



BERRIEN COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

Call to Order: 0830-0931

Date: March 16, 2022

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

Treasurer's Report: Starting Balance: \$4514.94. No deposits or checks. Ending Balance \$4514.94. Have three checks to deposit. Motion to accept treasurers report and seconded. Motion passed. None opposed.

Communications/Bills: Chief Mattix had bill for Retired Chief Davidson Plaque.

March 20, 2022, Pancake breakfast Niles Township 0800-1100 donation.

May 07, 2022, Buchanan Township fish fry 1500-2000.

May 07, 2022, Bertrand Pancake breakfast 0800-1100.

April 24, 2022, Sodus Fire pancake breakfast 0700-1230.

New Chief/Visitor: Welcome New Chikaming Fire Chief Allen Weich. Welcome Jason Wiley Medic-1 Operations manager.

Committee Report:

Sheriff: Benton Twp. and MSP on a homicide this morning. MSP providing extra patrols in Benton Harbor City. Six Troopers and one Sargent. 5 days on 2 days off. BCSD will be covering the 2 days. Benton Harbor City now up to three cars per day. EM working on upcoming Senior PGA and Redbud events for this year. Jail numbers going up. COVID in the jail is down. John Gast passed away memorial service was last night.

Red Cross: none

Great Lakes Drone: 16 calls to date. 7 calls since last meeting. 2 in Berrien County. Trucks just got clearance for MFR. Chief Mattix Congratulated Lindsay on new addition and welcome back.

SEMCO/MI GAS: None

Dispatch/911: REMINDER: **VHF SIMULCAST WILL BE DISMANTLED BY THE END OF THIS YEAR 2022.** First half of site walk for new 800 simulcast completed last week. Second half this week. Dispatch recently visited by Chikaming fire. Discussion on 800 fireground talkgroups. Consider the 800 fireground talkgroups as fire command talkgroups. Considering a name change for those talkgroups. Chief Mattix suggested defined as OPPS talkgroups. Caitlin stated the 800 fireground talkgroups should be considered like UIC talkgroups. With the 800 fireground they are heard in dispatch and it is overwhelming in dispatch and has challenges in dispatch. Tower project is expected to be completed by summer 2023 end. Please get 800 radios ID's to dispatch. They are programmed into consoles and shows whose radio it is. Also, able to track emergency button activations. Shawn took a promotion and the IS position is now open. If any dispatch issues, contact dispatch supervisor ASAP to correct the issues right away. Three still in training. Plan to bring on one more. Two more end of May. Please accept condolences on passing of one of the dispatchers. Brian as far as 8tac and fireground that goes against NFPA. NFPA wants everything on one channel. Dispatch monitors that channel and dispatcher is another set of ears for possible mayday. Brian stated they will not operate like that. Caitlin stated she understands NFPA, but dispatch has its own set of challenges that they have to work through and wants everyone to know the challenges they have to work through.

DNR: None

Funeral: Lake Twp.

Emergency Management: Monitoring Avian flu around us, in Wisconsin, Ohio, Indiana. Monitoring to make sure it has not jumped to humans. It has not so public health assessment is low currently. Huge economic issue with shortages and cost going up. Reports in Kalamazoo have been ruled out. Any large amount of sick birds report to dept of agriculture. Questions directed to MSU extension. Hazard mitigation plan still working with contractors. A lot of projects submitted by local communities. Draft out by April. Senior PGA May 25-29. Main events Friday and Saturday. Pro Am on Monday and Tuesday will be closed to the public. Is there anything from the BC Fire Chiefs association that we can do to help with this event? First meeting tomorrow.

Whoever takes the lead for the joint fire department may reach out to the association if needed. Political protesters tend to come out during the event. Traffic control is a big issue with having to cross M-63. For fire there is inspections and prevention ahead of time. Controlled by AHJ, however is complicated as the course covers three jurisdictions: ST Joe City, Benton Harbor City, Benton Township.

Storm spotter training going on currently. It is only offered online. Next class March 17, 2022 at 1300 and March 24, 2022 at 1800hrs. Good training on identification of severe weather. The more people trained the better. County Commissioners passed a resolution for the additional \$13,000.00 to support the transition from VHF to 800 for the fire/EMS. Please reach out to county Commissioners and thank them for their support.

EMS:

Medic-1: Bill Boyd introduced medic-1 operations manager Jason Wiley. Jason will be taking Bill's place on the BC Fire Chiefs Association. Welcome Jason.

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

Med Flight: Landing Zone Classes are being offered. Contact Mark for class.

Med Control: Nothing from DR Beyer. COVID is down in the hospital. Average last month was 80 patients. Today 9 COVID patients. Chief Myers stated China and Germany getting hit with another wave of COVID, for what it is worth.

LEPC: Still working on virtual meeting policy. Next meeting June 21, 2022. Minutes posted on LEPC website. Meetings moved to county administration building. Still working on TIER 2 reports. Once all uploaded will be available via sharefile. Files are downloadable from sharefile right in to CAMEO and MARPLOT. Contact Capt. Adams for sharefile access. If you do not know what Cameo is or how to use it contact the EOC and they can provide training.

