

# Fire Chiefs' & Fire Fighters' Association of York County, Inc.

330 Emig Road  
York, PA 17406



Monthly Meeting  
3<sup>rd</sup> Monday

## Monthly Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2014

### **CALL TO ORDER (President Steve Buffington)**

President Steve Buffington called the monthly meeting of the York County Fire Chiefs and Firefighters Association to order at 19:15. The call to order was followed by a pledge to the flag and a moment of silence. 33 people were in attendance.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

None scheduled

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

President Buffington asked if there were any corrections to last month's minutes. With no corrections, the minutes were approved as issued.

### **REPORTS**

#### **Treasurer (Bob Bowman):**

Treasurer Bob Bowman presented the following report: Beginning Balance: \$27,765.83 with an Ending Balance: \$22,723.74. With no comments, President Buffington approved the Treasurer's Report as read.

#### **Board of Governors (Steve Buffington):**

There was not a regular board meeting this month due to not having a quorum. There was a special board meeting last week to discuss the modular classroom building installation. The contractor agreed to address the concerns at no cost to the Association.

#### **Fire School Administrator (Richard Halpin):**

February Fire School Training: 183 hours.

A Firefighter I certification test has been scheduled for October 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. Applications are available on the website and should be sent to HACC.

Reminder that any class cancellations within 72 hours of the start of class are subject to a cancellation fee. If you cancel the night before, the agency will get a bill.

Fall dates for the BVR series are being planned.

### **OTHER AGENCY REPORTS**

#### **911 Center/YCDES (Julio Mendez):**

Thanks for manning stations during the paging outage which was done for mandated software upgrades. They are still updating software, but they will not cause a shutdown.

A recruiting flyer is available for dispatcher hiring.

The Working Fire assignment dispatch is now available for CAD.

The second full week of April is National Public-Safety Telecommunications Week. Julio reminded the group that the dinners that the Association provided last year were very much appreciated and hoped that we could do that again.

As a follow-up to the question on 20 minute timers; the 20 minute clock starts at dispatch. The timer cannot be associated with any particular piece of apparatus, but they are still looking at options.

Julio has been doing a QA review for dispatch times. Their internal policy is to dispatch units within 2-1/2 minutes of the time the call was answered. The review results for the 62 Residential Structure Fire dispatches in February are: 45% dispatched within 2-1/2 minutes; 65% within 3 minutes, and 85% within 4 minutes. Four calls took longer than 5 minutes, but 3 of those were during a severe storm event on February 5<sup>th</sup> when the 911 center handled 895 calls on that one shift. Julio stated that they are trying to improve on the times and that he will continue to track them.

Steve Buffington asked what is causing the delays and if pre-alerting has been looked at. Julio responded that they did meet with another agency that does do pre-alerting and they are also looking at changing the fire call questionnaire to shorten the process.

YC 911 processed 2704 calls for service in February and 4715 so far this year.

Rick Witten asked if calls are prioritized during storms. Joe Madzellan responded that they do get prioritized, but that a dispatcher can still have a page full of priority calls.

**PA State Police (Brad Dunham):**

Not present

**ATR (John Sanford):**

The ATR team had 7 calls for the month, all structural collapse due to snow loads; and 14 calls for the year.

**Haz-Mat/OEM (Tom Graybill):**

The Haz-Mat team had 5 calls for the month; and 13 calls for the year.

A Haz-Mat Technician class is being scheduled for June 14/15 and 21/22.

Starting June 1<sup>st</sup>, UPS will be piloting a "no-manifest" policy where information the cargo carried on their trucks will be available electronically.

**Fire Police (Jim Robertson):**

John Senft was their first special speaker in their new series.

Dues have to be paid by next Monday.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Radio/Communications (Joe Madzellan):**

Joe and others on the committee met with Eric Bistline, Mike Brown and the County Commissioners. The Commissioners have not cancelled the radio upgrades contract, so it is moving forward. They will meet with the Association in the next few months to discuss the upgrades. It will be a 1-for-1 replacement (base stations/mobiles/portables/batteries/straps) including installation costs. The contract will run 41 months so expect a late 2016/early 2017 project completion.

Priority dispatching was discussed.

CAD hot fixes are ongoing. Bob Sells asked if the "no cross streets found" extraneous text on the pages is being addressed. Julio did not think that this was on the list, but he will add it.

The Working Fire assignment dispatch is running. You can contact Mel to update your assignments.

Multiple resource units (auxiliary resource types) are still being looked at. Station chiefs will be contacted if their units do not meet the new minimum requirements approved last month.

**Fire School Committee (Bob Sells):**

No report

**Fire Prevention (XXX):**

No report

**Fundraising (John McDonald):**

Not present

**Rescue Inspection (Tim Mooney):**

Not present. Joe Madzellan reported that they will be sending out a list of contacts for the committee.

**RIT Committee (Chad Levelsberger)**

Not present. Bob Sells read an update email from Brian Widmayer. There was a meeting on March 15th and assignments were given out to members of the committee. A RIT check off sheet was found and will be reviewed and any additions or corrections made. A policy regarding RIT was received from Chief Cromer and will be reviewed and modified if needed to fit the county. Chief 41 also will be continuing to contact all stations currently listed in CAD as RIT stations and asking their intentions. Once the policy and check lists are completed inspections will be performed. The committee is also going to be pushing for all stations to receive RIT and FF survival classes through the fire school.

**By-Laws (Bob Sells):**

The bylaws will be presented at the April meeting.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

President Buffington asked for a motion to pay the bills. Ken Arnold made a motion. Jim Robinson seconded the motion and the motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Joe Madzellan made a motion to provide dinners again for the dispatchers and have Brian Widmayer and Station 9 coordinate it again. Troy Dettinger seconded the motion and the motion carried. Julio noted that there are currently 144 dispatchers/employees.

**REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:**

Rob Bissey reported that York Water Company is sponsoring ISO workshops on March 26<sup>th</sup> from 09:00-11:00 in Jacobus and from 13:00-15:00 in Penn Twp.

The next meeting will be April 21, 2014 at 19:00 at **Yorkana Fire Co. Station 38**. Dinner will be served before the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

President Buffington adjourned the meeting at 20:11.

Respectfully Recorded,

*Robert Sells*

Robert Sells  
Board Secretary