



BERRIEN COUNTY
FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION
BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN



Call to Order: 0830-1034

Date: December 18, 2024

PRERSENTATION:

Allen Barker, Coin Presentation.
Health Department. Car seat presentation.

Old minutes: Old minutes emailed out. Motion to accept old minutes by: Chief Weich. Seconded by: Chief Nitz. Motion passed. None opposed.

Treasurer's Report: November Statement: Beginning balance: \$5991.98. Nothing in/out. Ending balance: \$5991.98. Dues checks coming in: 16 departments so far. Motion to accept treasurers report by: DC Gowen. Seconded by: Deputy Director Kazmierzak. Motion passed. None opposed.

Bills: None

Communications:

General Communications: Discussion on the DNR Grant. Boxcards. There are still 5 departments that do not have boxcards. Lengthy discussion on boxcards. Boxcards are required in the mayday guideline. Opening up your agency to major liability if mayday event and do not have boxcards. Chief Myers to contact the five departments and talk to them.

Reminder of proper use of the 11FG. Use of 11FG for storm damage, traffic control, power lines down, is not proper use of 11FG. Please use proprietary talkgroup for these types of calls. Radio checks performed as part of vehicle checks, station checks, should be done over proprietary talkgroup as well.

New Chief/Visitor: Congratulations Chief Tim Jesswein on retirement from Niles Township. Mike and Linda HEI wireless. Dan Scheer Assistant Chief Lake .

Great Lakes Drone: None

EMS: (Medic-1: S.M.C.A.S.: Med Control): None

Dispatch/911: Move to simulcast began on Monday. Was able to complete move to simulcast on all towers except Watervliet. Watervliet will be completed in first Q 2025. Waiting for new cabinets. Simulcast ID: 3-52. A few unforeseen circumstances: Some radios taking a very long time to affiliate with new system. Some taking 30-60 minutes. Back up consoles have some issues. Pager coverage in Niles City. If anyone has any issues let Caitlin know. Funding for automated Fire/EMS dispatch was approved. Will be working on in 2025. Allegan is also working on automated fire paging. Will automated paging be used by EMS as well. Medic is a different issue as has its own dispatch. Suggestion on giving Medic a paging talkgroup and they can have pager in Medic dispatch for calls. GIS hiring a new director. Should have a dedicated person for dispatch. Question on Critical connect. Nothing happening. How about TAC channels. New Buffalo has had good luck with using TAC channels. DD Kazmierzak has been able to use TAC channels when going to Mishawaka. Chief Weich asked about meeting with chiefs along state line. May need to get political involvement. How about reaching out to the International Chiefs Association? Boxcards. Dispatch is getting overwhelmed by boxcard changes. Caitlin suggesting a review/update cadence. Review your boxcards in Q1/Q3. Have changes/updates submitted by beginning of Q2/Q4 of each year. BCFA 911 board representatives up for reappointment. Discuss in new business. CAD committee met yesterday. Has cost figures for full mobile CAD (computer) and CAD mobility (app). PD interested in mobile and fire interested in mobility. IS will be splitting the opting. Unsure on implantation costs County Commissioners are considering paying implantation costs, but not guaranteed. Need accurate numbers from fire/EMS agencies.



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CONTACT CHIEF MYERS WITH NUMBER OF MOBILITY DEVICES YOU WANT FOR YOUR AGENCY.

If you do not sign up now it will cost you more as the implantation fees will be solely your responsibility. See CAD attachment. Please contact a CAD committee member with any questions. Caitlin advised dispatcher Sara Blurton will be retiring next Friday with 25 years.

Committees:

Communications: Nothing new to report as no meeting this month for the holidays.

CAD: Discussed above.

Guideline: Have heard nothing from Medic/S.M.C.A.S. on MCI guideline. Confusion on MCI boxcard vs MC I guideline. MCI Boxcard is the resources, MCI guideline handles command, triage, and implantation. Any interest in a high incident guideline? Bring a draft to the next meeting. EMS issues at fire scenes. EMS not moving to 11FG or 11UIC, leaving fire scenes without asking IC. When EMS dispatched to a fire scene they should be committed to that call until released. Fire calls should be treated as any other call EMS responds to. Maybe request a meeting with med control and EMS agencies? Discussion on fire departments not helping EMS agencies on lift assists if they will not work with fire departments. Let's not go down that road yet. Chief Myers will contact EMS agencies to talk to them. Still unable to get lawyer to review the mutual aid agreement. LT DeLaTorre advised the MI-MABAS agreement has already been vetted by lawyer and can be used as county mutual aid agreement. Chief Myers would like to open a discussion on that, but not today. Question on funeral guideline? Up to each individual department.

