



BERRIEN COUNTY
FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION
BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Call to Order: By President Myers @ 0834hrs

Date: May 21st, 2025

Presentation(s):

- Jackie & Mike Huie – Rotary Public Safety Group – presentation – not much interest from the group, so we won't move forward.

Old minutes:

- Old minutes emailed out by Secretary/Treasurer Kazmierzak
- Motion to accept old minutes by: Chief Weich
- Seconded by: Chief D. Flick
- Motion passed: None opposed.

Treasurer's Report:

April Starting Balance: \$6126.14 April Ending Balance: \$6176.14

- Motion to accept treasurer's report by: Chief Mattix
- Seconded by: Chief Gowen
- Motion passed: None opposed.
- The following departments still owe their 2025 Dues:
 - DC Cook
 - Royalton Twp.

Bills:

- None

Communications:

- N/A

New Chief/Visitor:

- Steve Nuebecker – SJDPs – spoke about leadership transition. Brian Kazmierzak will assist with running training and response, and Brandon Chiarello will assist. Mike Phelps will come on 6/6/25 under a 6-month contract to assist with the transition and mentor a new internal candidate once appointed.

Dispatch/911:

- **June 1st** – Advanced Send – will start for MFR agencies coding calls that PD requests EMS for.
- **Water Rescue Dispatches** – internal rescue – Priority Calls – efforts to do all disciplines at once, when possible, will try to use UIC 1 or 2 talk groups and assign that as the answer up talk group.
- ALL agencies finally have box cards
- GIS Public Safety Manager starts June 9th – three-year backlog – once the polygons are done, then the box cards can be
- Operations Manager Sarah Blurton – started 4/21 – Day to Day Operations/Complaints/CTE Program
- CAD Mobility presentation tomorrow at noon – CAD Committee
- Box Card Updates – June 2025
- **PAGER SIMULCAST IS LIVE – SWITCH TO THIS ON YOUR PAGER!!!**

Communication Committee:

- N/A



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CAD Committee:

- Meeting tomorrow with LE and County Commissioners to try to get the project funded by the county. They will probably not pay for everything.

SOG Committee:

- **Mutual Aid Agreement** – still needs legal review
- **Passport Accountability** – still working on this
- **MCI** – ASIM Training

BCFA:

- **Next Meeting** – BCTFD June 4th, 1800hrs
- **Car Show** – June 28th – Fire truck bounce house for the kids
- BHDPS plans to withdraw from the organization
- Discussed the expense of hosting the meeting/food
- It is not our organization, but there are concerns from the Fire Chiefs, and we plan to discuss them at the next meeting.

Training:

- Training Needs Surveys
- Need More Participation at Training Meetings
- Beyond The Line – June 2nd at the Hospital
- June 18th – Sprinkler Class after Chiefs Meeting at Benton Twp.
- Fire Training/Certification discussion
- Sunday, June 1st is the next

Emergency Management/Sheriff's Office:

- EOC/Nuclear Drill Discussions – Palisades vs. Cook Drills

MABAS:

- N/A

Other Communications:

- Niles City hiring two career firefighters/drivers
- Chikaming is hiring one career firefighter

Old Business:

- **Scene Watcher App:**
 - Doug spoke about all the changes that have been made and did a presentation
 - Android has launched – final days of testing – only Android has recognized the update
 - Log all app issues on this Google Doc:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1JaXuz6lbnKh1PRJuWx1sG0SMcrEs3uFTbMazjbbBd14/edit?usp=sharing>
 - Matterport Discussion

New Business:



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- **CAD Grant Discussion** – Nick Gowen – Code Clerk has a side business that asks for donations from organizations. She works on Commission – 30% - 30-45 days to earn \$90k. Needs a letter from the organization about the CAD needs, costs, etc. She does most of her work for the Republican Party.
 - Motion by: Chief Harper
 - Second by: Chief Mattix
 - Motion passed: None opposed
- **Radio Number discussion** – Baroda thought someone may be using 207... may have been Niles Twp?
- **Zoom meetings—or a Zoom option for the meetings... we discussed buying a proper speaker/mic if we do this so everyone in the room can talk.**
- There has been discussion about Cadets on the fire scene and not sending them on mutual aid.
- Discussion about Helmet Colors/Implementation
 - Cadets
 - Non-Certified
 - Firefighters
 - Officers
 - EMS Only
 - Chiefs

Next Meeting:

- Wednesday, June 18th, 2025, 0830hrs – SWM Airport or BCTFD

Adjourn:

- Motion to adjourn by Chief Knisley
- Seconded by Chief Weich
- None opposed. Meeting adjourned @ 1000hrs

ATTENDANCE SHEET

5/21/25

[illegible]

You're Invited...

NFSA "Hands On" Valve Trailer Training



"Fire Sprinklers & Firefighters... Partners in Protection"

NFSA President Shane Ray's "Modern Fires,
Modern Fire Protection... Are We Ready?"

The modern fire environment has changed so much in the past 20 years that fire departments struggle to keep up. Changes in the uses, contents, and configuration of these buildings are causing unique challenges to the fire service.

The modern fire environment requires firefighters and fire officers to understand fire protection features of the building, especially active fire protection systems. Fire sprinklers and firefighters equal an unbeatable team.

Participants will participate in hands-on exercise with the NFSA Valve Trailer that features wet, dry, and pre-action system risers, and standpipe hose connections.

**Wednesday,
June 18, 2025**

9:30 am–1:30 pm (EST)

Lunch will be provided

**Benton Charter Township
Fire Station #1**

**781 S. Crystal Avenue
Benton Harbor, MI 49022**



*In partnership with
Berrien County
Fire Chiefs Association*



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 National Fire Sprinkler Association

#fastestwater

*Fire is fast.
Fire sprinklers are faster.*



NFSA

NATIONAL FIRE SPRINKLER ASSOCIATION
The Voice of the Fire Sprinkler Industry

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