

February 18, 2002

President Skip Rupert called the regular meeting of the York County Fire Chiefs and Firefighters Association to order. Sixty-nine members were in attendance. Following the pledge to the flag President Rupert circulated a letter to the Commissioners throughout the body, requesting a countywide burn ban be placed in effect until further notice; a page was attached for Fire Chiefs who supported the action to sign. Special Guests from Columbia Gas gave a presentation on different types of leakage inspections that are done and when they are performed. They also spoke on the different time allowances for repairs to be done to gas leaks, depending on the grade or classification of the leak. Literature was passed out to members present that gave an overview of the program with emergency numbers to call. The minutes were then read and approved. Bob Bowman presented the treasurer's report. There was a motion by Marlin Mellinger, second by Mike Miller to accept the treasurer's report as read.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS: Board member Barry Myers reported that the building plans were being presented to the Township and they were awaiting approval. Barry also reported that Director Schaefer's computer was 5 ½ years old and needed replaced. The Board suggested an amount under \$2000.00 for replacement to be voted on under new business.

COMMUNICATIONS: President Rupert received a letter from Kay Carman, Coordinator of Emergency Operations; the letter regarded forming a Drought Management Task Force and requested a representative from the Association serve on the Task Force. Tom Landis will serve as delegate. A letter was also received from the International Association of Firefighters thanking the Association for its contribution to their fund.

RADIO COMMITTEE: Chairman Rob Bissey reported on one application in the past month, upgrade of Engine 9-1 to a 2001 Pierce Dash. Chairman Bissey also reported on a radio system failure that occurred during a Penn Township barn fire last month. He explained the 911 Center had a hardware problem involving batteries that run the microwave system, the batteries had been replaced earlier that day and were running fine, later there was a conflict within the system. Chairman Bissey reported that the Radio Board will be making an attempt to "police our own" and clean up communications on the radio. The committee will be sending letters to departments who are offending rules and regulations. They are looking at sample letters to send out. The committee is also checking with the County Quality Assurance Supervisor to see if she will assist in the "policing". She will be asked if she could QA the Fire Department right along with the Fire Dispatcher she is doing Quality Assurance on and then advise the committee regarding problems. Chairman Bissey reported he is fighting with the FCC regarding radio licenses for KNCS842, KNBU300, and KNCZ344. The FCC is questioning our "government entity" status.

Chief Barry Myers ask if Charlie Schwab from the 911 Center could attend a meeting. Cindy Dietz will advise Mr. Schwab of the request.

Chief Trever Rentzel reported per Mike Corcoran part of the pager activation problem is that when Lancaster County is dispatching the simulcast is hanging up and causing an open carrier on 33.90.

Cindy Dietz from 911 reported that any updates to box alarms that were implemented last year are due by March 31, 2002. To clarify the Automatic Fire Alarm response it should be understood all alarms received either high risk or residential will be dispatched as an automatic fire alarm unless there is some indication given that there is actual fire involved. Training for new users for Firehouse Software is scheduled for March 9, 2002 from 0800-1600. Reserve your seats early. 911 is looking at late summer / early fall to begin exporting the incident reports. There are still a few stations that need to turn in 2002 information sheets. Tape requests and complaints should be faxed or emailed to the 911 Center. Radio problems should be reported to the shift supervisor as soon as possible after they occur. They may be followed up with an email to the Operations Manager.

FIRE SCHOOL: Director Paul Schaefer reported on classes for 2002 – Building Construction class was canceled due to poor attendance. Blueprint Reading not a large response at this time, bring your blueprints with you to this class if you attend. Railroad Class is being held at West York Fire Company you need only attend one of the days March 9th or the 10th. Hazmat Ops class for March is full. Director Schaefer spoke on pre-planning water responses for your area due to the drought conditions. He also questioned the use of hydrants and using good drinking water to extinguish fires lasting longer than 30 minutes, might consider using additional tankers. In March and April the fire school needs tankers donated for burn sessions. Director Schaefer said Pump Testing at the school would not be affected by the drought because the water used is recycled. Director Schaefer stated he is in need of volunteers for a support staff for the Firefighter I Class April 6th he will need an ambulance on standby, an air unit, 2 pieces of apparatus, one with a 2 section ladder. February 27th there will be a Federal Fire Grant Workshop held at Hannah Penn on Boundary Avenue.

