



BERRIEN COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION



Call to Order: 0830

Date: February 16, 2022

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

Treasurer's Report: Beginning Balance \$4814.94. Check for Dispatchers dinner: \$300.00. Ending Balance: \$4514.94. Motion to accept treasurers report and seconded. Motion passed. None opposed.

Communications/Bills: Chief Jesswein discussed the Fazi benefit. Over \$20,000.00 profit. Former Howard Township Fire Chief.

New Chief/Visitor: Dan Linn will be the new representative to the BC Fire Chiefs association for S.M.C.A.S. Welcome Dan.

Committee Report:

Sheriff: Dave Albers on behalf of Sheriff. Everything good. Have a great day.

Red Cross: None

Great Lakes Drone: See attached. Will have MFR in a few weeks. Office moved to Coloma. Ice Rescue training February 21, 2022. Have been requested and now partnered with NASA to work with doing a national wildland firefighter imitative. Fire Marshal Kazmierzak on behalf of BHDPS Director asked who gives authority that allows GLD to run emergency lights and siren. Fire Marshal Kazmierzak stated BHDPS Director spoke to the Sheriff and the Sheriff has not given GLD authority to run lights and siren. BHDPS Director concerned on liability if GLD runs emergency through City of Benton Harbor. GLD stated they run emergency for immediate life threat. Would talk to Matt and have more information at March meeting.

SEMCO: Had presentation at LMC College. Presentation not as good as previous. Had technical issues.

Dispatch/911: **REMINDER VHF SIMULCAST WILL BE DISCOMMISSIONED END OF THIS YEAR.** New tower meeting kicked off last Thursday with projected completion, end of summer 2023. Reminder no system 100%. Please send in 800 radio ID lists. There have been several accidental emergency button activations on fire department radios. Reminder we as a group decided emergency alert buttons on fire department radios are not to be active. Please contact on duty dispatch supervisor by phone if issues, so they can be investigate/correct right away. Send in boxcards. Initial dispatch on the box cards should always be your normal response. It should not be different for residential vs commercial. CAD went live February 01, 2022. If you are having troubles, please let dispatch know. Rip and runs are now by email. If have not provided dispatch with an email for rip and runs please provide one. Rip and run email question. Can a department have more than one email address. Caitlin advised yes you can have more than one email address. Get dispatch the email address. Active911 character limit has been increased. Link for crew force has been forward to Frank to include in minutes. Sample pricing for crew force: Per license \$475.00, maintenance: \$100.00 annually. Ball Park price. Can be on a tablet in the truck, gives you call details, and continued call details as it comes in. Working with company to reduce the price through a site license. There is an interface that can work with your reporting software. Costs of about \$2300.00 and your vender will have costs as well. If there were multiple departments using the same reporting software the cost could be shared with those departments. Staffing. Three in training. Looking to hire one more. Still have four vacancies. Boxcard question. When boxcards are emailed to dispatch do they go into effect immediately? They need to be inputted into CAD. Caitlin will let departments know when departments boxcards are uploaded. Discussion on initial dispatch column on boxcards. Caitlin stated initial dispatch needs to be the same for structure fires regardless of what type they are residential/commercial/high occupancies/etc... It should not be different from boxcard to boxcard,. Dispatchers are not looking at boxcards in the initial dispatch. Chief Myers stated for commercial fires initial dispatch has ladders responding first vs residential engines first. Can dispatch put in that information on what

they are using for initial dispatch? Caitlin stated they do not dispatch initial response by apparatus, they dispatch by departments.

If department needs a different response for a specific location, then it needs to be listed as a target hazard for a special response for that location. Dispatch would need to know what those locations are to be set up in the CAD. Caitlin stated there are some inconsistencies in boxcards. Caitlin to follow up with those departments.

DNR: None

Funeral: Berrien Springs

Emergency Management: Everything going great. Might snow again it is still winter.

EMS:

Medic-1: None

S.M.C.A.S.: 800 radios are inline for programming. Still need to hash out details with dispatch on talk groups before will go to 800. Caitlin stated her email works.

Med Flight: In backup aircraft. 800hr preventative maintenance.

Med Control: Went from COVID red status to yellow. Loosening up some restrictions on entering facility. Beginning February 80 COVID patients on average. This morning down to 26 COVID patients. Having Active911 issues. Caitlin to look into. Lights and siren response for EMS on Med Control facebook page. Al to send link to Frank to include in minutes. Spectrum has merged with Beaumont. Went from 35 thousand employees to 64 thousand employees. Spectrum is parent company but will carry the Beaumont Spectrum name.

