

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

**330 Emig Road
York, PA 17406**



**Monthly Meeting
3rd Monday**

February 20th, 2012

President Steve Buffington called the monthly meeting of the York County Fire Chiefs and Firefighters Association to order and led the pledge to the flag and a moment of silence. Forty people were in attendance.

Prior to the meeting beginning, Jim Welty talked about the Everbridge system. He explained how the system will send out a mass notification using phone, fax, email and text messaging technology to inform everyone of an issue. It is used for Police, Fire & EMS. Fire uses it mainly when the paging system goes down. The Dept. of Homeland Security currently funds the system. That funding is decreasing. There is no charge for text messaging or to cell phones. If you are currently on the contact list, please make sure your contact information is up to date. There are forms available here tonight for anyone that would like to update their information.

President Steve Buffington asked for a motion to approve the minutes as published. 1st: Tony Myers 2nd: Tim Mooney Motion Passed

Treasurer Bob Bowman was not present for tonight's meeting, but Vice President Joe Madzellan read the following report: Beginning Balance: \$514.15. With all balances and withdraws, we have an ending balance of: \$18,432.76. The ending balance is high because of having to pay the insurance premiums this month.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS: Chief John Senft: The Board met this evening. We discussed internal deposits. We will now be receiving reimbursements from the County. We also discussed the current insurance policy.

COMMUNICATIONS: Erik Brown submitted the following report:

First roll-out for the new radio protocol was January 31st in Stewartstown. It was well attended (35 people) Numerous other training dates are planned and already scheduled. See the fire school website. Everyone should try to attend one class session. At the very minimum, each department should have representation to at least one of those trainings.

Radio Patch Issues: The south western part of the county is still experiencing radio patch issues with Carroll County and also with Adams County. With Adams county, it was discovered that the radio that's attached to system was out of adjustment on the FM side. The correct settings were changed and tested. County radio techs will make sure to test those settings in conjunction with their regular maintenance checks on the radio system. With Carroll County, they found that one of the radios that operate the patch was damaged. Carroll 1 is down temporarily until the repair is made. (Should be back up this week) This should hopefully end the issues of the patching system.

For EMS people: The "I Call" system for hospital patches is coming along. They have to finish installing the alerting notification system at the hospitals. (lights and buzzers) At some point, county will have to touch the radios in order to activate that system. That will probably occur towards the end of the year or beginning of next.

Chief Brennehan will have information on the technology committee.

911: Phil stated that Carroll County 1 had been replaced. Tomorrow it should be back in service. The two antennas were at the same height, and one of them needed to be 18 inches taller than the other.

There was concern regarding the garbled transmissions. Phil stated Harris is doing maintenance on the system.

Julio would want me to tell you that we have a class of 12 dispatchers starting sometime in March.

We are looking at having to reprogram all the radios at some point in time. This means we will have to touch each radio in the county, it cannot be done over the air. It is not reliable and lid changes cannot be done over the air. This process will take approximately 6 months to get to every department. Tony Myers stated that this time frame is unacceptable. Phil stated that with his entire staff working all the portables, it takes about 3 months. Until you include all the mobile units, that is another 2 or 3 months. Unfortunately, someone will be first, and someone has to be last. There is no money in the budget to hire additional crews to help the programming process move faster.

There seemed to be some confusion going on with the County and the standardization committee. We finally got some direction. We met last Thursday. We are working on fire dispatching. We are also working on the web based CAD. There are some changes coming. New World will have a presentation on March 14th.

FIRE SCHOOL: Richard Halpin: January was a slow month for us. We have an upcoming ICS 300 & 400 class coming up this March and May. We also have a Basic Fire Police class starting in early March. We will be running a State course on Responding to Ethanol emergencies. The class is scheduled for August 12th from 8-5. This is the only time the class is being offered. It is limited to 40 students, no more. The registration form and additional information will be on our website tomorrow morning. We will be running another facilitator class here in April. If you are interested, see myself, and I can get you the application. We have a lot of burns scheduled for this year. Last month we stated about foam drums being stored in a warehouse. It has all since been moved to out of the warehouse and is being stored throughout the county. Several departments have picked up what they wanted. We currently have approximately 39 drums available if anyone else would like some. I would like to thank Steve Tawney who helped make arrangements to bring the foam here. Jan Cromer is currently working on figuring out just what kind of foam it is. Sta. 49 has acquired a foam trailer. More information will follow later this year. I have now set up an email for everyone in the county. If you email association@ycfs.us you will send your email out to everyone on the county Association email list.

YORK COUNTY ATR: Chief John Sanford: No Report

OEM: Tom Graybill: Peach Bottom will be conducting their drill next month.

HAZ-MAT TEAM: Tom Graybill: We had 9 calls for the year so far. On March 14th, the Haz-Mat Team will be going through their certification process. It is done every 4 years. Currently, we are in good shape.

FIRE POLICE: James Robertson: Our meeting will be next week. There are quite a few rosters and dues still not turned in. It was discussed we are standardizing this and that, but yet there are no standards for traffic units. The state says there is to be this much equipment in order to be a traffic unit, but we are not following it. There is also talk about wanting to recognize Fire police for their years of service. We had a list, but it is how old, so we are now working on creating a current list.

Erik Brown stated that we need to look and see what the surround counties have as for traffic units and what equipment is on them. The Radio Committee is working on the radio designation.

FIRE SCHOOL COMMITTEE: Bob Sells: No Report

RIT: Joe Yahnke: No Report

RESCUE INSPECTION: Tim Mooney: Rescue 12 is certified as a light rescue. We had stickers made up originally that said 2011 / 2012. I then went and ordered 2012 / 2013, but Moul's made a mistake and made 2013 / 2014 stickers. So I have ordered them again, and will keep these to use for next year.

FIRE PREVENTION: President Steve Buffington: Steve Tawney is not here tonight, but he is looking for volunteers to serve on this committee.

FUND RAISING: President Steve Buffington: We are also looking for volunteers for this committee. If you would like to volunteer, please let me know.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: New Cumberland River Rescue stated that there was talk last month about the out of County departments using the Motorola Radios. It was stated that the Policy Board that approved the policy (in county departments are not allowed to have Motorola Radios on the radio system) would have to review the policy and decide if changes can be made.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bob was not in attendance to present the outstanding bills. So there will be no motion to approve the bills this month.

Tony Myers stated that out of county departments should not be allowed to operate Motorola radios on the system if the in county departments are not allowed. He stated he had to change a grant that he applied for because of this policy. President Steve Buffington stated that he will work on this issue.

President Buffington stated that he needs volunteers to serve on the Audit Committee. We need at least three members. Board Members cannot serve on the Audit Committee. Doug Eash and Jan Cromer volunteered. President Steve Buffington appointed Dave Nichols as the Chairman for his experience on the last audit committee.

Chief Shank was not in attendance. So President Buffington stated that he was approached by Chief Shank wanting to gain the support of the Association for the York Hometown Heroes Committee. They are looking for support from area organizations. They want to put on a parade on we believe in York City sometime in the fall with bands, the military. There was even talk about wanting to invite the President of the United States to attend. The body stated it seems worthwhile.

REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:

Next monthly meeting is scheduled for 7:00 pm on Monday, March 19th, 2012, at the York County Fire School.

President Steve Buffington adjourned the meeting.

Sincerely,

Heather Grove

Heather Grove
Recording Secretary