

**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, November 7, 2011

Saint Joseph City Fire Department

Meeting called to order at 19.30 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, and Sec/Treasurer Bill Long.

Roll call of departments indicated 15 departments represented with 42 members present.

The donations received for dinner is in the amount of \$111.54 and 50/50 was \$54 (\$27). \* = See note below.

October minutes were presented. A motion was made by Mike Moran with support from Jim Ashmead to approve the minutes. Motion Carried

Treasurers Report was submitted for review. A motion was made by Rick Smiedendorf with support from Tom Wicker to approve the Treasurers Report. Motion carried.

One bill submitted for the annual domain website renewal in the amount of \$31.29 was approved to pay. A motion was made by Bill Long with support from Denny Sexton, motion carried.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

A moment of silence was observed for Bertrand Township Firefighter Jim Pew. Visitation will be November 8 from 4pm-8pm at Swem Chapel in Buchanan. A firefighter walk through will take place at 6 pm, with the funeral held on November 9.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**911 Committee: Rich Knuth –**

- None

**Emergency Management: Corey Burks –**

- Corey reported that the Palisades exercise went very well. They are waiting on the final report. Thanks to Watervliet Fire for use of Decon Center, Berrien Springs Fire for Decon Unit and incident command center, and the Red Cross for their support.
- The DC Cook exercise will be coming June 2013.
- The October 21 train derailment in Niles went as well as a derailment could. All support teams worked together well and the situation was handled with very few problems.

**DNR:**

- Our Rep. Dan Laux is heading back to the U.P. A replacement has not been appointed.

**Chiefs' Association: Mike Davidson –**

- Simulcast conversion is taking place and should be complete the end of November.
- Chiefs meeting will be November 28 @ 0830.

**Dispatch: Denny Sexton –**

- Reported 10 departments have converted over to the new simulcast. Reminded everyone to have your radio templates made out to speed along the process. Denny is available for training on the new system. He also reported that they are having issues with radios and pagers in metal buildings.

**Training Committee: Tom Hall/Skip Munson/Corey Burks –**

- Skip reported that class is going well. There are 35 students plus three challengers. If the students have a problem with any instructors please let Skip or Corey Burks know.

**Resource Directory: Gerry Kabelman –**

- No new updates.

**HazMat: Rocky Adams-**

- The past month was quiet.

**SHERIFF: Paul Bailey-**

- Corey spoke on behalf of the Sheriff who wanted to let everyone know that you are stuck with him for another four years. Thank you for all of your help and support.

**OLD BUSINESS: -**

- Auction coming in December at Sodus Fire Department
- Nominating Committee consists of Jim Ashmead and Bruce Cole. Elections will be held at December meeting.
- The proposed 2013 schedule has been presented. A motion was made by Mark Graham, with support from Tyler Tifenbach to approve schedule, motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS: -**

- Audit of financial books in January. Bruce Stover has agreed to help out. We need someone to assist.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- None

Host Deputy Director Jim Crow thanked everyone for coming.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Rob Gruener and supported by Mike Davidson. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 20.00 hours.

Program: Brief description of the Red Cross and what it can do to assist when emergencies arise, presented by Breeze Ettl, Exe. Director Berrien County Chapter of the Red Cross and Susan Bandsema. A power point presentation by 1-800-Board Up, presented by Tony Pigors and Brian Gist, Director of Emergency Services.

**\* = 50/50 won by Skip Munson, which he donated back to BCFA.**

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Long

**The next meeting will be held on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
at Sodus Township Fire Department (program December Auction)  
Dinner will be at 1830 hours, followed by the meeting at 1930 hours.**