

# **BERRIEN COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION**

Serving Berrien County Firefighters Since 1950

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

March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022

St. Joseph Twp. Sta. 2

Meeting called to order at 19:02 hours by President Gerry Kabelman.

Officers present: President Gerry Kabelman, and Secretary/Treasurer Dennis Graham.

Donations collected at the meal totaled \$70.

Roll call of departments indicate 12 departments represented with 27 members present .

Minutes for the month of December were presented online for two months. No meetings held in January or February due to weather. A motion made by Donnie Johnson with support from Denny Sexton to approve the December minutes. The motion carried.

The treasurer's report for the month of February was presented. The balance in checking is \$9,485.39 and the money market balance is \$7,506.51 for a combined total of \$16,991.90. The balance for the car show account is \$5,050.02 A motion was made by Tom Holland with support from Donnie Johnson to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried

## **Bills presented**

- Bibles purchased and our split cost is \$146.50.
- Dispatchers New Year's Meal split cost \$150.00.

A motion was made by Cory Burks with support from Denny Sexton to pay the Chiefs Association the amounts presented. Motion Carried,

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **911/Dispatch: Kris Burks**

- Do not rely on active 911 as your dispatch, it's a resource not a form of dispatching.
- A celebration of life for Doris Horton who worked in Dispatch will take place on March 9<sup>th</sup> 8 am – March 10<sup>th</sup> 4 am at Berrien County Dispatch on Empire. Come at your leisure and share your memories.

### **Emergency Management: Rocky Adams**

- Health Department and Emergency Management have been monitoring reports of H5N1 highly pathogenic avian Influenza (bird flu) in Indiana and Michigan. No detection in Berrien County.
- Next meeting dates for LEPC are 6/21/22, 8/16/22 and 11/15/22.
- Senior PGA MAY 25<sup>TH</sup>-29<sup>TH</sup>.
- Storm Spotter Virtual Training this month information at [http://www.weather.gov/iwx/Spotter\\_Event\\_List](http://www.weather.gov/iwx/Spotter_Event_List)
- Thank You to our county commissioners for their support for the fire service. They have approved \$13,000 towards Fire and EMS communications.

### **Chief's Association: Mike Davidson**

- Next Meeting March 16<sup>th</sup>.AM
- Elections were held at last meeting and Mike Mattix was elected President and Jamie Flick as Vice President.
- Chief Davidson announced his replacement Allen Weich for new Chikaming Fire Chief effective April 1st. A retirement celebration for Chief Davidson planned for March 29<sup>th</sup> at Local Pour Tasting Room on 12857 Red Arrow Hwy. in Sawyer from 5 - 7 PM.

**Landing Zone: Mark Berger**

- Landing zone classes welcome to any local department
- In the spare chopper while the main chopper is in for 800-hour maintenance.
- Mark asked if any department has an old stokes basket not being used, one is needed for grain bin training purposes.

**MITRT5: Allen Weich**

- Kalamazoo with the help of a grant is in the process of updating their response trailers with more structural collapse equipment.

**Training Committee: Cory Burks**

- Ice Rescue 1 class was well attended and plans for Ice Rescue 2 next year.
- Firefighter I & II and the High School classes are doing well. A CTE program \$93,000 grant was awarded to the class towards purchasing training equipment.
- Very important for each member to go on SMOKE to and update any needed information and to view upcoming trainings.

**Resource Directory/Web: Gerry Kabelman**

- Review the Directory for any updates and submit them in.

**Hazmat: Cory Burks**

Members attending the Michigan Hazmat Responder Conference April 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>.

**Sherriff: Paul Bailey**

- Planning on replacing the Mobile Command Unit. Old one was unsafe and sold.
- Very busy starting with the Saint Patrick's Day Parade on the 12<sup>th</sup> in Coloma, then the Blossom Parade, PGA, Car Show, Lest We Forget, Benton Harbor Juneteenth parade.
- Red Bud Track and Trail has plans for two large events July and September.

**Old Business:**

- Audit Committee waiting on 2021 records from Dennis. (Matt Remmo & Denny Sexton)
- Nominations for the 2022 year were presented as Gerry Kabelman President, Craig Brent 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Donnie Johnson 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Dennis Graham Secretary/Treasurer. No nominations on the floor. A motion made by Doug deBest with support by Tom Holland to unanimously accept the nominations as presented. Motion carried. Thank-you!

**New Business:**

- Our Constitution and By Laws need review. A review committee needed.
- The possibility going to a 2-year term for officers. Fire Chiefs Association is considering going to a two-year term.

Host Chief Tom Holland thanked everyone for attending the meeting and introduced Lene Molberg from I&M Electric to discuss safety around power lines.

Lee Scherwitz gave a presentation on Lest We forget taking place at the airport starting on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 19<sup>th</sup>.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Patrick Corteville and supported by Sue Holland. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 19:52.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Dennis Graham*  
*Sec / Treas*

**The next meeting on APRIL 6<sup>th</sup>  
St. Joseph City  
6:30 meal  
7:00 meeting**