BCFA: Next meeting ST Joe City April 06, 2022. Had a quarum at last meeting and able to conduct business. Forgot to bring up challenge coins. Car show moving ahead June 18, 2022. A lot of cars expected. Firetrucks needed as well. Need for firefighters to help with traffic also.

Training: Brian Kazmierzak Instructor class going on. Fire Officer 1 starts March 31, 2022. Fire Academy June 07, 2022. County class still going getting close to wrapping up. Testing May 21, 2022.

HazMat: Couple of calls handled over the phone. Contact us for department Hazmat training.

MITRT5: Quarterly training scheduled for tomorrow. Need training reach out to Chief Weich.

MABAS: Approved the updated response and communications plans, as well as the new accountability, RIT, Mayday policies. RED Center did a special operations drill in February. Division radio/zoom drill was on March 09, 2022. Will be at the Midwest fire rescue expo conference in April. Several new departments coming on monthly. MIMABAS had discussions with Lapeer County as they are interested in joining MABAS. RED Center continuing to update communications list, and work with dispatch centers to provide training. MITF1 working on purchasing the following equipment: Forward Command Unit; 18,000 gallon fuel tanker; two generator trailers with light tower. Question on 18,000 gallon or 1,800 gallon tanker. Chief Mattix stated we were told 18,000 gallon in our meeting. The following teams will be going through MABAS validation: Battle Creek Hazmat on March 16; Macomb County Hazmat on May 04; Western Wayne Tech Rescue on June 21; Washtenaw County Tower Rescue on April 29; Macomb County Tech Rescue in June. MIMABAS will give presentation at the following conferences: Inter Opp conference in March; Michigan Fire Service Conference in April; Michigan Hazmat Conference in April.

Old Business: Chief Mattix stated he was asked to have discussion on the elections last month. Brian stated he sent the email. Was concerned our bylaws were not followed and state departments not associate members be allowed to vote. Brian stated he is willing to remove his name from it and want to follow the rules. Frank stated past practice was followed. Frank stated in his eleven years on the association he has been allowed to make motions and vote. Frank stated the bylaws have ambiguous language in it and that they need to be reviewed and updated. Discussion on if pay dues should have a vote. Frank stated our bylaws are outdated and do not even cover public safety departments and there are two of them. Frank stated leave election as is, Elections are again in December, put together a committee to review and update bylaws, and move forward. Chief Mattix asked the body is there a need to redo the election. Chief Jesswein stated if Brian is willing to pull his name out go with Franks suggestion redo bylaws and move forward.

New Business: Chief Mattix stated looking at the bylaws before last meeting they had not been reviewed since 2009. They should be reviewed 2-3 years. Things change. We now have two public safety departments in the county. Brian stated same issue with county wide mutual aid agreement. Chief Mattix stated valid point and we need to tackle one at a time. Chief Mattix asked for volunteers to be on the committee to review and update

the bylaws. Brian/Alan/Jamie/Frank. Chief Mattix stated give at least a few months to work on them and when completed have them reviewed by attorney. How to get them reviewed by attorney. Sheriff stated he would ask county attorney.

Brian asked about discussion on mutual aid agreement as he has an ISO meeting coming up and his department still listed as Benton Harbor Fire Department. Discussion on ISO being understanding in these circumstances. Agreed we need to look at mutual aid agreement, but complete bylaws first then move onto mutual aid agreement.

Chief Jesswein stated HART has moved their vehicle to Buchana Twp. fire. Unit is in need of repairs. If anyone knows a mechanic willing to donate work please let HART know.

Jason Wiley stated he was approached by Benton Twp Fire Chief Harper about showing his firefighter medic-1 ambulance, showing how to work the cot, where items are in the ambulance. If you are in Medic-1 area contact him to set up time to bring ambulance to your station.

Next Meeting: April 20, 2022 at Lincoln Twp. 0830

Adjourn: 0931hrs.

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

	Print	Signature	Temp	Dept.
1.	Michael Buggatt			Bridgman
2.	Mike Davidson			CTFD
3.	David Flick			TuFD
4.	Allen Weich			CTFD/Lake
5.	Frank DeLatore			Niles
6.	Amanda Bronson			Weesaw
7.	Jamie Flick			NBTFD
8.	Chris Heston			D.A.C.F.A.
9.	Bill Knisely			Bertrand
10.	Doug MYERS			BSOFTD
11.	Jim Jesswein			Buch Top / Niles Top
12.	EVERETT STEINKE			S T F D
13.	Al D. BRITO			SPECTRUM
14.	Brandon Chubb			Litch
15.	Gerry Kabelman			S.J.C.T.F.D. 1
16.	David Albert			DCSO / PSOFD
17.	Lindsay Nitz			GLDC
18.	JENNIFER FRED			BC PSC-911
19.	Caitlin Sampson			BC 911
20.	WILLIAM - BOA			Medic 1
21.	Jason Wilton			Medic 1
22.	MARK BEY			Med Flight
23.	Mike Mattix			NBFR
24.				
25.				