LEPC: Meeting yesterday. Next meeting in June. This is the second meeting, had one in December. Working on virtual meeting policy.

BCFA: It's been tough. January got cancelled due to weather. February was not much better. Attempted virtual meeting but did not get a quorum so was unable to conduct business or hold elections. Next meeting at ST Joe Twp 2. Planning to hold it. Benefit car show coming in June. Really need support from the fire departments. Expecting 1100 cars there. Met yesterday with road commission, BCSD, ST Joe Twp. EM. Expecting 5-10 thousand people. Want to have as many fire trucks from throughout the county as possible. Have already received over \$5,000.00. Money will be split between 50/50 between the BCSD and BC Firefighters Association. Honor and United Credit unions sponsors. Will have a pancake breakfast by Royalton Fire Department. Link on county firefighters association web page. ST Joe Twp. station 1 new fire truck will be delivered tomorrow. If anyone wants to see contact Gerry.

Training: Fire Marshal Kazmierzak had a conference call with the state fire marshal. The continuing ED officially starts on October 2022 and will need to be completed by end of September 2025. The plan is to audit 10 percent of firefighters in the state. If one firefighter from department that does not do CES they will deal with the one firefighter. If several from a department that does not do the CES, MIOSHA will enforce. Can double dip the hours. Fire officer/instructor can use the same class for both credits. The Fire Marshal was unable to attend our meeting. Firefighter is firefighter credits. Officer/instructor can double dip and use the same class can be used for both. The state stated everything you need to know is in the rules. Fire Marshal is at the end of his term and unsure if he will be renewed. When did it change? When it come out it was stated October 2021. The fine print stated state fiscal year. It was supposed to be passed before end of October 2021. It did not get passed until November, so it follows the State fiscal year hence October 2022 to 2025. Fire Marshal Kazmierzak reminded everyone of tonight's mayday class. Instructor class starts Monday. Fire Officer starts March 2022. Next fire academy at BHDPS June 2022.

HazMat: Dave....Everything is ready to go. Have a lot of new equipment. New command vehicle on order.

MITRT5: None. Allen Weich will be new Chikaming Fire Chief upon Chief Davidson's retirement.

MABAS: Plan Coordinators meeting this month. Work on coming up with exercises for 2022. MIMABAS liked how we did the radio drills here in our division. Other divisions have same personnel issues as us. So MIMABAS liked our radio drills we had done and planning to build from that and include zoom as well. Regional coordinators have been implemented. These radio/zoom drills will also get the regional coordinators training as well. Special teams, hazmat/tech rescue, that have been validated and/or still working on becoming validated, MIMABAS is planning drills with them as well. Tyler Knisely and Allen Weich are reviewing the three MIMABAS policies. Fire Marshal Kazmierzak asking for clarification....he is angry over the MABAS mayday policy. Asked why we would want a MABAS mayday SOG when not all department are part of MABAS. Fire Marshal Kazmierzak believes it would make sense to have one county wide, feel like we are working against ourselves. Chief Mattix stated the MABAS mayday policy would be a good start for a county

wide policy/guideline. Lengthy discussion between Fire Marshal Kazmierzak, Chief Mattix and Frank on MABAS vs county mayday policy. Frank stated that he took Fire Marshal Kazmierzak request for a mayday policy back to MIMABAS. Other divisions felt there was a need for a common maday policy. Frank reminded all that MIMABAS Director Atkins advised MIMABAS is not trying to come in and tell us how to do our day to day operations. Frank stated at our meetings other divisions felt there are items we wanted common across divisions and across the state so when we come together, we have a common ground to work together. Chief Jesswein suggested get the MABAS one completed and bring it back here form a committee of county departments and use the MABAS one as a starting point for a county wide maday policy. Jeremy stated concern that if a county mayday policy does not match a MABAS mayday policy you would have departments that have to know two policies, ideally the county mayday policy would match the MIMABAS mayday policy. Most everyone stated ideally. Last item...Frank asked are we as a division interested in doing one of the radio/zoom drills. Would not have to move people/apparatus, you can just sit at home an do the drill via the radio/zoom. Only one response from Three Oaks Fire, in favor of the MABAS training. Think about it for the month. Frank advised he will pose the question in the minutes for MABAS departments to let him know for March Meeting.

