

Fire Chief's Association meeting minutes

April 16th, 2025

Meeting called to order at 0835hrs

Presentation:

Erik Youngblood representing HIEBA System Solution. The company helps build digital box cards. <https://www.hiebasystemsolutions.com>

Erik Youngblood, sales rep 734-260-6400 erik@HIEBASystemSolutions.com

Approval of minutes:

Dave Flick, seconded Nick Gowen

Treasures report:

- Reported ending balance as of March 31st: \$6,126.14
- I received a dues check from Weesaw Fire for \$50.00, which will be deposited.
- After discussing Huntington Bank charging \$30.00 for the bank account starting June 1st, it was suggested that we maybe look at Honor Credit Union, which has no fees.

Communications:

Truck purchases—Chief Myers asked departments to send him the prices of the recently purchased apparatus. He has already added some to TexCom, which will help show the increase in apparatus costs.

Dispatch:

- CAD was upgraded April 16th,
Cell phone carriers are moving away from SMTP messages, which could cause issues with sending out Active911 and First Due messages. Tyler Tech is working on figuring out a workaround.
- Watervliet tower work for cabinet replacement will begin April 28th and end May 9th. North departments may have signal interruptions. Once the job is complete, the simulation will be as well.
- Still short-staffed
- Hired Sarah Blurton back as Operations Manager in Dispatch
- Dispatch thanked everyone for the food during Dispatcher Week
- St. Rotary Club asked if they could attend our next meeting

Communication Comm. Mtg:

- discussed MCI
- Talked about EMS moving to FG's. Departments were advised that if EMS does not move, you need to contact Medic (Jason Wiley), SMCAS (Josh Kay) immediately.
- FG5 is recorded at Niles dispatch, not Berrien County
- FG4 Niles City will still be using temporarily while trying to find a different option
- Reviewed a call in Sodus
 - A letter was drafted and will be sent out to the departments involved.
- Reminder to use Box Cards
- Reminder, someone on scene needs to take command. NOT several people, it creates confusion

CAD Comm:

- Waiting on Tyler Tech for numbers
- Talking to county commissioners about how to fund police and fire.

Berrien County Fire Association:

- Next meeting May 7th at Baroda
- Stated that April's meeting was canceled because of the predicted storms.

Training:

- There's a lot of training in the county. Please check the BCFA website.
- St. Joe City has several trainings coming up
- Berrien County Training Council is looking for help with Fire 1 and 2 classes. Finals are Saturday, May 3rd

EOC/Sheriff's Office:

- Palisades and Cook Drills are coming up
- If you are involved with the drills, you can try to submit for reimbursement

MABAS:

- Trent is stepping down as director
- MABAS was activated for the ice storm up north

Other communications:

- Donnie Johnson advised that their past Chief, Larry Reifschneider, passed away. He spent 26 years with Baroda FD
 - Visitation is April 22nd from 5-7 at Pikes Funeral Home, Bridgman
 - Service April 23rd at Emanuel Lutheran Church, 9650 Church St, Bridgman, 10 am
 - If you would like to bring a vehicle, please get in touch with Baroda FD

New Business:

For utility-type calls, please try calling the company directly, especially during storm events. Dispatch has enough going on. The phone numbers for AEP and SEMCO are on the BCFA website.

Adjournment:

Approx 1030hrs

Nick Gowen and Allen Weich