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# BERRIEN COUNTY FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION

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## BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

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**Call to Order:** By President Myers @ 0833hrs

**Date:** January 21, 2026

**Department's Present:**

- Benton Twp.
- BHDPS
- Bertrand Twp.
- Berrien County Sheriff's Office
- Berrien Springs-Oronoko Twp.
- Buchanan Twp.
- Chikaming
- Galien
- Lake Twp.
- Lincoln Twp.
- Niles City
- Niles Twp.
- North Berrien
- Royalton Twp.
- Sodus Twp.
- SJTWP #1

- Three Oaks
- Weesaw Twp.
- Berrien County Sheriff's Office

**Department's Absent:**

- Baroda
- Bridgman
- Buchanan City
- Eau Claire/Pipestone Berrien Twp.
- DC Cook Fire Brigade
- Lake Township
- Lincoln Twp.
- SJDPS
- SJTWP #2
- Watervliet

**Presentation(s):**

- N/A

**Old minutes:**

- Old minutes emailed out by Secretary/Treasurer Kazmierzak
- Motion to accept old minutes by: D. Flick
- Seconded by: A. Weich
- Motion passed: None opposed.

**Treasurer's Report:**

December Starting Balance: \$5551.14, December Ending Balance: \$5111.14

- 1 check for \$980 – Scene Watcher
- \$540 in income – Scene Watcher and Annual Dues
- Motion to accept old minutes by: D. Flick
- Seconded by: A. Weich
- Motion passed: None opposed.
- 2026 Dues Invoiced Emailed
  - North Berrien, Weesaw, Niles City, Bridgman, and Bertrand have turned in their Alternate Letters

**Bills:**

- None

**Communications:**

- Letter from SJTWP #1 reference new bylaws concerns
  - Redlined Version was sent out



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- Policies are already in the mutual aid agreement
- We have already addressed the times of the meeting, night attendance was worse, we get the most attendance at 830 on Wednesday mornings.
- Organization is a conduit for the safety of our firefighters
- Smoke Detector Installs ARE NOT runs – hold them for the CRR 2026 NERIS Module

### **New Chief/Visitor:**

- Zac Bernard – Royalton Twp.

### **Dispatch/911:**

- Box Card Review Period - January 2026
- Advanced Send requirements for requesting EMS – see attachments and video link for you to train your members with. This is coming from Doctor Beyer, as PD is required to already do it. Caitlin is also putting together a video.

### **Communication Committee:**

- Dr. Beyer related EMS is supposed to be on Fireground
- Common Talkgroup (UIC) for all highway incidents
- HEI/Spectrum Wireless – doing Indiana programming – cost is increasing to \$250 a radio on March 1<sup>st</sup>. They will honor the \$125 price until then.

### **CAD Committee:**

- **CAD Update** – waiting on the MOUs at this point. We don't want to wait until the May deadline.
  - Baroda
  - Benton Twp.
  - North Berrien
- Please get the MOU signed ASAP; it must be signed by the municipality, not the fire chief
- **DEPARTMENTS NEED TO HAVE POLICIES IN PLACE. CAD/ACTIVE 911 INFORMATION IS NOT SHARED AND IS NOT PUBLIC, NOR IS IT TO BE SHARED!**

### **SOG Committee:**

- **Mutual Aid Agreement** – Missing the following departments:
  - Baroda – at their Township Board
  - Bridgman
- **MCI/RTF** – Policy needs input! Will be discussed at the Police Service Council on the last Friday in January.

### **Haz-Mat:**

- Two recent haz-mat incidents in Van Buren County
- Questions are being reviewed by Cooperate Counsel at the County level
- Discussion on Washtenaw County's agreement

### **BCFA:**

- DC Cook hosted the last meeting, presentation on the Fire Brigade.
- **Next Meeting** – Feb 4<sup>th</sup> at Eau Claire
- **Car Show** – starting to solicit funds
- Meal donations will go back to the host department to help offset costs



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- Fast Food Fire Class - April

### **Training:**

- **Training Update** – See attached flyers
- Berrien Center Bible Church doing a Community Safety Class on March 21st

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

- Rockey is retiring next month – this will be his last meeting
- Emergency Management is in transition, Captain position has been internally posted.
- Polar Plunge, February 7<sup>th</sup> – Special Olympics Fundraiser

### **MABAS:**

- Michigan MABAS putting on still water, boat operations flood training
  - Location TBA
  - April 15-16
  - Pre-reps – each student must be certified to the water technician level
  - Bring your own boat

### **Other Communications:**

- N/A

### **Old Business:**

- **Bylaw Review Committee:**
  - Discussion on Chief Klaer letter
  - Will vote next month
  - The redline version will go out again.
- **NERIS** – not all departments have transitioned
- **Scene Watcher App:**
  - Discussion on possible sale – we currently have \$2030 invested
    - Motion to sell the app for \$3000, contingent on all Berrien County Fire Depts. getting free access for all licenses in perpetuity to Butch Terry.
    - Motion – Kazmierzak
    - Second – Z. Hoetger
    - All in favor
  - Log all app issues on this Google Doc:  
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1JaXuz6lbnKh1PRJuWx1sGOSMcrEs3uFTbMazjbbBd14/edit?usp=sharing>

### **New Business:**

- On December 31<sup>st</sup>, Three Oaks structure fire – thank Berrien Co Dispatch, BCSO, Berrien Road Commission, Chikaming, New Buffalo Twp, Galien Fire, Baroda Fire, Weesaw Fire

### **Next Meeting:**

- Wednesday February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 0830hrs, Lake Twp. FD

### **Adjourn:**

- Motion to adjourn by: Weich



**BERRIEN COUNTY**  
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- Seconded by: Stienke
- None opposed. Meeting adjourned @

