

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

P. O. BOX 106
330 EMIG ROAD
EMIGSVILLE, PA 17318



MONTHLY MEETING
THIRD MONDAY

February 16, 2004

President Skip Rupert called the regular monthly meeting of the York County Fire Chiefs and Fire Fighters Association to order. Fifty-six members were in attendance. President Rupert asked for a moment of silence after the pledge to the flag, for past Chief Bud Strickler from Delta-Cardiff Fire Company, who passed away earlier today. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as posted. President Rupert urged new chiefs who are not receiving minutes by email to contact the secretary with their email address. Bob Bowman presented the treasurer's report. There was a motion by Joe Stevens, second by Kevin Hale to accept the treasurer's report. Motion Carried.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS: Chief Senft commented on how great this meeting was attended and how he hopes to see it continue. He encouraged those with any items they wanted brought before the Board to please contact a member of the Executive Committee or the Board of Governors and make their thoughts known. John reported the Board met prior to the meeting and discussed the following items.

- Budget and Finances. Preliminary budget approval from the County is for \$180,800.00.
- Environmental Issues
- Insurance
- Renovations
- Committee Appointments
 - Hazmat Committee will no longer be needed.
 - Anyone wishing to be on a committee contact President Rupert.
- Karen Diebold here with initial web design for the Fire School. Carl Avery will be her main point of contact.
- Next scheduled BOG Meeting will be February 25th to discuss insurance issues.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

RADIO COMMITTEE: Chairman Rob Bissey reported the Committee met on February 12, 2004 at the Water Company. One representative from EMSA was present. The following was discussed.

- EMSA meeting with 9-1-1 on February 25th at 9:30 am to discuss issues.
- Approved the following designations for the Fire Radio.
 - Engine 5-2 (replacement piece)
 - Engine 15-1 (replacement piece) also certified as a light rescue
 - Rob commented that he believes Wendy Himmelright from The Dispatch is just looking to put a story in the paper and stir things up, regarding her latest article on who's paying for the fire radios when the new system is in place.
- Next meeting will be held March 11, 2004 at the Water Company on Mount Rose Avenue at 7pm.

911: Director Bob Fasick reported that radio consultant Ralph Haller has found 34 pairs of frequencies in the 450mgz range. The County will need 19 signed concurrence letters for this to work. There will be 10 tower sites splitting 42 frequencies (reusing 8), between the northern and southern halves of the County. It will be a redundant system.

- Director Fasick says he refutes what Wendy Himmelright reported in the paper. He doesn't know where it came from. At this time discussions have not been had with this Board of Commissioners regarding funding of the radios.
- Behind on the West Manchester and Wrightsville projects. As soon as the snow clears they will be completed.
- The County is licensing 10 tower sites.

- A consultant should be onboard by months end. Within two months their study/plan should be completed. It will take an additional 30 days for the Board to approve the plan. From that date (commissioners approval date) it will be another 24 to 36 months until completion of the radio project.
- The County is also looking at T-band (700mgz) and is co-filing for radio channels 14, 17, and 18.

Cindy Dietz reported on the new policy for how Bomb Related Incidents will be dispatched (calls will no longer be voiced on the air as Bomb Threats), reminding departments they must go through the EMA Duty Officer on the scene when requesting, Fort Indiantown Gap, Penn State Team, or DEP. The completed policy will be emailed out to all Department Chiefs.

Dave Gemmill added he thought the meeting that the BOG had with the County Commissioners last week went very well and he believes they should be given a chance; he thinks they can do good. President Rupert said that Chief Senft would be the Association's point of contact with the Commissioners.

FIRE SCHOOL: Carl Avery reported Training Catalogs were available and everyone should now use the Universal Registration Form.

- Carl proposed using the trailer the Fire School currently has on the premises to develop and put into place a Rescue Training Trailer. It would have 3 possible uses.
 - Store and deploy rescue equipment the school has for classes.
 - Resource to County Departments conducting Rescue classes.
 - Resource to County Departments during a major emergency.

Carl asked for the body's comments and thoughts on this project and also volunteers to help.

- Bern Anthony reported on the work and general clean up that went on at the school over the past week. He also reported on the renovation work that would be done in the upcoming weeks to the vestibule area.
- Chief Tony Myers will be forming a committee made up of members from the ATR Team, who will make suggestions for improvement to the School's confined space area.

YORK COUNTY ATR TEAM: Coordinator Tony Myers reported no calls for the month.

- Team members will be attending Trench Training in March at Williamsport.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS: Tom Graybill reported that on March 15th – 19th there would be a WMD Symposium being held at HACC. The Terrorism Task Force has free spots available, if you are interested in attending contact Tom.

- March 10th Ryan Morris from Penn State will be giving a Bomb Class at the annex.
- In September there will be a Terrorism Task Force Regional Drill.
 - Jim Welty was appointed to the Fire Committee of the Regional Terrorism Task Force.
- March 17th will be the date for the annual Weather Drill.
- Hazmat Technician Refresher Class was just completed.
- There will be a Hazmat Technicians Class held the first two weekends in May.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: President Rupert stated that an Apparatus Standards Committee would be discussed/appointed at the BOG Meeting on February 25th.

- President Rupert asked for a motion to pay the bills. Motion made by Chief Tony Myers and seconded by Chief Keith Myers to pay the bills. Motion Carried.
- Bob Bowman reported that the BOG decided that for ease of bill paying, checks of \$1000.00 or less will require only one signature, checks over \$1000.00 would still require two signatures.

NEW BUSINESS: None

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION: Chief Joe Stevens took a few moments and explained about St. Baldricks Day. Station 23 will be sponsoring the event this year. Email had been sent out last week with information, for additional information go to www.stbaldricks.org. Contact Chief Stevens if you are interested in participating in this event.

- President Rupert issued the challenge he would shave his head if \$720.00 could be collected from the 72 York County Fire Departments.
- Tom Graybill said he was accepting applications for the new Hazmat Team.

- March 6th the Jacobus Fire Department will be hosting a Basket Bingo at their station at 7pm. This is to benefit the Ream Family and help to defray their medical costs. Adam Ream (son of past Chief Bryan Ream) had to have his foot removed due to cancer.

Meeting adjourned by President Rupert at 8:15 pm.

The following stations still owe dues for 2003/2004 –Seven Valleys, DDSP-LF, Lake Aldred, and McSherrystown.

Next meeting scheduled at 7:30 pm on Monday, March 15, 2004 at the Fire School.

Sincerely,

Cindy A. Dietz
Secretary