BERRIEN COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

Serving Berrien County Firefighters Since 1950

Berrien County Firefighters Information Website: mi-bcfa.org

November 4th, 2026

Berrien Springs Fire Department

Meeting called to order at 19:05 hours by President Kabelman.

Officers present were President Kabelman, 1st Vice President Craig Brent, ,2nd Vice President Adrian Willauer, and Secretary/Treasurer Dennis Graham.

Roll call of departments show 11 departments representing 33 members present . Donations collected at meal totaled $100. The Donation was presented to Chief Myers towards the meal.

Minutes for October presented. Motion by Tyler Burks supported by Frank DeLaTorre to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

The treasurers report for the month of October was presented. Motion to approve the treasurer's report by Frank DeLaTorre supported by Tom Wicker. Motion carried Motion carried.

Bill's Submitted

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Chief's Association:

- Next Meeting November 18th, at the B C Health Department on Napier.
- CAD system

Committee Training:

- FF1&FF2. Dec. 2 orientation and Dec.5th class start. May 2nd, 2027Practical test day.
- Benton Harbor 2026 Winter Fire Academy class had started.
- Training sessions across the county are listed on Smoke and the BCFA websites. Watch for an Ice Rescue and Fire officers classes are in planning stages.
- CSX Emergency Response to railroad incidents training and tabletop exercise were well attended.

MITRT5:

- Attending collapse rescue class.

Resource Directory/Website:

- Bertrand Twp. new Squad 5 posted.
- Sent out an email requesting emails on current firefighters on area departments.
- Check web site for the extensive list of upcoming trainings and events.

Hazmat:

- Discussion on the seriousness of the fire service taking over Berrien County Hazmat. Questions about the progress of how the transition can take place. Each Berrien County department needs to get the word out that this is a county wide effort. More communication needed on the updates when they happen.

Hart:

- The truck is currently out being serviced with an estimated time of completion after Dec1st. More updates to follow at next month's meeting. The Niles SA also sent 48 cases of water to Dowagiac during a water shortage recently. They've been in great communication with us.

Old/New Business

- Berrien County Foundation has offered $6,750 towards the purchasing of Smoke Detectors and CO detectors.
- We the BCFA are purposing to match up to $10,000 towards the purchase of 500 smoke detectors and 100 CO detectors. Because of the high amount this will be considered the first of three readings with the third one holding the vote. By then distribution and purchasing plans should be coordinated.

Announcements:

- East Jordan Plastics Fire Discussion on Nov. 30th, Berrien Springs fire station 630pm-11pm.
- Annual Auction December 2nd at Royalton Twp.
- Bertrand Chili Supper Dec. 6th 430-730pm
- Coin & Patch show Feb.20th at SJCTFD Sta. 1 TBA time

Host Chief Myers welcomed everyone thanked everyone for coming and his crew for the potato bar meal preparations.

The evening program guest Beth Ferry an Extension Educator at MSU Extension Benton Harbor provided information on the EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO ACCIDENTS INVOLVING LIVESTOCK (ERAIL) PROGRAM

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Corey Burks supported by Tyler Burks. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 19:39.

Respectfully submitted,
Dennis Graham
Sec / Treas

The next meeting is on December 2nd
Royalton Twp.
18:30 meal
19:00 meeting
Annual Auction to follow meeting