

BERRIEN COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

Serving Berrien County Firefighters Since 1950

Berrien County Firefighters Information Website: mi-bcfa.org

April 5th, 2023

Bertrand Township Fire Department

Meeting called to order at 19:10 hours by President Gerry Kabelman.

Officers present: President Gerry Kabelman, 1st Vice President Craig Brent, 2nd Vice President Donnie Johnson, and Secretary/Treasurer Dennis Graham.

Roll call of departments indicate 17 departments represented with 33 members present. Donations collected at the meal totaled \$86.

The minutes for the month of March was presented. A motion made by Tom Wicker with support from Dave White to approve the minutes. The motion carried.

The treasurer's report for the month of January indicated the balance in checking is \$740.80 and the money market balance is \$23,615.73. A balance of \$3,486.69 in the car show account to keep account active. With a combined total of \$27,838.22. A motion made by Doug deBest with support from Mark German. Motion carried.

Communications/Announcements:

- April 11th Recycle Event at LMC Benton Harbor campus 3 – 7 pm.
- Berrien Springs Sausage and Pancake Breakfast April 16th, 7:30 – 11:30 am.
- Lincoln Twp. Drive-Thru Pancake Breakfast April 23rd, 8:00 – 11:30 am.
- Sodus Twp. Pancake Breakfast April 23rd, 7 am – 12:30 pm.
- Bertrand Pancake and Sausage Breakfast May 6th, 8 – 11 am.
- Buchanan Twp. FISH FRY May 6th, 3 – 8 pm.
- Rail Car Response class May 20th, New Buffalo Twp.
- Check SMOKE for upcoming trainings and registrations.
- Car Show June 24th, information on web page. Looking for volunteers to help and a representation of fire trucks.

Chief's Association:

- Next Chief's Meeting April 19th.
- Lunch meals were given to Berrien County crews manning Van Burren fire stations while they attended the funeral of FF Ethan Quillen of the Paw Paw Fire Dept. The total for three crews came too \$431.23. The Chief's Association gave \$215.61 towards the bill. Payments were given to the crew leaders for their purchases after receipts were turned in to the Sec/Treasure.
- BCFA to split the cost of the Dispatchers Appreciation meal which totaled \$374.82. Our split total came to \$173.91. Payment made to Chief's Association.

Training Committee:

- 15 FF's in Saturday class, 8 students in the HS class.
- Help needed on April 29th test day. Assembly at 7 am, use Youth Memorial Building parking lot. Also looking for Apparatus as well. Email: bcfftc1@gmail.com to confirm participation or pieces of equipment/apparatus by Tuesday, April 25th.
- Lots of trainings happening around our county, as well as an instructor 1 class in Cass County. Visit SMOKE regularly for updates on all the trainings.

MITRT5:

- Kalamazoo confined space training.
- Don Wise new appointed county lead.
- At a low in membership team members.

Loading Zone:

- Ready for Landing zone training classes.

EMS/Medical:

- Grants have been received towards medical trainings.

Resource Directory/Website:

- New fire chief for Baroda, New fire engine for Benton Harbor Department of Public Safety. Construction has begun on the Public Safety building on the Fair grounds. We can scan pictures of old trucks that served local departments. Check out the updates on the website.

Hazmat:

- D.C. Cook reception center simulation and observation being held in Niles.

Business Notes:

- 2022 Audit review has been completed and approved by the audit committee.
- A motion to pay the Sec/Treasure for the 2022 year was approved by Dave White and Frank DeLaTorre.
- A second motion to increase the amount given toward the Sec/Treasure by \$35 to the total of \$400 was presented by Doug deBest and Sam Badreddine. Motion carried.
- Adding to the June 24th car show totals, need sponsorships, volunteers, and fire trucks.

Host Chief Bill Knisely welcomed and thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. The presentation for the evening was from Great Lakes Drone.

A motion to adjourn the meeting by Doug deBest and supported by Frank DeLaTorre. Motion carried meeting adjourned at 19:46.

Respectfully submitted,
Dennis Graham
Sec / Treas

The next meeting May 3rd, 2023

Bridgman City Fire Department

6:30 meal

7:00 meeting