BCFA: Next meeting January 08, 2025 at Sodus. Gerry has about 70 of the 9-volt battery detectors left. Would like to get rid of them by October 2025, when the new smoke detector law goes into effect. Gerry encourages all department to take advantage of the state smoke detector program. BHDPS is local distribution center but must request through state site. Please get resource directory updates to Gerry ASAP.

Training: Strategy/Tactics starts on January 07, 2025. Fire Academy starts on May 13, 2025. Gerry has a request from the county training on a sizeup and command for small departments class in March 2025, looking for funding help. \$1000.00. Will it follow our command guideline? Question on why additional funding as state sets cost for the course. Bertrand to host an ice rescue ½ course on February 27, 2025.

Emergency Management: None

MABAS: Plan coordinator meeting this month. Want plan coordinators to review out of division boxcards. LT DeLaTorre will be sending out OOD boxcards to MABAS members soon for review. Have reviewed division agencies contacts and updated them.

Other Communications: Chief Weich discussed the potential merger of Chikaming, New Buffalo City, New Buffalo Township, and Three Oaks into a single regional fire department. Meeting will be monthly as discussions move forward.

Old Business: None.



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New Business: Committee members. List of committee members. See attachment. Chief Chairello stepped down from guideline committee. Chief Myers stepped down from CAD committee.
Election Nominations: Currently Chief Myers for President. No additional for president. Chief Jamie Flick for Vice-President. No additional for Vice-President. Frank DeLaTorre and Brian Kazmierzak for secretary/treasurer. No additional for sec/treas. Motion by Chief Mattix to cast unanimous ballot for president and vice president. Seconded by DD Kazmierzak seconded. Motion passed. None opposed.
Kazmierzak: 11 votes.
DeLaTorre: 09 votes.
Deputy Director Brian Kazmierzak 2025-2026 secretary/treasurer.
Congratulations to Brian.
Thank you to Frank for all your time as Secretary/Treasurer.

Accountability app: Bob Ruff's son is willing to get the accountability app back up and running. Will cost \$500.00 to get it going again. Discussion on the app. If BCFCFA own it can we offer it up for sale in the app store? Unknown due to our 501C3 status.
Chief Myers motion to spend \$500.00 to get accountability app going again. Seconded by DC Gowen. Motion passed. None opposed.
Bibles; Need 8 King James at \$44.95 ea, total:\$359.60, and 2 Cathloic bibles, \$46.95ea, total: \$93.90. Complete total: \$453.50 split with Berrien County Firefighters Association.
Discussion on the request by the training committee for \$1000.00 assistance for the size up and command for small departments course. Chief Weich stated training committee needs to bring this to the BCFCFA.
Apologized to Gerry for being put in the middle of this.
Meeting location. Lincoln will have construction soon. Chief J. Flick looked into using the Berrien County meeting room. All of our dates are available for the county meeting room. It is close to both hiways. Lake offered their location. Motion by Chief D. Flick to keep it at Lake. Seconded by Chief Nitz. Motion passed. None opposed. BCFCFA Meetings will be at Lake Township fire.
Question on the email about a raffle. Chief Myers stated the raffle email is legit.
Weesaw has a new truck in service.

Next Meeting: January 15, 2025 at Lake Twp. Fire 0830hrs.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn by: Chief Weich. Seconded by: Chief Chase. None opposed.
Meeting adjourn: 1034hrs.

MIRANDA BRONICKI DOPP, LLMSW

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**BERRIEN COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

better health. stronger communities.