MABAS departments....**Is there an interest in participating in one of the quarterly radio/zoom drills? Please get a response yes or no back to Plan Coordinator Frank DeLaTorre before or at the March Meeting.**

Old Business: Bruce: Thank you to everyone for getting the additional funds into him. There were a few snags but everything good and balanced now. All invoice checks were issued except for Bertrand. Bruce still does not have county money yet to pay Bertrand. County approved the funds. Once received he can pay Bertrand. When Honor donated the funds, Honor put it in the paper, and an additional \$2000.00 was donated to us. So grant wise we have about \$78,000.00 left in the grant. Bruce is requesting the communications committee meet again to decide moving forward. Possibility of purchasing another radio or two. Grant will only give \$1800.00 per radio. If you go over the \$1800.00 department would be responsible for all additional amounts. Second option having a cache of radios available in the county. Dave Albers stated the EOC has a cache of 40 800 radios that are available to departments in the county when needed. They have all of the common county talkgroups. Department proprietary talkgroups would not be in them. Cannot turn back more than \$10,000.00 of the grant. Question can get additional chargers? Grant is written for portable radios. Now can get charger or bank chargers along with radio purchase. Question what if departments purchased high priced radios. Department responsible for all fees over the \$1800.00. If we decided to buy a bank of radios where will they be housed? Move discussion to Communications committee.

Bruce requested departments let communications committee members know thoughts on additional radios for departments or a cache of radios.

Fire Marshal Kazmierzak stated BHDPS selling old 800 radios. See him for flier.

Challenge coins: Discussion on purchasing more county challenge coins. Previous discussion on changing design. No offers of design change. Chief Davidson suggested on moving forward on purchasing additional current challenge coins. Motion by Gerry Kabelman to purchase 300 county challenge coins with the BC Fire Chiefs association logo and the county firefighters logo the cost to be split between the BC Fire Chiefs and the BC Firefighters association. Seconded by Jamie Flick. Contingent on BC Firefighters association approving. Motion passed. None opposed. Gerry Kabelman asked if any department have new trucks or new trucks on order and would like pictures of the building process on the web, get pictures to him.

New Business: The county sponsored an 800 train the trainer course. There were about 15 students in the class. It went well. The class had BCSD, Dispatch, fire department had three of us, Amanda Bronson, Chris Burks, and Frank DeLaTorre, and road commission. Class went well. Remember the MPSCS member agreements require the 8hr class for 800 radio users that have not had the training. Frank stated Chris Burks stated they are going to try to incorporate the class into the firefighter 1 and 2 class so our firefighter can come out of class already with the 800 radio training. Question on the length of the class. It is designed to be an 8hr class. Frank asked Chief Chase on status of his Kenwood radios. Niles Fire has two radios prograded for Indiana. It went fairly smooth for Niles. Chief Chase stated having trouble getting his radios prograded for Indiana..

Chief Davidson discussed replacing his position.

Elections are annually.

Chief Mattix read bylaws Article 2, and Article 3.

Nominations for President:

Frank nominated Chief Mike Mattix for President. Chief Mike Mattix accepted.

Amanda Bronson nominated Fire Marshal Brian Kazmierzak for President. Fire Marshal Brian Kazmierzak accepted.

Everyone to write their vote on a piece of paper.

Question on if Brian is designated member from his department. Brian stated he is the designated member.

There were no objections.

Question on if associate members can vote.

Frank read Article 10 bylaws section 2.

Stating interpretation of only highest ranking officer if more than one member present from department may vote.

There were no objections.

Gerry Kabelman and Dave Flick counted votes.

Gerry stated this is tough one never seen an election this close.

shows we have good quality people here.

Results:

Brian Kazmierzak 12 votes

Mike Mattix 13 votes.

Nominations for Vice-President.

Gerry nominated Fire Marshal Brian Kazmierzak for VP. Brian accepts.

Mike Davidson nominated Jamie Flick for VP. Jamie accepted.

Gerry Kabelman and Dave Flick counted votes.

Results:

Brian Kazmierzak 12 votes.

Jamie Flick 14 votes.

Nominations for Secretary/Treasurer:

Tim Jesswein nominated Frank DeLaTorre. Frank accepted.

Motion by Chief Mattix to cast unanimous ballot for secretary/treasurer. Seconded by Chief Harper.

Motion passed. None opposed.

Next Meeting: March 16, 2022

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 1008hrs.

