

# Berrien Fire Chief's Association

1-25-11

Meeting called to order by Chief Davidson at 1904 hours.

**ATTENDANCE:** Agens-BC911, Sexton-BC911, Stiles-ECPBTFD, Brovold-NCTFD, Koebel-RTFD, Stover-BSOFD, Spiegel-NBFR, Maynard-SJTTFD#1, Heyn-LTFD, Knuth-BFD, Burkett-LTFD, Gowen-BFD, Davidson-CTFD, DeLaTorre-SMCAS, Lamb-NFD, Knisely –Bertrand, Woodward-NBFR, Corteville-SJTTFD#2/BCSD, Klug-Baroda, CBurks-Bertrand, CMoroney-NBTFD, Seats-BHFD, Flick-TOFD, VanLente-Covert, Bailey-BCSD, Todd-SJFD, Quin-PrideCare.

**19 Member Fire Departments Represented 1-Guest FD Covert, 2-EMS, 2-911, 1 Sheriff.**

**Absent- Weesaw, New Buffalo City, Galien, Benton Twp, Sodus, Buchanan Twp, Watervliet,**

**TREASURER'S REPORT** – The treasury was remained at \$1982.17. Motion and Second with all in favor.

**MINUTES** – Minutes from the November meeting were approved as emailed. Motion, Second and all in favor.

**PRESENTATION** – Following the closing of the meeting Chief Davidson and Stover presented the PowerPoint to explain the new Berrien County Fire Department Fire Communication Plan. Discussion followed with departments commenting on both sides of the issue. After a roughly 90 minute debate the majority of the group voted to follow the plan laid out by the Communication Committee with one addition to license 5 new narrowband simplex fire ground frequencies to augment the Federal interoperable channels originally proposed. It was felt that if we use the Inter-op channels for day to day operations we could eventually have interference or other limitations because of their open use. Chief Stover will forward the information out to the BCFire Listserv so that information can go out to the departments. There will need to be detailed training developed for both dispatch and responders as well as coordination of programming and transition plans as we move forward.

## **COMMUNICATIONS / BILLS** –

Chief Brovold and Chief Stover both reported having information on donors for O2 masks for Pets. Chief Brovold contact is Michiana Bird Society which can be reached at 1574-255-9715 and Chief Stover reported that Invisible Fence also has a similar program. Call Chief Stover for more information.

Sheriff Bailey reported on two fundraising efforts for 12 year veteran Mike Moore who is battling cancer. There will be a Shoot at the Point Blank Club call Deb Strain at 7217 for more information. Gail Higenbart is also putting together a Cook Book to raise funds. She can be reached at the Berrien Dispatch Center.

**The Red Cross would like to show off their new facility. An Open House tonight 1-26-11 from 4-6 at their new facility on Niles Avenue. Call their new number 269-556-9619 for more information. Their new fax is 1-269-556-9651.**

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**911** – The Saint Joe 800 Tower is performing well. The dispatch center has begun dispatching for Benton Harbor.

**DNR** – None

**Funeral Protocol** –Kit in Berrien Springs

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT** –Corey was unable to attend as he was performing Rep Training previously scheduled for tonight. Chris reported that most of the effort in the Division is preparation for the upcoming Cook Exercises. Eau Claire will be starting it off with their Public Reception Drill soon.

**LEPC** –. Corey discussed the plan for the Cook Exercises. Ron went of the CACM software which uses the data collected by TIC program to allow incident meshing of responding agencies on the fly by cross referencing available communication channels on the fly to determine joint frequencies to use.

**SHERIFF-** The Sheriff stated that he and the EMD guys were here to help where needed as we move through the communication upgrades. He seemed to imply that he wanted to dispel any thoughts that they were driving the changes proposed. He did want to reinforce that they were here to support the fire services where they could.

**BCFFA** - none

**BCYF** –. none

**TRAINING** –none

**MABAS-** Larry announced that Galien Township Fire has officially signed on to MABAS 3501. He had also received a signed MABAS document from SMCAS and interest from Pride Care Ambulance. He will is scheduled to speak to the Kalamazoo County Chiefs in February and reported good progress in Allegan, St. Joe counties toward developing divisions there. Van Buren has also expressed interest. Chief Davidson reported that Checks from the Illinois Deployment have begun to arise. It was agreed by those who participated that the experience of the deployment was a positive one.

**OLD BUSINESS -** Chief Gowen discussed the Little Squirt Program and his hope to get it back on the road. He will be working to develop relationships with members from the County Fire Departments to assist with program delivery. He has been working through the Firefighters Association to develop support. His contact number for Squirt Business with is 269-591-1836. Call him if you have interest in helping to preserve this treasure of a program.

### **NEW BUSINESS-**

Denny Sexton announced Eugene Seats new position to the group. Eugene, who has served the citizens of Benton Harbor in the Fire Department for decades, has been appointed to Director there.

### **ELECTIONS**

A request went out in the November Minutes asking for Nominations to fill the upcoming slate of officers. Receiving none requests for nomination from the floor were requested. Hearing none a motion was made, seconded and approved to cast a unanimous ballot for the current slate of officers. Chief Davidson will remain President, Chief Gowen – Vice and Lamb Sec-Tres.

Meeting Adjourned 1925 hrs.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Gowen / Lamb