

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

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



MONTHLY MEETING
THIRD MONDAY

February 20, 2006

President Skip Rupert called the regular monthly meeting of the Fire Chiefs and Firefighters Association of York County Inc. to order and led the pledge to the flag. Twenty-seven people were in attendance. Skip introduced Jerry Poland from VFIS; Jerry is the new rep for our area. VFIS has volunteered to host our quarterly meeting in April.

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved as published. Anyone who is not receiving the minutes and would like to, should see Cindy and give her your email address. President Rupert asked for a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Chief Stevens made the motion, seconded by Albert Shaffer. Motion carried.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS: Chief Barry Myers reported the Executive Committee met prior to the meeting. The following items were discussed:

- Burn Building – the committee is proceeding with obtaining cost estimates and contacting government offices for additional funding.
 - Committee will meet again before the next monthly meeting to discuss costs.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

RADIO COMMITTEE: Chief Shank reported the committee met on February 9, 2006.

- The designation for Fire Warden 65 was approved.
- Discussed past issues

911: ESC Project Director, Rob Sterner reported on the following:

- **CAD** – barriers have been identified and are being worked on. The “go live” date of May 2006 may have to be adjusted.
- **Facility** – At the Commissioners' meeting on Wednesday, February 1, 2006 the Commissioners approved contracts to build the new Emergency Services Center and complete the required work at the Long Term Back-up Facility in the amount of \$14.8 million dollars. This came in \$2.0 million dollars under budget. The following contractors were awarded bids on these two projects:
 - General Contractor – ECI Construction
 - Electrical Contractor – Leer Electric Inc.
 - Mechanical Contractor – Frey Lutz Corp.
 - Plumbing & Fire Protection – W.G. Tomko

Ground breaking is slated for sometime in the mid to ladder part of March. The construction period is scheduled to last approximately 550 days. The move to the new facility will occur in the 3rd quarter of 2007.

- **Radio** – The ESC project committee recommended the following vendors for the UHF Public Safety Radio System:
 - M/A-Com Inc. for a 22 site UHF digital trunked public safety radio network, 16 site digital paging network and necessary components at an estimated value of \$31 – \$33.5 million. (Pending negotiations and design development).
 - Alcatel North America for the construction of the digital microwave connectivity to support the UHF Public Safety Radio Network at an estimated value of \$3.0 - \$3.5 million.
 - JG Contracting for site development services, which includes: towers, generators, and shelters proposed at the York County Emergency Services Center and Long Term Back-up Facility, and all site development services associated with the completion of the UHF Public Safety Radio Network at an estimated value of \$4.0 - \$5.5 million.
 - Estimates for the radio project total \$38.0 - \$42.5 million.

Rob said he would like to do an informational session for Fire and EMS in the near future. It will last approximately 1 hour. He then took questions from the floor.

Q – Chief Walker wanted to know what Central PA Fire forum and the SAVES website were all about.
A – Rob advised there were a lot of inaccuracies on the sites. The one site has since been dismantled.

Q – Chief Cadden asked about the CAD's ability to put the ATR team on standby, as well as the Hazmat Team.

A – Rob said he would check into it and email Chief Cadden with an answer.

Q – Dave Gemmill asked if the issues other counties were having with M/A-Com had been looked into.
A – Rob stated they were. Many had not been related to technology or the vendor, but to site questions and tower problems.

FIRE SCHOOL: Carl Avery, Program Coordinator, submitted the following report.

Statement:

“Taking Care of our Own”:

Your Fire School feels fortunate to bring this class (Taking Care of our own) to the Fire and Emergency Service provides of our area. Last November while attending the Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute Seminar and Dinner in Harrisburg, I met Kathy Hederick, The Executive Administrative Assistant to the head of the National Fallen Firefighter Foundation. After seeing her presentation on this Class, I felt it was vital to bring this important information HOME to York County. This one day course is being offered Free of Charge by the NFFF thanks to a grant from the US Justice Department. Registration forms are available at the fire school. There is a maximum of 45 students for this class. Lunch and Breaks will be provided.

Burn Building:

The Engineering Firm of Elliott, LeBoeuf and Associates have completed their examination of the structure including taking core samples at various locations in the burn building. This was done on January 11th and 12th of this year. The preliminary report has been received by the board of governors and is before them for review and further action.

Flammable Liquids Area:

The Board of Governors has received 2 Bids for the reconstruction of the Flammable Liquids Pit; there was a significant difference in the two bids. This matter is in the hands of the Board of Governors and is pending further action from them.

Extrication Workshop for Junior (Explorer Post also) Fire & Rescue Personnel:

The Fire School has approached the York County Junior Firefighters Association to ask them to join us in sponsoring this event. We have met with the YCJFF Association and are considering their stipulations for sponsorship. A tentative date of October 21, 2006 was established.

Mason-Dixon Extrication Challenge:

The challenge has been scheduled for May 5-6-7, 2006. Plans are well underway and we have already received applications from Frackville, Pa and the City of Lancaster. East Prospect, York Township, and Glenrock from York County have expressed interest in sending teams as well. We anticipate many of the teams from last year to return such as the National Championship team from Brighton Fire District just out side of Buffalo, NY as well as the Canadian teams. We have even been approached by a team from South Carolina. This event promises to be bigger and better than last year, be part of this event, either as team or a spectator. See the teams display their tools talent, teamwork and technique in this unique educational experience.

* Yes, we know this is the same dates as the Mason-Dixon Trench Weekend, but we were committed to these dates early last year.