HAZMAT: Chairman Paul Schaefer reported 3 calls for the year. Reimbursement received from the County for equipment was \$12,001.50. \$840.00 was paid for the month with \$11,776.73 in outstanding bills to date. Tom Graybill Sara Planner for the County of York introduced himself. No report from Penn Township Haz-Mat.

FIRE PREVENTION & EMA: No report.

ACCOUNTABILITY: Chief Dave Nichols gave a presentation of the draft guideline for Accountability on the Fire ground. Members present were given copies to review. They were instructed to bring their comments back to next months meeting for discussion, or email them to Chief Nichols, Chief Miller, or Chief Dietz.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Chief Joe Stevens reported he spoke with a representative at York Tape and Label regarding the Pyramid Triangles. They no longer handle that line but are willing to give us the information we need to pass on to someone who will do that type of silk screening. President Rupert asked for presentation of the bills. Treasurer Bob Bowman presented the bills. Motion by Rick Shank, second by Joe Stevens to pay the bills.

NEW BUSINESS: President Rupert asked about a new computer for the Fire School. Barry Myers stated they had a proposal for a Gateway they were considering cost was approximately \$1500.00. Motion made by Rick Shank, second by Gordon Wisnom to purchase a new computer for the fire school not to exceed \$2000.00.

Jacqui Dell-Shearer spoke briefly on the York County Convention for 2002. This year there will be no parade; Pleasant Hill Fire Company will be hosting the meeting and dinner. They will be ordering mugs. Jacqui along with Terri Stiffler from Glen Rock are proposing to do a Convention Book as a tribute to all the Fire Departments in York County. A questionnaire was distributed for Fire Departments to complete who would like to be included in the book.

Bob Straw representing the DAC Team (York Chapter Red Cross) spoke on changing the current Red Cross SOG. Following some discussion a motion was made by Rick Shank, second by Mike Miller to change the SOG to read upon notification from the OIC of a working fire the 911 dispatcher will page the Red Cross and place them on standby. It will then be the responsibility of the OIC to advise 911 if the Red Cross will be needed for family services, canteen services, or both.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION: Chief Doug Eash requested if 5 or more people from any one station were attending the Emergency Services Worship Service on Sunday March 7, 2002 they are to contact him.

Cindy Dietz reported that York Internet Services - Dave Hagan has put together a discounted package for York County Fire Departments if anyone is in the market for a new computer.

Chief Randy Angel reported that Wirt Park Fire Station has three trainings coming up First Responder Ops, RECE Program, and Command Response to a Mayday Event. Anyone interested in attending contact Wirt Park.

Chief Rob Bissey advised he spoke with Chief Kroll on the Brick Memorials and the response has been less than expected, flyers are still available.

Chief Barry Myers had questions about the Firefighter/EMT Class at the York County School of Technology and requested someone from the school speak to the Association or contact President Rupert. Chief Trever Rentzel said he would contact the instructor. Director Paul Schaefer said he spoke with Kent and programs do go through the State Fire Academy. Classroom training will be done at the High School and for outside training they may utilize the Fire School.

President Rupert asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Bob Bowman, second by Mike Miller. Meeting adjourned by President Skip Rupert.

Note: 2001 & 2002 dues are now due. They are \$10.00 for the two years. Make checks payable to the Fire Chiefs & Firefighters Association.

Next meeting scheduled for 7:30 pm on Monday, March 18, 2002 at the Fire School.

Sincerely,

Cindy A. Dietz
Secretary