



BERRIEN COUNTY FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION

BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Call to Order: By President Myers @ 0830hrs

Date: December 17th, 2025

Department's Present:

- Baroda
- BHDPS
- Bertrand Twp.
- Berrien County Sheriff's Office
- Berrien Springs-Oronoko Twp.
- Buchanan Twp.
- Chikaming
- Galien
- Lake Twp.
- Lincoln Twp.
- Niles City
- Niles Twp.
- North Berrien
- Sodus Twp.
- SJDPS

- SJTWP #1
- Three Oaks
- Watervliet
- Weesaw Twp.

Department's Absent:

- Benton Twp.
- Berrien County Sheriff's Office
- Bridgman
- Buchanan City
- Eau Claire/Pipestone Berrien Twp.
- DC Cook Fire Brigade
- Royalton Twp.
- SJTWP #2

Presentation(s):

- N/A

Old minutes:

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

Treasurer's Report:

November Starting Balance: \$5551.14, November Ending Balance: \$5551.14

- Motion to accept treasurer's report by: Chief Weich
- Seconded by: Lt. Delatore
- Motion passed: None opposed.
- 2026 Dues Invoiced Emailed
 - North Berrien, Weesaw, Niles City and Bertrand have turned in their Alternate Letters

Bills:

- None

Communications:

- NERIS must be changed over by 1/1/26.
- Smoke Detector Installs ARE NOT runs – hold them for the CRR 2026 NERIS Module

New Chief/Visitor:

- Ron – Spectrum Wireless



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- DNR was present

Dispatch/911:

- Box Card Review Period in January 2026
- Two New Dispatchers, two new all takers

Communication Committee:

- Reminder to update radio templates.

CAD Committee:

- **CAD Update** – MOU was worded poorly, \$3000 is being “given”/cost-sharing to each department. Tyler lowered the price to get the county to sign by 12/31/25. Over \$114,000 savings for the entire project. If everything passes tomorrow, CAD cost will be \$0 for the first year!
- Please get the MOU signed ASAP; it must be signed by the municipality, not the fire chief
- **DEPARTMENTS NEED TO HAVE POLICIES IN PLACE. CAD/ACTIVE 911 INFORMATION IS NOT SHARED AND IS NOT PUBLIC, NOR IS IT TO BE SHARED!**

SOG Committee:

- **Mutual Aid Agreement** – Missing the following departments:
 - Baroda – at their Township Board
 - Benton Twp.
 - Buchanan Twp.
 - Niles Twp.
 - St. Joseph Twp. – in Legal Review
- **MCI/RTF** – Policy needs input! Will be discussed at Police Service Council the last Friday in January.
- **High-Incident Policy In effect**

Haz-Mat:

- Filling in gaps regarding training, management, board, etc. Oversight Committee works with Team Manager and Team Leader.
- Insurance of vehicles and equipment was a question. Sheriff is working with Admin Committee on the transition.

BCFA:

- Annual Auction, raised about \$1600.
- **Next Meeting** – January 7th at DC Cook Training Center

Training:

- **Training Update** – See attached flyers
- **FLYERS COMING SOON!**
 - **Strategic Decision Making & Critical Thinking Class** - \$50 – Jan 24/25 – SJ City Hall
 - **Mayday Management Workshop** - \$50 – April 18/19 – TBA
 - **Big Box / Sprinklered Building Workshop** - \$50 – Sept 17/18 - TBA

Emergency Management/Sheriff's Office:

- Trainings coming up, will be pushed out shortly



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- Starting January 11th, allowing a 12hr shift pilot with the enforcement division until May. Then will be a contractual issue.
- Polar Plunge, February 7th – Special Olympics Fundraiser

MABAS:

- New divisions forming in the UP
- Monthly dispatch centers being updated – Activation Exercises
- Washtenaw County Fire Chiefs is now a governmental entity
- Working on Brush and Ambulance Strike Teams
- MABAS 101 Classes – looking for host areas

Other Communications:

- N/A

Old Business:

- **Bylaw Review Committee:** Committee has met, any changes must have 30 days notice, the goal would be January 2026 vote.
 - 501C3 in purpose and objectives
 - Authority has no authority unless authorized under countywide agreement, i.e. Mutual Aid Agreement
 - Social Media policy for the BCFA associations Facebook page
- **Scene Watcher App:**
 - Last major hurdle of changes - \$980 share for the organization
 - Motion to spend \$980 for changes
 - Motion – Jessawine
 - Second – J. Flick
 - All in favor
 - 65 apps sold so far
 - Presenting tonight in Allegan County
 - Log all app issues on this Google Doc:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1JaXuz6lbnKh1PRJuWx1sG0SMcrEs3uFTbMazjbbBd14/edit?usp=sharing>

New Business:

- N/A

Next Meeting:

- Wednesday January 21st, 2026, 0830hrs, Lake Twp. FD

Adjourn:

- Motion to adjourn by: Chief Weich
- Seconded by: DD Phelps
- None opposed. Meeting adjourned @ 0854

DATE: 12/17/25

12/17/25

NAME	SIGNATURE	DEPARTMENT
Doug Myers	[Signature]	Bsofd
Jamie Flick Brian Karmienak	[Signature] [Signature]	NBTFD / NBCTFD BHDPs
Allen Weich	[Signature]	Chikaming STFD
EVERETT STEINKO	[Signature]	
Gerry Kabelman	[Signature]	SJCTFD I
JEFF STARBUCK	[Signature]	Weesaw
Chuck Heid	[Signature]	Showff
Mike Phipps	[Signature]	SJDPS
Donnie Johnson	[Signature]	Baroda
Brendan Chinelli	[Signature]	Lincoln Lake
Tyler Knisely	[Signature]	Berkland.
Bin Knisely	[Signature]	Bentham &
Frank Delatorre	[Signature]	UBFP
Dave Flick	[Signature]	TOFD
Zach Hooten	[Signature]	Niles Fire
David Albers	[Signature]	BCSO
Ben Osterlund	[Signature]	DNR
Caitlin Sampson	[Signature]	BC911
Tim Jerschewski	[Signature]	Niles Twp / Buckner Twp