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**BERRIEN COUNTY**  
**FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION**  
**BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

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**Call to Order: By President Myers @ 0831**

**Date: January 15, 2025**

**Old minutes:** Old minutes emailed out by Secretary/Treasurer Delatorre

- Motion to accept old minutes by: Chief Gowen, Niles
- Seconded by: Chief Harper, Benton Twp.
- Motion passed: None opposed.

**Treasurer's Report by Secretary/Treasurer Kazmierzak:**

December Starting Balance: \$5991.98, December Ending Balance: \$6951.98, \$960 income from annual dues. 1 check was written to Quienten Ruff, \$500, for Scene Watcher App Development

- Motion to accept treasurer report by: Chief Harper, Benton Twp.
- Seconded by: Chief Steinke, Sodus Twp.
- Motion passed: None opposed.
- The following depts still owe their 2025 Dues:
  - Baroda
  - Buchanan Twp
  - DC Cook
  - Royalton Twp.
  - St. Joseph Twp. #1
  - St. Joseph Twp. #2
  - Weesaw Twp.

**Bills:**

- N/A

**Communications:**

- Chief Myers will stay on CAD Committee
- Smoke Detector Deadline 10/1/26 – short discussion on the new state law.

**New Chief/Visitor:**

- N/A

**EMS: (Great Lakes Drone: Medic-1, SMCAS, Med Control)**

- No report, agreed to remove these agencies from the agency; if they do attend, they will report under "Other Communications."

**Dispatch/911:**

- Leave pagers in transition mode until Watervliet Tower is cut over to simulcast
- Box Cards:
  - Dispatch will accept Box Card Updates/Reviews two times per year, January & July; for 2025 departments have until 2/14/25 to get their updated cards in
  - Departments that still need to get Box Cards to Dispatch, Benton Twp & Eau Claire. Bridgman and Royalton's are done and being submitted ASAP!

**Communication Committee:**

- See attached report



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**CAD Committee:**

- Gathering final numbers for the system. See Chief Myers, Chief Gowen or Chief Kazmierzak with questions regarding Mobile CAD

**SOG Committee:**

- We still need an attorney to review the mutual aid agreement. Chief Flick contacted Mac Elliott via the Sheriff after the meeting, who will review the agreement.

**BCFA:**

- N/A

**Training:**

- Multiple classes coming up at BHDPS – See attachments

**Emergency Management/Sheriff's Office:**

- NIMS 300 classes went well; NIMS 400 classes will be offered soon.
- Cook and Palisades Exercises – Palisades wants 8 years' worth of exercises in one year.
- Dave still has 2024 DOT books available
- Weather Spotter Class March 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Ryan Sullivan is the new Operations Lieutenant

**MABAS:**

- N/A

**Other Communications:**

- N/A

**Old Business:**

- Bible Order – still working with the company to get order processed
- Scene Watcher App Demo – Promo Codes emailed out by Chief Myers.
- Motion to pay Quinten Ruff, 50% of income made by the Scene Watcher App & \$20 / Hour. Will add a termination clause & contract terms to the Scene Watcher Contract. App will be in the APP stores for \$20.
  - The motion was made by Chief Kazmierzak, Benton Harbor, and it was seconded by Chief Gowen, Niles City. Motion passed: None opposed.
- Log all app issues on this Google Doc:  
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1JaXuz6lbnKh1PRJuWx1sG0SMcrEs3uFTbMazjbbBd14/edit?usp=sharing>

**New Business:**

- **MIOSHA Document Discussion** – See attached – lots of changes, including BLS Ambulance Standby required for any Acquired Structure Live Fire Training

**Next Meeting:**

- Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 0830hrs, Lake Twp.

**Adjourn:**

- Motion to adjourn by: Chief Weich, Chikaming Twp.
- Seconded by: Chief Chiarello, Lincoln Twp.
- None opposed. Meeting adjourned @ 0934hrs

# Communications Committee

## Discussion Topics:

January 14, 2025

0900-1000

Chief Myers stated the accountability app is completed and in the apple app store. Demo later.

Discussion on what measures dispatch has in place to review 11BCPAGE use and assigning 11FG for confirmed structure fire.

There have been several structure fire calls where departments are asking for 11FG instead of them assigned in the dispatch.

Use of 11BCPAGE, there have been several times only hearing departments clear the call and never heard department get dispatched. LT DeLaTorre advised he has 5 radios set to 11BCPAGE two in Niles and three in Coloma.

Caitlin was not present to give input.

Communications Committee wants to remind Chiefs to remind their members to carry their pagers. There have been several times where a department gets disregarded and few minutes later someone from the department is clearing the call. Is this an issue of relying on active911 instead of carrying pager?

Question on excessive radio banks since move to simulcast. BHDPS has had an excessive amount of banks since move to simulcast.

Niles has issues with pager reception at fifth and main area since move to simulcast.

Discussion on reminder for departments to have 800 radios tuned and aligned on regular basis. MPSCS recommends tune and align annually.

Discussed letter to politicians on boarder radio issues with Indiana. Chief Weich requested addition of MPSCS to letter. Revision sent to Chief J. Flick.

Discussed the MPSCS email list.

Link for MPSCS emails:

<http://www.michigan.gov/mpscs>

Chief Myers gave presentation on accountability app: Scene Watcher.

Discussion and reminder for dispatch to automatically send electric company on confirmed structure fires. the PD unit.



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## MEETING AGENDA 1/15/25

- Call meeting to order
- Presentation -
- Approval of minutes
- Treasurer's Report
  - Bills
- Communications
  - General Communications
    - Myers to stay on CAD Committee
    - Smoke Detector Deadline 10/1/26
  - New Chief's
  - Visitors
  - Great Lakes Drone
  - Medic 1
  - SMCAS
  - Med Control
  - Dispatch/911
  - Communications Committee
  - CAD Committee
  - Policy Committee
  - Berrien County Firefighters
  - Training
  - Emergency Management/Sheriff
  - MABAS
  - Other Communications
- Old Business
  - Bible Order
  - Accountability App
    - Promo Codes
    - Keep problem log to discuss at next meeting.
- New Business
  - Bible Order
  - MIOSHA Changes
- Next Meeting – 2/19/25
- Adjournment

