

# **BERRIEN COUNTY FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION**

## **Serving Berrien County Firefighters Since 1950**

Berrien County Firefighters Information Website: [www.mi-bcfa.org](http://www.mi-bcfa.org)

Wednesday, August 3, 2011

Berrien Springs Fair Grounds Fire Department

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

Roll call of officers indicated officers present, President Gerry Kabelman, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Denny Sexton, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Rob Gruener, Sec/Treasurer Bill Long.

Roll call of departments indicated 21 departments represented with 79 members present.

The donations received for dinner is in the amount of \$191.33 and 50/50 was \$92.00.

July minutes were presented. Motion by Ron Koebel with support from Ron Burkett to approve the minutes. Motion Carried

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

Chief Stover presented the bill for the evening's meal for payment, a total of \$233.78. Motion by Richard Wing with support from Donny Johnson to pay the bill presented. Motion carried.

### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

Fair Fire Chief Tom Wicker introduced this year's fair staff. Lana Stover/Fisher spoke of the numerous improvements being made at the fairgrounds. Corey Burks mentioned that they will be checking in firefighters using the emergency management tags. Corey also mentioned that there will be an appreciation dinner August 27 for all volunteers. Chief Wicker thanked everyone for their time and dedication.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **911 Committee: Rich Knuth –**

- No report.

#### **Emergency Management: Corey Burks –**

- Asked if there was any interest in having a firefighter only NIMS 300/400 class. He will be sending out an email in October.
- The American Red Cross (ARC) will be going through a nationwide major restructuring in the upcoming weeks. They will be looking for volunteers to fill disaster/emergency response teams. Asked the Association for a letter of support in which we express the importance of what our local ARC Chapter does for the local community. He encouraged all chiefs to do the same. Motion by Ron Koebel supported by Mike Davidson to send ARC a letter of support. Motion carried.
- Thanked the Chikaming and Bridgman Fire/Police Departments for the great support on the interstate with the sodium hydroxide tanker truck incident.

### **DNR:**

- No report.

#### **Chiefs' Association: Mike Davidson –**

- No new news on the simulcast grant.
- At the last chiefs meeting it was voted and agreed upon to purchase the fire training simulator trailer. We are now working on receiving funds for the matching portion of the grant.

- Motion by Chief Rich Knuth with support from Chief Ron Burkett to have the BCFA commit/donate \$10000.00 towards the new training simulator trailer. Motion carried unanimously.

**Dispatch: Denny Sexton –**

- Mentioned that the radio tower took a direct lightning hit from the storm 8/2/2011. The safety features worked fairly well keeping damage to a minimum.
- Dispatch is scheduled for a major CAD upgrade in October.

**Training Committee: Skip Munson –**

- Handed out the schedule for this falls FF I & II to all departments present. On behalf of the training council Skip thanked the BCFA for their commitment to training in the county with the donation of \$10000.00. Stressed the importance of participation by the departments in the county in participating in the training council. Need instructors and ideas/opinions. Meet last Wednesday of each month.

**Resource Directory: Gerry Kabelman –**

- Updated new chief in New Buffalo Township, Ed Lijewski.

**HazMat: Rocky Adams-**

- Received two calls last month. Sent one unit to assist a farmer in Paw Paw with a pesticide concoction. The other was the sodium hydroxide tanker truck explosion in Chikaming Township. Thanked Chikaming and Bridgman Fire Departments for their assistance and quick actions.

**OLD BUSINESS: -**

- None

**NEW BUSINESS: -**

- None

**SHERIFF: Paul Bailey-**

- Echoed the thank you to Chikaming / Bridgman Fire for job well done with tanker truck explosion.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Peach Festival 8/5-8/7 2011 in Coloma, North Berrien Fire.

Host Chief Tom Wicker thanked everyone for coming.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Paul Rainwater supported by Richard Wing. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 20.10 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Long

**The next meeting will be held on September 7, 2011  
at the Lake Township Hall (not DC Cook as scheduled)  
Dinner will be at 1830 hours, followed by the meeting at 1930 hours.**