**Berrien County Fire Chief's Association
Attendance Sheet
February 16th, 2022**

| | Print | Signature | Dept. |
|-----|------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. | Mike Davidson | <i>Mike Davidson</i> | CTFD |
| 2. | EVERETT Steinko | <i>Everett Steinko</i> | STFD |
| 3. | Doug MYERS | <i>Doug Myers</i> | BSOFD |
| 4. | Rob HARPER | <i>Rob Harper</i> | BCTFD |
| 5. | Al DiBrito | <i>Al DiBrito</i> | SPECTRUM |
| 6. | Ashley Munson | <i>Ashley Munson</i> | GLDC |
| 7. | JAMIE FLICK | <i>Jamie Flick</i> | NTSTFD |
| 8. | Ted Chase | <i>Ted Chase</i> | GTFD |
| 9. | Chris Huston | <i>Chris Huston</i> | O.A.R.F.A. |
| 10. | HAROLD HAYN | <i>Harold Hayn</i> | Lake Park |
| 11. | MIKE MATTIX | <i>Mike Mattix</i> | NBFR |
| 12. | Amarda Bronson | <i>Amarda Bronson</i> | Weesaw |
| 13. | Daniel Lynn | <i>Daniel Lynn</i> | Smas |
| 14. | Browder Child | <i>Browder Child</i> | LTFD |
| 15. | Brian Karmicrate | <i>Brian Karmicrate</i> | BVDPS |
| 16. | Tim Jesswein | <i>Tim Jesswein</i> | Niles Twp / Buch Twp |
| 17. | David Albert | <i>David Albert</i> | BCSO / BSOFD |
| 18. | Caitlin Sampsell | <i>Caitlin Sampsell</i> | BC911 |
| 19. | JIM JAVES | <i>Jim Javes</i> | BRIEGMAN |
| 20. | Bill Krisely | <i>Bill Krisely</i> | Bertrand FD |
| 21. | MARK BERGER | <i>Mark Berger</i> | med Flight |
| 22. | Gerry Kabelman | <i>Gerry Kabelman</i> | S.J.C.T.F.D.#1 |
| 23. | Dave Flick | <i>Dave Flick</i> | TWFD |
| 24. | FRANK STORV | <i>Frank Storv</i> | BSOFT |
| 25. | Jeremy Connell | <i>Jeremy Connell</i> | STDPS |
| 26. | Frank Belotore | <i>Frank Belotore</i> | Niles |
| 27. | | | |
| 28. | | | |
| 29. | | | |
| 30. | | | |
| 31. | | | |
| 32. | | | |
| 33. | | | |

GREAT LAKES DRONE COMPANY, LLC

UAS REPORT

EMERGENCY SERVICES DIVISION

February 2022

Call Volume Report

- Total Call 2022: 8
- Calls Since Last Meeting to Date: 1
- Calls in Berrien County 2022 to Date: 3

Breakdown of Type of Call

- Missing Persons - 1
- LEO Assists - 1
- Structure Fires - 6
- Water/Dive Rescue - 0

Updates

- MFR in the next week, we will email everyone when it's official.
- We are moved into our new office at 134 Main St in Coloma. All of our vehicles are still located around our service areas for easy activation.
- Reminder of Early Activation with coming into the winter weather temps especially for missing persons reports. Timelines on positive outcomes are shortened.
- Training on February 21st - Ice Rescue

Training Update

- Contact us by email at Lindsay@greatlakesdronecompany.com to schedule a training with us.

134 Main Street P.O. Box 1022, Coloma MI 49038

888-816-9625 - info@greatlakesdronecompany.com

BENTON HARBOR DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

800 MHZ RADIOS & CHARGERS FOR SALE

10 Motorola XTS 5000 Radios

All are in working condition with speaker mics.

NO INDIVIDUAL CHARGERS (1 Radio Missing in Photo)

\$1500 for all 10 radios, batteries & mics

NOT PICTURED – 6 Motorola XTS 2500 Radios

All are in working condition with speaker mics.

NO INDIVIDUAL CHARGERS

\$900 for all 6 Radios, batteries & mics

10 Motorola XTS 3000 Radios

All are in working condition with speaker mics.

Some Radios missing batteries.

NO INDIVIDUAL CHARGERS (1 Radio Missing in Photo)

\$1000 for all 10 radios, batteries & mics



3 – 6 XTS Bank Standard Chargers - **\$150 each**

3 – 6 XTS Battery Conditioner Chargers - **\$175 each**

\$4250 FOR EVERYTHING!

CONTACT BRIAN KAZMIERZAK, FIRE MARSHAL, 269-443-1027 or bkazmierzak@bhcity.us