

BERRIEN COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

Serving Berrien County Firefighters Since 1950

Berrien County Firefighters Information Website: mi-bcfa.org

March 5th, 2025

Watervliet Fire Department

Meeting called to order at 19:05 hours by President Gerry Kabelman.

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

Donations collected at the meal totaled \$94.

Roll call of departments show 13 departments represented with 30 members present .

Minutes for March were presented . A motion made by Doug deBest with support from Everett Steinke to approve the minutes. The motion carried.

The March treasurer's report was presented. The checking balance is \$6,192.09, the money market balance is \$23,058.76, and the car show balance is \$4,659.09, totaling \$33,909.94. A motion was made by Corey Burks with support from Tyler Burks to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Request submitted for payment:

A \$219 request for stamps for car show mailings was given. Denny Sexton motioned for approval, supported by Bill Knisely. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Chief's Association:

- Next Meeting March 19th, 08:30 am Lake Twp. Fire Dept.

Training Committee:

- Extra hands needed for reviews on the weekends of April 13th, 19th, and 26th. (May 1st written, May 8th practical) any departments with students are encouraged in helping. Contact Corey Burks for information on dates and times needed.
- Training sessions across the county are listed on Smoke and the BCFA websites.
- Reminder on keeping track of training credit hours being met throughout the three-year cycle. This is year three of that cycle.

MITRT5:

- Call early for aid to ensure timely deployment.

EMS/Medical:

- Available for ambulance layout training for interested departments.
- Training new paramedics.

Resource Directory/Website:

- Waiting on updates. There are 10 departments that have not responded on updating their information. Revised edition being published.
- Make sure to check web site for the extensive list of upcoming trainings and events.

Hazmat:

- The latest Emergency Response Guidebooks are available.

HART:

- Currently, there is no added information. A meeting is planned for March.

Old Business:

- The 2025 audit was presented to the audit committee and approved after correcting minor findings. Dennis Graham named discrepancies between the monthly treasurer's report totals and the bank statement totals recorded for that month. The presentation focused on meeting date totals rather than specific monthly totals. A motion was made by Doug deBest, supported by Kevin Burkhard, to pay the Secretary/Treasurer \$400 for completing the audit. The motion carried.
- The State Regulations on smoke detectors are changing. Encouraging fire departments to register in the MI Prevention Smoke Detector Program for their smoke and CO alarms.

New Business:

- The second week of April (13th-19th) is National Public Telecommunicators Week. (Dispatchers Appreciation) A motion for the BCFA to donate \$300 towards the meals for shifts that week presented by Corey Burks with support from Dennis Graham. Motion carried. Payment presented.

Announcements:

- North Berrien Trivia Night, March 22nd, 7pm at American Legion Post.
- Niles Twp. Pancake, Waffle, and Sausage Breakfast March 9th, 8-11 am at Sta.2
- Weesaw Twp. Cornhole Tournament, April 5th, 10am BRIDGMAN American Legion Post. 4241 Legion St.
- Sodus Twp. Breakfast April 6th, 8-11am.
- Benefit Car Show June 28th, 9am-2pm. 1051 Maiden Lane (soccer fields)

Host Bill Whitney welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting and his crew for setting up for the meeting. Adam Munro presented a three-hour course titled "Growing Concerns and Cultivating Safety" after adjourning.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Corey Burks and supported by Everett Steinke. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 19:33.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Graham

Sec / Treas

**The next meeting April 2nd
Weesaw Twp. Fire Department
18:30 meal
19:00 meeting**