

# **BERRIEN COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION**

Serving Berrien County Firefighters Since 1950

**Berrien County Firefighters Information Website: [mi-bcfa.org](http://mi-bcfa.org)**

**March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023**

**Berrien Springs/Oronoko Fire Department**

Meeting called to order at 19:01 hours by President Gerry Kabelman.

Officers present: President Gerry Kabelman, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Craig Brent, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Donnie Johnson, and Secretary/Treasurer Dennis Graham.

Donations collected at the meal totaled \$75.

Roll call of departments indicate 14 departments represented with 38 members present .

Minutes for the month of February were presented . A motion made by Doug DeBest with support from Matt Johnson to approve the February minutes. The motion carried.

The treasurer's report for the month of February was presented. The balance in checking is \$1,097.03 and the money market balance is \$23,607.01. The balance for the car show account is \$21.05 for a combined total \$24,725.09. A motion was made by Chris Burks with support from Sarah Henderson to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

### **911/Dispatch:**

- More descriptive call type categories when toned out.
- Acknowledge dispatch when the first unit is enroute
- Notify dispatch what is needed to assist your department on the toned-out call.

### **DNR:S**

- Late spring wildland fire class is in the works, stay tuned for the dates

### **Chief's Association:**

- Next Meeting March 15<sup>th</sup>.
- More box-card updates have been added and set up. .

### **Training Committee:**

- Testing April 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Make sure you are checking out Smoke for trainings offered. At least sign in and check that all your information is correct each year.

### **MITRT5:**

- Confined space training at Western Michigan University campus.

### **Red Cross:**

- Representatives Susan and Joe handed out new emergency responder contact cards.

### **Resource Directory/Web:**

- Benton Harbor Public Safety has placed SQUAD 51 into service.
- Review the Directory for any updates and submit them in.
- Check Web page for car show information and the donation page.

**Hazmat:**

- Refresher trainings are available.
- If interested on joining the team, apply through your chief

**Old Business:**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> reading of proposed additions and changes to the Constitution (copy included with minutes as third page)
- 2022 audit turned over to audit committee and will have report at April meeting.

**New Business:**

- Received 9 checks from sponsors so far towards the 2023 car show.
- Breaking ground on new building at fair grounds March 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Mark German with the support of Donnie Johnson for the BCFA fund lunch coverage for participating fire fighters covering the Van Buren fire stations during the funeral for Paw Paw firefighter Ethen Quillen. Motion carried.
- The motion to feed approximately 30 firefighters at \$15 per person was presented. Chief Myers with support of Doug DeBest approved the amount and the motion carried.

Host Chief Doug Myers thanked everyone for attending the dinner and meeting. The program for the evening presented by Chief Myers on the 6 Medical Investigators serving Berrien County.

**Announcements:**

- Dates for the Buchanan Twp. Fish Fry are May 6<sup>th</sup>, and October 21<sup>st</sup>. 3–8 pm
- Berrien County Recycling Event being held at LMC April 11<sup>th</sup> 3-7 pm.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Kris Burks and supported by Doug Wise. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 19:35.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Dennis Graham*  
*Sec / Treas*

**The next meeting on April 5<sup>th</sup>  
Bertrand Twp. Fire Department Sta. 1**

**6:30 meal  
7:00 meeting**

# BCFA CONSTITUTION CHANGES

## Proposed Additions and Changes as read at the March Meeting

Discussion: August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

First Reading: October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Second Reading: January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Third Reading: March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023

### **CONSTITUTION**

Article V

Section # 2

Change to two (2) year terms, from one (1) year terms.

Article VII

Section # 2

Change to August, from elections occurring in December.

ADD Section # 8

Split the terms of the Officers, with two Officers being elected / voted on each year.

- President and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President on even years.
- Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer on odd years.
- No election in year 2023 (This will complete the last two (2) year term for elected Officials.)
- Next proposed election will be held in August 2024,(an even year.)

(Note: This is being proposed, to prevent all four (4) Officers being changed out during one Election cycle; this ensures consistency and mentoring time for newly elected Officers.)

### **By-Laws**

ADD – Section #6 – Virtual Meetings

Meetings may be held “Virtually” as needed; due to severe weather, major on – going emergency, health concerns, or any other reason that is deemed appropriate by the President and Officers.

Note: Elections in 2023 will be in December 2023:

President and 2nd Vice President will be from December 2023 to August 2024 (8 months)

1st Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer will be from December 2023 to August 2025 (20 months)

Going forth all elections with occur in August as defined in Section 8 above.