need a back up center outgrown Niles city. Niles too small now. Need a back up EOC. We needed a tower south county. So we married these things together. So yes new dispatch center in south county and empire would become back up. So new tower and new dispatch center will be tied together. As soon as property is buttoned up Caitlin will let us know where it will be. Will tower be delayed for a building? No tower will not be delayed for a new dispatch center.

**DNR:** None

**Funeral:** Berrien Springs. Purchased New Bibles.

**Emergency Management:** Capt. Adams in in regional meeting in Kzoo. Every thing good. If need anything give him a call.

**EMS:**

**Medic-1:** None

**S.M.C.A.S.:** None

**Med Flight:** None

**Med Control:** None

**LEPC:** Meeting December 21 at the health department.

**BCFA:** January 05, 2022, meeting at North Berrien Station 2. Great Lakes Drone presentation.

**Training:** BHDPS posted a lot of information on training. Chief Mattix advised everyone to look at the new firefighter recertification rules. Your departmental traing should cover most of the three years CE requirement for basic firefighter. For fireofficer/instructor may have to look outside for training. BHDPS has some classes already scheduled. BSOT will be having some in the future as well. Chief Myers reminded all that firefighters need to understand it is now out of the fire chiefs' hands. In three years, there will be some upset firefighters that do not have their training they will not be firefighters. Main focus of this changes is to become compliant with the rest of the country. Question on how MI fell behind when we have a nearly 300 hour firefighter course. Most of the other states now require CE's to remain a firefighter. Question on who will enforce it. Brian stated according to FM Sehlmeier each department will have ten percent of department audited. They are currently auditing fire officer courses. Reporting requirement is now on the firefighter. Firefighter will need to log into smoke and log their training. Question...Will this be October 1 of every three years? What happens to a firefighter that gets certified in 2023? Do they only have 18 months to get CE's? Brian will invite Robert Stokes to come to the January meeting.

**HazMat:** None

**MITRT5:** Held a rope course in October and November. Held quarterly training on rope operations in Coldwater and Niles. Niles training was held at the new Gas power plant.

**MABAS:** Presentation earlier.

**Old Business:** Grant. Retired Chief Stover gave short history of previous grants. Pagers: set dollar amount per department. Radios: departments had vender of choice, Kenwood/Motorola, etc.... This grant took dollar amount and divided by numbers of stations and gave everyone a number. Everyone worked with that number

as purposed. Submitted first batch and got paid as presented. Second batch had several Motorola invoices and was rejected for being too high. Began phone conversations. Documentation states regional grants must use one supplier. This is new. First answer, in the grant there are 310 radios at \$1800.00 each. Grant will pay radios at \$1800.00. Anyone who ordered Motorola would have to pay for them on their own. Next step in talking to her she would ignore the single vender but hold us to the \$1800.00. Most stayed in the \$1800.00 range. Some who requested Motorola radios were as high as \$5400.00 per radio to \$2200.00 per radio. This put the average through the roof. So we have \$1800.00 per radio to work with. Still need to pay for 251 radio to pay for. So we have a problem. The communications committee have been working on this now for a few weeks. See attached sheet. \$506,041.50 is due for rest of radios. Grant will pay \$476,908.74 based on \$1800.00 per radio. This leaves a shortfall of: \$29,132.76 to pay all invoices. Chief Mattix/Retired Chief Stover/Caitlin met with Brian Dissette and will be proposing county commissioners to pay 50 percent of the short fall. Honor CU donated \$2500.00. Still need \$13,316.38 to pay for all invoice. By dividing the \$13,316.38 by the 35 stations that's an additional \$380.00 per station to balance and pay for the remaining radios. Because of the \$1800.00 limit on the radios, There will be grant money left, and we will deal with that when this is taken care of. We already paid 7% match. This additional is just under 9% match. This is still a very good deal on the radios. The easiest way to do this is subtract the \$380.00 form the due back to departments. The original 12 departments would be invoiced the \$380.00. It was unacceptable to tell the departments that ordered Motorola sorry you ear on your own. The grant is ignoring the multiple suppliers but is sticking to \$1800.00 per radio. So this is how it was able to work it out. Frank reminded everyone that in this grant we agreed to up our match to 12% so at just under 9% we are still below the 12% match. Remember this is a county wide grant that benefits all our departments. Brian stated his department will balk at paying the additional. They sold it at the previous price. Jeremy stated it would be easier to write a check for the additional amount. Retired Chief Stover stated he could invoice everyone for the \$380.00. He can not put the invoices through until he knows where the money is coming from. Any other grant options. They take time and venders want to be paid and departments want their radios. After everyone pays the \$380.00 and we are able to get a grant to cover it we can then pay it back. But the grants take time. Retired Chief Stover has the next batch blended to make the dollar amount fit into the \$1800.00. So this match is now just under 9%. We are still below the 12% we all agreed to in the grant. **Motion by Chief Meyers that all department pay the additional \$380.00 seconded by Chief J. Flick. Motion passed. None opposed.** Retired Chief Stover will send out invoices for the additional \$380.00. Chief Davidson stated the communications committee worked very hard to come up with a solution and had the best interest of the entire organization. Chief Mattix did not want to come to the meeting and say here is the problem now fix it. We wanted to say here is the problem and propose a solution to fix it. Chief Davidson stated the communications committee had Chief Meyers thanked the communications committee and especially Retired Chief Stover for all the time spent on this.

