

BERRIEN COUNTY FIREFIGHTER'S ASSOCIATION

Serving Berrien County Firefighters Since 1950

Berrien County Firefighters Information Website: www.mi-bcfa.org

Wednesday, March 2, 2011

Bridgman Fire Department

Meeting called to order at 1928 hours by President Gerry Kabelman.

Roll call of officers indicated officers present, President Gerry Kabelman, 1st Vice President Denny Sexton, and 2nd Vice President Rob Gruener, Sec/Treasurer Richard Wing.

Roll call of departments indicated 19 departments represented with 57 members present.

The donations received for dinner is in the amount of \$137.00 and 50/50 was \$84.00.

January minutes were presented, as there was no meeting in February due to bad weather. Motion by Tom Wicker with support from Craig Brent to approve the minutes. Motion Carried

There was no Treasurers Report

There were no bills submitted for payment

COMMUNICATIONS:

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

911 Committee: Rich Knuth – Budget time is here and the committee is working on its budget

Emergency Management: Corey Burks –

- D.C Cook graded exercise have been completed. EMA utilized BCSD Victim Service Unit, American Red Cross, Adventist Disaster Response, R.A.C.E.S and CERT volunteers. They also used Eau Claire Fire, St Joseph #2 and Benton Township Fire for manpower. Five exercises were completed.
- There will be a NWS Severe Weather Spotter class on 3/24 at the Lake Township Hall. Class is free and starts at 18.00hrs. Berrien County Dispatcher Chriss Lyon will give a storm chasing presentation prior to the NWS presentation. Contact Gayle Bassett to register at gbassett@berriencounty.org.
- Reminder to all departments to use the Special Event Plan template for any and all upcoming events. Contact Corey Burks if you need one.

DNR: New DNR representative is Danny Laux.

Chiefs' Association: Mike Davidson – The Chiefs have been developing new radio protocols and finalizing the simulcast switchover, which is due to take place on or around May 1st.

Dispatch: Denny Sexton – The county is not hiring at the moment as all slots are currently filled, although two new workstations are currently being installed. Denny spoke briefly on the service interruptions at the south tower. This was fixed with the installation of a new transmitter.

Training Committee: Skip Munson –

- FF 1 & 2 is down to 20 students but still has 15 high school students
- FF 1 & 2 Challenge application are available but must be filled in and returned to Skip no later than March 12.
- Skip needs help with instructors during the upcoming practical reviews
 - March 20, April 10 and April 30
- He also needs help with the /training committee. They meet on the last Wednesday on the month at 7pm at Berrien Springs Fire Department

Resource Directory: Gerry Kabelman –

- Recently updated the directory and will be doing more updates over the next few weeks. Any new updates can be sent to Gerry Kabelman at gerrykabelman@mail.com.
- Chikaming has recently added a new Rescue, designated 777 on the radio. It is pumpkin orange in color and is in service.

HazMat: Chris Corteville

- Went over the recent HAZMAT incident on I-94 in New Buffalo. It was a prolonged incident lasting a total of 16 hours.
- 7 BCSO officers will be heading to Lansing for HAZMAT training

OLD BUSINESS: -

- No old business

NEW BUSINESS: -

- Dale Stover spoke briefly on the upcoming legislation affecting SAFER and AFG grants.
- Bruce Stover spoke about the grant they recently received for a portable training facility
- He will be looking for instructors and funding over the next year to help offset costs to the local fire departments.

SHERIFF:-

- Sheriff Bailey spoke about the current manpower issues facing Benton Harbor PD. He will be providing extra manpower to assist them as needed until their officers return from firefighter 1 & 2 training in Kalamazoo.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Berrien Springs will be hosting a pancake breakfast on April 10th from 7.30am – 11.30am
- Buchanan City will be hosting a pancake breakfast on March 19th from 8.00am to 11.00am(corrected 3/7/2011)
- Buchanan Township will be hosting a fish fry on April 16th.
- Chief Jesswein talked about the upcoming firefighters ball on March 12th.

Host Chief Rich Knuth thanked everyone for coming.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Doug Wise and supported by Dale Stover.

Motion was carried

Meeting adjourned at 20.06 hours.

Presentation was made by Lt Marty Kurtz – BCSO, Marine Division

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Wing

**The next meeting will be held on April 6th, 2011
at Buchanan Township Fire Department
Dinner will be at 1830 hours, followed by the meeting at 1930 hours.**