

BERRIEN COUNTY FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION
Serving Berrien County Firefighters Since 1950

Berrien County Firefighters Information Website: www.mi-bcfa.org

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

Buchanan Township Fire Department

Meeting called to order at 19.35 hours by President Gerry Kabelman.

Roll call of officers indicated officers present, President Gerry Kabelman, 1st Vice President Denny Sexton, and 2nd Vice President Rob Gruener, Sec/Treasurer Richard Wing.

Roll call of departments indicated 15 departments represented with 26 members present.

The donations received for dinner is in the amount of \$88.00 and 50/50 was \$47.00.

March minutes were presented. Motion by Mike Moran with support from Donnie Johnson to approve the minutes. Motion Carried

Treasurers Report was submitted for review. Motion by Skip Munson with support from Dale Stover to approve the Treasurers Report. Motion carried.

There were no bills submitted for payment

COMMUNICATIONS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

911 Committee: Denny Sexton

- Commented on the simulcast switchover and the issues surrounding the current and new frequencies.
- The Bertrand water tower now has temporary repeater installed to test the effectiveness of the connections between the 911 Center and the tower with the anticipation of relocating the current transmitter from Buchanan to Bertrand if tests are successful.

Emergency Management: Corey Burks

- Made the group aware of the special event plans that are available from EMA and informed the group of several large upcoming events in the county
 - May 14 – 15 at Brandywine High School – Civil War Reenactment
 - May 20 – 22 at Southwest Michigan Regional airport – Lest We forget
 - Memorial Day Weekend – Red Bud Park Mud Bog

DNR: No report

Chiefs' Association: No report

Dispatch: Denny Sexton – See above 911 report

Training Committee: Skip Munson –

- FF 1 & 2 Practical skills test will be on May 14 beginning at 07.00 at the Berrien County Fairgrounds. The Training Committee is likely to need help and Skip Munson or Tom Hall can be contacted for more information
- The written test will be on May 12
- There will be a total of 40 candidates testing for firefighter 1 & 2 this year

Resource Directory: Gerry Kabelman – No recent updates

HazMat: Corey Burks -- No report

OLD BUSINESS: No old business

NEW BUSINESS: Dale Stover

- Federal Grants
 - The AFG grant will be available in mid-June with a projected total of 405 million dollars available nationwide.
 - The SAFER grant will be available in late Fall with roughly 405 million available
 - Fire Prevention will have 35 million available.
- He urged members to call Congressman Upton as he is heavily involved in fire act funding
- Chief Gowen – Buchanan City has asked the Association for \$300 to cover costs associated for displaying Little Squirt at this year's Berrien County Youth Fair. A motion was made by Dale Stover and seconded by Skip Munson to fund the Little Squirt program at the BCYF.

SHERIFF: Sheriff Bailey spoke about this weekend's Blossomtime Parade in St Joseph and the potential for disruption from protesters. He advised that they are well prepared to deal with any and all disruptions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Chief Stiles – Eau Claire, announced the passing of Dave Hartman, a 21 year veteran of the department. Visitation is this Friday from 2 -4 and 6 – 8 pm at the Allred Funeral home in Berrien Springs. A graveside service will be held this Saturday at 10am at Rosehill Cemetery. He asks that no fire apparatus be bought as parking is very limited and the roads are being repaired in the area.
- The Berrien Springs Fire Department is hosting a pancake breakfast on May 15 from 07.30 – 11.30 to benefit Dave Bauer and help offset the costs involved in treating his illness.
- The Lincoln Township Fire Department is hosting a pancake breakfast on May 15 from 08.00 to 13.00. There will be a raffle with many great prizes.
- Memorial Day Weekend Sunday the New Buffalo City Fire Department is hosting a pancake breakfast from 08.00 – 13.00.
- On June 18 the Buchanan Township Fire Department is hosting an Open House from 10.00 to 16.00 with vehicle extrication demonstrations and a visit from the Medflight helicopter.
- On Saturday May 7 and again on Saturday May 14, John Volman from the Berrien County Youth Fair is looking for volunteers to help install aluminum backers on the bleachers in the grandstand.
- On June 11 there will be a Pancakes for Premiums breakfast at building 37 on the fairgrounds to help raise funds that have been cut by the State of Michigan. All proceeds benefit the youth fair exhibitors.
- President Kabelman made the announcement that the Association will be seeking nominations for a new Secretary Treasurer as Richard Wing, the current Secretary Treasurer will be moving to Atlanta, Ga during the late Spring / early Summer.

Host Chief Tim Jesswein thanked everyone for coming.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Doug Wise and supported by Skip Munson. Motion was carried

Meeting adjourned at 20.03 hours.

Presentation was made by SMCAS Ambulance and their Mass Casualty Trailer

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Wing

The next meeting will be held on June 1st, 2011

at Chikaming Township Fire Department

Dinner will be at 1830 hours, followed by the meeting at 1930 hours.