

# Minutes from the Fire Chief Association MTG

## August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024

Meeting called to order

Approval of the minutes:

Motion by Chief Gowen, seconded by Chief Dwan

Treasurer's report:

No report, Frank absent

Request was made to adjust the payment of the cooler for the Fair Grounds FD, the cost was \$100.00 more than expected.

Motion made approved by Chief Chiarello and Chief Nitz

Communications:

New meeting location for the Chiefs meeting:

Meeting will be at Lake Twp fire department until further notice

First responder dinner will be September 13<sup>th</sup> at 8830 M-140 Berrien Center, 6pm

It was discussed about departments being behind in reports NFIRS, it was asked to get updated.

CAD Committee was postponed because Tyler's had a medical emergency, still waiting to reschedule

Policy committee:

- The Mass Causality policy is waiting on more information.
- BC Mutual Aid Agreement was discussed, with the added revisions below:
  - o Key points – Departments to follow Michigan PA 291 and MIOSHA part 74.  
Departments train on BCFCA IC and Mayday standards
  - o Passport system to be used by all departments
  - o Departments must utilize 800 radio system
  - o Box Card up to the 5<sup>th</sup> alarm
  - o Minimum staffing per apparatus was discussed, it was left as a “recommended 2 per apparatus no matter the apparatus”.
  - o Non-Certified responding to mutual aid calls What was discussed. It was left to the individual Chiefs to decide.
  - o Helmet standard color system in place by January 1, 2026. To include
    - Chief officer – White
    - Company officer – Red
    - FF – Black or Yellow
    - Cadets/EMS – Blue
    - Non-certified – designate with a green helmet front shield

The listed helmet colors will be the colors that the county will follow.

Medic 1:

-Jason Wiley and Josh Kay from SMACS were there to talk about the potential merger between the 2 ambulance services. Both said it has been discussed with the staff and well received  
-Kay advised that SMACS took over Cass County and Dowagiac area and has had no effect in their current area.

#### Dispatch:

- Tower update, it's up but not turned on. Still waiting on simulcast
- Programming pagers will hopefully start in September
- Zoom training on programming pagers will be September 5<sup>th</sup>
- Cut over is still a few months out, hoping for this to be complete by end of year. With the cut over this will roll over into simulcasting
- Reminder of the importance of your pager, please carry them
- Discussion was had about who's in command on a multi-agency call, PD/FD/EMS, this will be talked about at the 911 meeting
- Discussed about dispatch not assigning a FG channel
- Dispatch has 6 open spots to fill, if you know anyone that is looking for a job and good fit for dispatch, please let Caitlin know.
- Dispatch is trying to work LOCUTION alerting programming systems into the budget.

#### Training:

- September 28-29<sup>th</sup> RIT Lincoln
- September 24-25<sup>th</sup> Aerial class
- October academy with Benton Harbor
- Question came up about "who" can teach a class. Chief Chiarello had concerns with Doug deBest as an instructor teaching classes.

#### Berrien County Firefighter Association:

- Had a good turn out at the Fair. Thank you to all who helped out

#### EOC:

- All good

#### Other communication:

- Motorcycle survey was complete, see attached, next steps are to form a committee, a request will be put out on listserv. Committee can have firefighters or others to help with the ride. It's believed the event will do better than the Burn Run.

#### Sheriff:

- Talked with Dr. Byers on how police request EMS, questions on PD cancelling FD units.
- It was discussed that when Medic 1 gets called that the area with MFRs will also be dispatched no matter what PD advises
- These items will be discussed at the PD Chiefs meeting on August 30<sup>th</sup> at Lake Twp station.
- There was reminder if we have a fatal fire or accident, please do not move the body(s), until medical examiner is called and approves.
- Chief Myers thanked everyone for the help at the Fair
- Bertrand open house September 14<sup>th</sup> from 10-12
- Weesaw tanker shuttle training, please contact Jeff Starbuck
- AEP Emergency line 888-237-2221, please use this for lines down, to help dispatch.
- Deputy Director Connell still has concerns over the helmet color under the new mutual aid policy

#### Communications Committee meeting update:

- Box card workshop went well, 8-9 departments came to the workshop. If you still need help please reach out.
- The calling into dispatch for an "on duty" status has not been used yet, but will stay in place.
- It was discussed as to what type of calls will be reviewed by the committee and what will not.
- Working on a form letter and policy/procedures that will go out to departments if they have call for review. This is for good or troublesome calls
- F911 is a response channel
- It was discussed when to move off F911, and to keep the traffic on that channel simple.
- Talked about dispatch reminding departments to move channels if they forget.
- Chief Nitz upset about getting rudely told to get off F911 when they were on a call.
- Radio vouchers are available for programming radios, \$317,322.00 are the available funds
- CAD meeting was postponed

Old Business:

501(c)(3): Everything is official and completed.

New Business :

- Palisades Drill coming up so they can go back online
  - o Trying to work with FEMA to combine drills with DC Cook drills
  - o Suggested to put a request for re-imbusement for the cost associated with the trainings

Next meeting:

- Will be held September 18<sup>th</sup> 0830 hrs **at Lake Twp Fire Department**

Meeting adjourned:

Motion by Chief Weich, seconded by Chief Nitz