

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

330 Emig Road
York, PA 17406



Monthly Meeting
3rd Monday

Monthly Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2014

PRESENTATIONS

Prior to the start of the meeting, Eric Bistline, Mike Browne, Roger Kohn (Harris representative) and other representatives gave an update on the new radio system and equipment that will be distributed to emergency responders. Equipment information packets and samples were available and on display. Some of the information presented:

- Capabilities of the new P25 radios are improved over our current radios.
- Old accessories that plug into radio ports will still work with the new radios.
- 3 tower sites will be added around the county to improve coverage.
- Of the \$21M project, \$10-11M is just for the radios to be replaced at no cost to the end users. This does include extra radios that were purchased after the original purchase and radios purchased from other vendors.
- A question was asked about building penetration for the 700Mhz bands. The penetration is better at these frequencies.
- Another question was asked about the lithium ion batteries being intrinsically safe. These types of batteries currently are not certified for that criteria, but are currently going through that testing process. It was noted that this criteria may not be as critical as it was once thought.
- The speaker microphones are heavier-duty and will not need to have antennae on them. Plus, the radios will be dual PTT so that both the speaker microphone and the radio PTT will operate to transmit.
- Updated information for the project is available on the YCDS website.
- The project is expected to be completed by July 2017.
- The BeOn mobile app that allows cell phones to operate as PTT devices is being purchased by YCDES and will be made available to chief officers only.

CALL TO ORDER (President Steve Buffington)

President Steve Buffington called the quarterly meeting of the York County Fire Chiefs and Firefighters Association to order at 19:50. The call to order was followed by a pledge to the flag and a moment of silence. 47 people were in attendance.

A representative from Yorkana Fire Company welcomed the Association to their station. President Buffington thanked them for their hospitality and the great meal.

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: \$22,723.74 with an Ending Balance: \$3,645.52. With no comments, President Buffington approved the Treasurer's Report as read.

Board of Governors (John Senft): The Board met this evening prior to this meeting and discussed the following:

There was no meeting in March.

CD investments and submission of the 990 form were discussed.

The renewed pond permit was received and is good until 2019.

A \$5,900 design proposal was approved to complete design for a stair addition to the burn building.

Purchase of a combination snack/drinks vending machine was discussed.

Fire School Administrator (Richard Halpin):

March Fire School Training: 341 hours / 196 for fire school classes.

The 9-11 Memorial Service at Prospect Hill Cemetery will be on September 14th this year. Aerial trucks for a flag arch and engines for a static display are requested.

Information was received for a NFFF NASCAR event at Dover Downs on September 28th.

The school is looking at hosting a MAYDAY training program by Task Force 1, Inc. Dates and additional information will be posted.

Brian Widmayer thanked Richard for the great job that he is doing at the fire school and bringing new training classes to the fire school and having classes filled. A round of applause followed.

OTHER AGENCY REPORTS

911 Center/YCDES (Eric Bistline/Julio Mendez):

Not present.

PA State Police (Brad Dunham):

Brad reported that he has had more complaints about improper installation and use of blue lights in the past month than he has had in the past 10 years. He reminded chiefs that anyone that they have on their submitted lists must have legal lights or the chief can be held responsible, too. If anyone wishes to review and resubmit their lists, they may do so. As a reminder, 2 points of light are allowed, but one of them must have 360 degree visibility and no hidden lights are allowed.

ATR (Bob Sells for John Sanford):

The ATR team had 1 call for the month, a structural collapse call; and 15 calls for the year.

Haz-Mat & OEM (Tom Graybill):

The Haz-Mat team had 5 calls for the month; and 18 calls for the year.

The Haz-Mat Technician class is June 14/15 and 21/22. The second weekend is also a refresher class for those who need it.

The Peach Bottom drill went well.

Fire Police (Jim Robertson):

They continued their speaker series at the last meeting with Pam Gay, the York County Coroner, speaking. The next meeting will be next Monday night in Strinestown.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Radio/Communications (Joe Madzellan):

The multiple designation units list was received from YCDES and reviewed. Letters are being sent to chiefs to advise them of the unit designation requirements and to confirm that they are met.

Fire School Committee (Bob Sells):

No report.

Fire Prevention (Steve Tawney):

Not present. No report.

Fundraising (John McDonald):

John has a fund raising plan, but will wait until after the Can Am Games to pursue.

Rescue Inspection (Tim Mooney):

There are three stations on his list to inspect; Sta. 9, 66, and 57. Others are also due now. Please call Tim to schedule inspections.

RIT Committee (Brian Widmayer)

The committee has obtained the original RIT policy and will use it as a starting point. It should be ready for next month's meeting.

By-Laws (Bob Sells):

The revised bylaws are ready to be submitted for vote under New Business.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

President Buffington asked for a motion to pay the bills. Tim Mooney made a motion. Tony Myers seconded the motion and the motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bob Sells reported that the revised Association bylaws are ready to be issued for review and vote. Bob thanked the committee members, especially Chief Greg Halpin who did the word processing for the project. The bylaws require that any changes be read at one meeting, read at a second meeting, and then voted on at that second meeting. Tony Myers made a motion to dispense with the reading of the revised bylaws and instead issue them electronically with the meeting minutes so that everyone can read and understand them. Tim Mooney seconded the motion and the motion passed. Bob further noted that the bylaws will be approved or rejected as an entire document unless any blatant errors or issues are identified to the committee for review.

REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:

Tim Mooney asked about the dispatch failures during the 3-alarm York City fire the other week and what is going to be done about it. Chief Dave Michaels reported that he did meet with 911 staff and that there were multiple issues on that fire. He and Joe Madzellan both commented that YCDES is seriously paying attention to these issues after this incident. President Buffington suggested that we monitor how YCDES responds to these issues on future incidents to see if things improve.

On a related note, President Buffington stated that getting on the radio during an event like this and verbally disparaging dispatchers is inappropriate and will be addressed formally in the future.

The next meeting will be May 19, 2014 at 19:00 at the Fire School.

ADJOURNMENT

President Buffington adjourned the meeting at 20:41.

Respectfully Recorded,

Robert Sells

Robert Sells
Board Secretary