

# **BERRIEN COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION**

Serving Berrien County Firefighters Since 1950

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

May 7th, 2025

Baroda Fire Department

Meeting called to order at 19:09 hours by President Gerry Kabelman.

A moment of Silence was observed in memory of Larry Reifschneider of Baroda.

The Association Observed Denny Sexton's 79<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

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 \$117.

Roll call of departments show 11 departments represented with 28 members present.

Minutes for March were presented. A motion made by Sarah Henderson with support from Adrion Willauer to approve the minutes. The motion carried.

The April treasurer's report was presented. The checking balance is \$5,073.54, the money market balance is \$23,164.34, and the car show balance is \$12,359.20, totaling \$40,597.08. A motion was made by Matthew Johnson with support from Jim Jonatzke to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

## **Request submitted for payment:**

State of Michigan \$25 for nonprofit yearly fee payment.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

- Next Meeting May 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **Training Committee:**

- Awaiting results of the testing for the Practical and written. Welcome new firefighters.
- Training sessions across the county are listed on Smoke and the BCFA websites.

### **Resource Directory/Website:**

- Box card listings need updates.
- June car show updates posted, make sure to support our vendors. Bounce house donated it for use at the car show. Banners are available on the fence.
- Make sure to check web site for the extensive list of upcoming trainings and events

### **Hazmat:**

- The latest Emergency Response Guidebooks are available.
- Available for trainings, call in advance for planned dates.

### **Sheriff:**

- Low jail staff, seeking applicant's.
- Many have been [laced on the patrol staff with 3 more in the academy
- Appreciation to nursing staff at jail on nurse week.

**New Business:**

- No host for July meeting. Motion made by Donnie Johnson with support by Brian Dwan to cancel the July meeting was presented. Motion carried.
- Seeking October Meeting host.
- Annual elections committee members chosen for upcoming elections are Matt Johnson and Adrian Willauer.

**Announcements:**

- Bertrand Twp. Pancake Breakfast Sat. May17th, 8 -11am.
- Lincoln Twp. Drive Thru Pancake Breakfast Sun. May18th, 8 – 11 am.
- Lake Twp. Benefit Pancake Breakfast (Give back for Brian Ellerbrook) June 1<sup>st</sup>, 8-12.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Responders Appreciation Dinner Fri. June 20<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 – 7:30 pm at the Corewell Health Center in Benton Harbor at 133 W. Main St.
- Benefit Car Show June 28<sup>th</sup>, 9am – 2pm - St. Joseph Township Soccer field.

Host Chris Burch welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the meeting and his crew for setting up for the meeting. Reminder the need for help at Baroda fireworks On July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Evening program hosted by CO-ALLIANCE of Buchanan covering anhydrous ammonia safety, and propane safety.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Doug deBest and supported by Chris Burch. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 19:47

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

**The next meeting June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
**Benton Township Fire Department Station #1**  
**18:30 meal**  
**19:00 meeting**