

BERRIEN COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

Serving Berrien County Firefighters Since 1950

Berrien County Firefighters Information Website: mi-bcfa.org

September 3rd, 2025

Bertrand Township Fire Department

Meeting called to order at 19:07 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 show 11 departments represented with 22 members present
Donations collected during the meal totaled \$55.

Minutes for AUGUST were presented . A motion made by Doug deBest with support from Denny Sexton to approve the minutes. The motion carried.

The AUGUST treasurer's report was presented. The checking balance is \$2,701.46, the money market balance is \$23,304.82, and the car show balance is \$22,468.48, totaling \$48,474.76. A motion was made by Ty Scurluek with support from Anthony Pienkowski to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Request submitted for payment:

- Fire Education Center itemized expense report for 2025 fair week turned in totaling \$493.95. (Prizes ,candy, ice, hardware, trash can)
- Car Show totals showing \$18,000 were raised this year! The amount shared with the Sheriff Dept. totals \$9,000. A motion made by Doug deBest with support by Sam Badreddine to present a check in the amount of \$9,000 to the Sheriff Dept. Motion carried. Car Show Coordinator Steve Wright along with BCFA officers presented the Sheriff with the check. Sheriff Heit explained that the funds are going towards the Reserves and Mounted Divisions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Emergency Management:

- ICS 300/400 trainings
- Basic Academy Train the Trainer course
- EOC Intermediate Operations course
- Winter Weather Workshop Oct. 17th 9-2 at BC Health Department office.

DNR:

- Wildland burn training for end of September has been postponed til Feb./Mar 2026.

Chief's Association:

- Next Meeting September 17th.
- County Texcom information source on hold

Training Committee:

- Make sure you check SMOKE for any updates and trainings.

CE training credits. Everyone's responsibility. Check in before Oct. 1st.

H.A.R.T. :

- Contacts with the Salvation Army have shown a lot of interest in placing a truck in the Benton Harbor – Niles area. This truck would serve Berrien, parts of Van Buren, and Cass counties. The need for a storage facility for the truck is the main concern for the project to move forward.

Resource Directory/Website:

- Still short on department directory updates.
- Make sure to check web site for the extensive list of upcoming trainings and events.

Sheriff:

- The HazMat team is looking at more involvement of Berrien County fire service take over. Talk to your chief.

New Business:

- Great turn out at Fair with having most slots filled. Due to having trouble with the digital fire extinguisher simulator charging considering on getting estimates purchasing one.
- Drawing up amendments to the By Laws concerning non-member departments

Announcements:

- **911 STAIR CLIMB:** Steven Phenegar has great support from the community to hold the 911 Stair climb at Lakeshore High School on September 11th, 8am-10:30am
- September 12th, 6-8 pm, 1st Responder Appreciation Dinner
- Leadership Training at Galien Fire Sept. 18th, 1900-2100.
- Advanced Pump Operations BHDPS Sept. 27th-28th 0830-1600 limit 30 students.

Host: Jason Campbell welcomed everyone to Bertrand. The program was presented by Chief Myers on Scene Watcher app.

Doug Wise with support from Tim Jesswein made a motion to close the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 20:20

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Graham

Sec / Treas

The next meeting October 1st

Berrien County EOC/Dispatch on Empire

18:30 meal

19:00 meeting