

BERRIEN COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

Serving Berrien County Firefighters Since 1950

Berrien County Firefighters Information Website: mi-bcfa.org

November 6th, 2019

Eau Claire Fire Department

Meeting called to order early at 19:17 hours by President Gerry Kabelman.

Roll of officers present: President Gerry Kabelman, 1st Vice President Dave Albers, 2nd Vice President Craig Brent, and Secretary/Treasurer Dennis Graham.

Roll calls of departments indicate 15 departments represented with 30 members present.

Donations received for the dinner were in the amount of \$90.00 and the 50/50 was \$52/26.

The October minutes were presented. One noted time change mentioned. A motion was made by Frank DeLaTorre with support from Tom Wicker to approve the corrected minutes. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report for the month of October was presented by Sec/Treas Dennis Graham. The balance in checking is \$4,540.29 and the money market balance is \$8,745.44 for a combined total of \$12,285.73. The check written for the month of October has cleared. A motion was made by Denny Sexton with support from Mike Essig to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

There were no bills submitted for the month of November.

Communications:

- A moment of silence was observed in honor of Norm Zelmer. Norm served as a charter member with the Lake Township Fire Department from 1953-2013, with 18½ of those years as department chief.
- Dispatchers Kris Burks and Cindy Napier presented T-shirts at \$25 and wristbands at \$5 in support for Damon who is a local dispatcher in his fight against cancer. Fund raising events planned are a Spaghetti Dinner at the Coloma FOP Lodge on Nov. 16th from 12-8 and a Wood Sign Paint Workshop at the BC Fairgrounds on Dec. 1st from 2-5. All proceeds will go towards Damon's fight against cancer. Contact Kris at Dispatcher775@comcast.net or Cindy at lucindanapier@gmail.com with any questions. The flyer is posted on our web site.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

911 / Dispatch: Denny Sexton

- Moving into next gen 911 and upgrades on the new cad system. There are openings for two dispatchers.

Emergency Management: Rockey Adams.

- Shoreline erosion from flooding and storms and the need for flood insurance. National flood insurance is available for storms. Coverage options.
- School Safety Plans Updated and meetings with the schools are planned.
- PGA in May 2020 traffic plans being submitted to MDOT.

DNR: Ben Osterson

- No Report

Chief's Association: Chief Mike Davidson

- Next Chief's meeting is on December 18th at 08:30 am. No November meeting.
- The radio/pager grant not awarded and the need to move forward staying with vhf or 800mhz
- G-5 pagers and Active 911 usage.
- A 3-4-year transition

Mi-TRT5: Allen Weich

- Working on box cards and plans for the response area. All classes are on hold for now.

Landing Zone- Mark Berger

- Hunting season be safe. The importance of wearing a harness when on a tree stand

EMS: Frank DeLaTorre

- Winter weather is here, thinking warming stations, extra dry clothing, HART and Red Cross.
- Red bud season went very well this year.

Training Committee: Cory Burks – Dave Albers

- Next RIT class Nov. 21-24. Still have openings Registrations needed.

Resource Directory: Gerry Kabelman

- Check your department equipment listings and send in the updates
- Check out your department station page also to update pictures of the trucks that are in service and the ones that have been retired.

HazMat: Dave Albers

- Warming Tents are available. Berrien Bus and local school districts can help as needed also.
- Call for those annual Hazmat Refresher courses. Avoid those large fines if not compliant.

Sheriff: Paul Bailey

- Winter is here, stay warm and stay safe!

Old Business:

- Berrien County Firefighters Association is now 501C compliant.

New Business:

- The nominating committee will present the current officers in a vote at the Dec. 4th Galien meeting.

Announcements:

- Chile Supper at Bertrand Sta.1 on Nov. 9th, from 5-8.
- All you can eat Pancake, Waffle and Sausage Breakfast on Nov. 17th, from 8-11 am. at Niles Twp. Sta. 2 on Third street.
- Steve Torres at LMC and has begun taking applications for Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) courses and a Medical First Responder (MFR) courses that are being planned in January.
- Reminder the Annual (Christmas) Auction/Elections Meeting will be held at the Galien Fire station December 4th.

Host Chief Norm Carl Jr. thanked everyone for coming to Eau Claire and introduced Trues Towing as our program. They brought a spill trailer and a rotator wrecker to view and gave spill cleanup demonstration's.

The 50/50 winner was Kevin Burkhard and he donated it to support Damon's fund raiser. Thank you!

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Donnie Johnson and supported by Matthew Johnson. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 20:41.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Graham

Sec/Treas

**The next meeting will be held on December 4th
Galien Fire Department
Meal at 18:30 hours and the meeting at 19:30 hours
Annual Elections and Auction follows meeting**