#### **New Business:**

Holiday food for dispatch. Chief Myers discussed the scene watcher app he brought up a few months ago. The staff from WMU he was working with have stopped returning calls. Is there anyone with app expertise please send Chief Meyers way. Right now, program is dead in the water.

We are at the end of the year. Chief Davidson is retiring on March 31, 2022. This is a projected date, however due to recent events is planning to stick with it. Will be reinstated back to work in next couple weeks. Will be good until he retires or can replaced him up here at anytime.



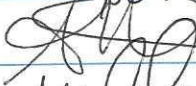

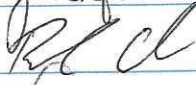



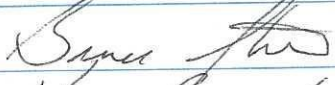
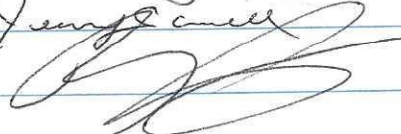
Sheriff: Is planning to get some of his people into the training with Great Lakes Drone. Sheriff does have two drones for immediate use but will be using Great Lakes Drone as needed as well. Sheriff does not have underwater drones and plans to use GLD for water incidents. Does not currently have an agreement with GLD but planning to work with GLD.

**Next Meeting:** 0830, January 19, 2022 here at Lincoln Twp.

**Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 1035hrs.

# SIGN SHEET

12-15-2021

Frank DeLatorre		Miles/MAFA
Dave MYERS		BSOFT
Amanda Bronson	Amanda Bronson	Weesaw
Rob Harper	Bob Harper	BCTFD
Ashley Munson		GLDC
Matt Remond	M. Remond	Bertrand
Paul Brites		BCSO
JENNIFER FLICK	Jennifer Flick	911
Brandon Chiodi		Cincinnati Typ
Dave Flice		TAFD
Trent Atkins		MIMABAS
Ted Chase		GALLEN
JAMIE FLICK	J. Flick	NTBTFD
	Bruce Store	BSO
Kris Burtis	<del>Bruce</del> Kris Burtis	911
William Boyd, TA	William Boyd	MEDIC 1
Caitlin Sampsell	Caitlin Sampsell	BC911
Jeremy Connell	Jeremy Connell	SJDPS
Brian Kozmierzak		BHDPS

Batch	Due Departments	AFG Payment With Match
1	\$221,308.74	\$221,308.74
3	\$162,014.98	\$154,800.00
4	\$121,990.87	\$100,800.00
Bridg	\$ 726.91	
	<u>\$506,041.50</u>	<u>\$476,908.74</u>

\$ 506,041.50  
 \$ (476,908.74)  
\$ 29,132.76 short

\$ 29,132.76  
\$ (2,500.00) Honor CU  
 \$ 26,632.76  
\$ (13,316.38) Possible County assistance  
 \$ 13,316.38

\$ 13,316.38 Divided by 35 stations = \$380.46

Rounded \$380.00 per station

# GREAT LAKES DRONE COMPANY, LLC

## UAS REPORT

EMERGENCY SERVICES DIVISION

### December 2021

#### Call Volume Report

- Total Calls 2021: 117
- Calls Since Last Meeting to Date: 14
- Calls in Berrien County 2021 to Date: 44

#### Breakdown of Type of Calls 2021 to Date

- Missing Persons - 64
- LEO Assists - 23
- Structure Fires - 24
- Water/Dive Rescue - 11

#### Updates

- 4580 is now up in Kalamazoo
- 4585 is usable except waiting on the 800 radio templates
- 3 successful LEO assists
- Reminder of Early Activation with coming into the winter weather temps especially for missing persons reports.

Reminder, early activation makes everything easier on all of us, we would rather disregard then be behind possible opportunities to intervene at the right timeline. This is especially relevant for water rescues. We assisted on two calls this past month that early activation turned the call around.

#### Training Update

- Contact us by email at <mailto:Virg@greatlakesdronecompany.com> to schedule a training with us.

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