Car Seat Check Event Collaboration Snapshot

BCHD Provides

- Car Seat Techs (CPS Tech)
 - BCHD can provide 1-4 and do a call out of other local techs to join to potentially get more.
- Car Seats (5lb convertible through backless boosters) provided by OHSP
- Car Seats/paperwork
 - Handle all Car Seat ordering, reporting, documentation needed
- Appointment Registration
 - We do want to have some availability for walk-ins, but will be setting up an online registration form
- Community Partner volunteers
- Water, snacks, possibly meals for techs and volunteers
- Facebook post for sharing and flier for distribution
- Additional Signs, chairs, tables, cones, event materials (clip boards etc)

Ask of Partner Organization

- Space
 - Pull through Fire Garage works especially well
 - We can discuss other locations using BCHD drive through tents
- 1-3 volunteers (barring emergency needs)
 - Outreach with families and children
- Availability for planning check-ins for staging, traffic flow, other event plans
- If available: 1-2 weeks of Car Seat storage if able (30 car seats give or take depending on size of event)
- If available: tables, chairs, signs, cones



BERRIEN COUNTY FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION
BERRIEN COUNTY, MI



December 2, 2024

Committee Members

911

Doug Myers, Frank Delatorre, Allen Weich(alternative)

EOC

Doug Myers, Jamie Flick, Mike Mattix, Jeremy O'Connel

Policy

Brian Kazmierzak, ~~Brandon Chiarello~~, Bill Whitney - *Allen Weich*

Communications

Doug Myers, Jamie Flick, Frank Delatorre, Mike Mattix, Jeromy O'Connell, Gerry Kabelman, Brian Kazmierzak, Nick Gowen

AD HOC COMMITTEES

CAD

Doug Myers, Brian Kazmierzak, Brandon Chiarello, Nick Gowen

Tyler New World CAD Mobile and Mobility App Cost Comparison

Option 1 : Full Mobile CAD Client			
Tyler Technologies Software and Implementation Costs (Estimated)			
Item	License Cost	Recurring Maintenance Cost*	
Law Enforcement Mobile Site License (Variable-based on 280 @ \$550 per user)	\$ 154,000.00	\$	32,340.00
Fire/EMS Mobile Site License (Variable - based on 168 @ \$550 per user)	\$ 92,400.00	\$	19,404.00
EPS Platform - Mobility	\$ 3,000.00	\$	3,000.00
Project Management	\$ 19,840.00		
Mobility Implementation	\$ 4,000.00		
Law Enforcement and Fire Mobile Configuration	\$ 13,050.00		
Law Enforcement and Fire Mobile Messaging Training	\$ 21,750.00		
Law Enforcement and Fire Mobile Mesagging Go Live	\$ 17,400.00		
Estimated Travel Expenses	\$ 48,000.00		
Tyler Software Total	\$ 373,440.00	\$	54,744.00
Berrien County Information Systems Estimated Support Costs (Estimated)			
Item	Costs	Recurring Maintenance Cost*	
Additional Staffing (variable dependant upon number of participating agencies)	\$ 198,000.00	\$	207,900.00
Zero Trust VPN Software (5.85 per user per month)	\$ 31,450.00	\$	33,022.00
FIPS 140-2 Certified Remote Support Software	\$ 16,968.00	\$	17,815.00
Berrien County IS Total	\$ 246,418.00	\$	258,737.00
Total (Tyler + Berrien County IS Costs)	\$ 619,858.00	\$	313,481.00

Option 2 : CAD Mobility App			
Tyler Technologies Software and Implementation Costs (Estimated)			
Item	License Cost	Recurring Maintenance Cost*	
Law Enforcement Mobile Site License (Variable-based on 280 @ \$550 per user)	\$ 154,000.00	\$	32,340.00
Fire/EMS Mobile Site License (Variable - based on 168 @ \$550 per user)	\$ 92,400.00	\$	19,404.00
EPS Platform - Mobility	\$ 3,000.00	\$	3,000.00
Project Management	\$ 19,840.00		
Mobility Implementation	\$ 4,000.00		
Tyler Software Total	\$ 273,240.00	\$	54,744.00
Berrien County Information Systems Estimated Support Costs			
Item	Costs	Recurring Maintenance Cost*	
Total (Tyler + Berrien County IS Costs)	\$ 273,240.00	\$	54,744.00

* Recurring maintenace costs will increase from year to year post implementation