Curriculum and Teaching Issues:

The Fire School is running two tracks of the new essentials program. One is a Sunday/Weekend Day time track (0800 to 1700); the other will be a Weeknight Track (most likely Tuesday-Thursday) 1830-2230. **During the month of March we will review the efficacy of our existing plan (Are we making the enrollments we need to continue to run a weekend and weed day evening tracts?).** Each Track will offer several of the New 16 hour Classes INTRODUCTION to the Fire Service. This like all other courses in the series is **prerequisite** for the next in the series. Next to follow will be the 48 hour Fire Ground Support Class. This will follow along shortly after we have enough persons who have completed the Introduction class.

Important Reminder: The new Essentials program (Introduction to the Fire Service, Fire Ground Support, Exterior Firefighter, Interior Fire Fighter) Must be taken in SEQUENCE. If we have to cancel classes due to low enrollment, it can very easily impact on upcoming classes. This is a new program, Please bear with us as we find out what it takes to make this program successful.

We have planed launching the Third in the series, Exterior Firefighter after we have run a series of the prerequisites. This 42 hour class will then lead to the Interior Fire Fighter Class which again the school plans on running one of each of the Interior Firefighter classes for each track (Weekend and Week nights. Please feel free to contact my office if you have any questions, or to get copies of the Minimum Standards for Accreditation for each course.

Important Reminder: EACH STUDENT will be responsible to demonstrate satisfactory completion of the skills in EACH Course before the can move on to the next course and graduate the program. They will also be responsible to keep their skill book with them and to take them to EACH Class in the series. If they do not have their book they will be asked to leave the class. If their skill books are lost, the student must replace them, including getting their previous instructors to sign off all the skill sheets for the completed sections. For your reference, The PA Handbook/Workbook Bundle price (at our Fire School rate) is **\$87.96** the PA workbook set (again at our Fire School rate) is **\$33.56**

The 2006 Yearly Schedule is done, we are still adding some classes. It has been published and has been mailed to your Departments. We also have the schedule on our website (www.yorkcountyfireschool.org). We will be continually working on updating the schedule as well as the web site so please check it often. We have added 3 Structural Burn Sessions next year (2006). June 6, 8 & 10; September 11, 14 and 17; November 25 & December 2

If a **Fire Company or a Group of Fire Companies** contacts me with a request for specialized training, Your Fire School will work with you to get the program. **ALSO**, we have established a very good working relationship with classes being held off campus, and then using the Fire School Campus and its resources to supplement the local departments facilities. We look forward to continue to build these partnerships

Program Support and Maintenance:

Often it seems people are unaware of what goes on behind the scenes so to speak to help keep our school maintained and classes running. Since the last monthly meeting the following program support and maintenance issues have been worked on: Policing the grounds for debris and trash, repair paper towel dispenser, Grounds up-keep (Cutting weeds and brush), Meeting with DEP inspector regarding monitoring the collection pond, cleared brush and debris from creek at direction from DEP, Obtained and Stored sand to be used in Haz-Mat Classes, Picked up pallets for Class "A" Fires, work on Ladder Maintenance, Met with contractor and Board member to discuss improving our downspout (Safety issue, regarding Ice), Organized teaching supplies for Haz-mat classes, Cleaned area underneath Roof simulator, took cordless battery for repair, met with contractor regarding repair of trim around overhead doors, Started preparing Extrication area for Heavy Vehicle Extrication Class, Chain Saw maintenance, Plowed and shoveled snow. Re-sheeted roof simulator, closed outside wooden stairs due to broken step – put on repair task list.

Fire School Activity:

In January 2004, the Fire School was used for 53 hours of classes, in January 2005 that number rose to 156 hour and for January of 2006 we were in use for 224 hours. This is an approximately 400% increase (for the month of January) in usage in the last 3 years. Overall last year we saw a 34 % increase in the overall usage hours for our facility. In February of 2006 we are projecting 156 hours of use. This drop is traceable to failures meet the minimums to run our 3rd and 4th Introduction to Fire Service classes. Planning for the new Essentials Program has been a challenge. We look forward to March and the rest of the year to maintain our growth in Hours used.

Current and up coming Schedule:

The 2006 schedule is available online at our web site www.YorkCountyFireSchool.org just click on the [Click Here to See Available Classes](#) link on the home page, and it will take you directly to the listing of classes. We continue to send out training announcements monthly via regular mail to the individual fire stations. **MAKE SURE YOU ASK YOUR TRAINING OFFICER**, "Where are the training announcements?" If you'd like to be on our E-mail list, please e-mail me your information at YorkCoFireSchool@aol.com and we will see that you are added to the list.

Upcoming Courses:

Haz-Mat Operations refresher, March 1 & 2, 18:30 -21:30

Heavy Truck Rescue, March 4, 08:00 to 17:00 **this class is FULL**

Haz-Mat Operations 472 (full course), March 4, 5 and 11, 08:00 - 17:00

Haz-Mat First Responder Awareness (full course), March 7, 1830-22:30

Fire Ground Support (Thursday – Tuesday) March 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30, April 6, 11, 13 & 18, 18:30 -22:30

**Incident Safety Officer, March 8, 9, 15, 16, 18:30 -22:30

**** Some of the Flyers for this course had the incorrect date and times, the times listed above are correct. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused**

NFFF - Taking Care of our own

Saturday March 11 09:00 - 16:00

Fire Ground Support (Weekends) March 18 & 19, 25 & 26, April 1 & 2, 0800 – 1700

Building Construction, Wood Frame, Mach 12 and 18, 08:00 – 17:00

Basic Vehicle Rescue – Awareness: March 25 & 26, 08:00 – 17:00

Carl said that heavy trucks are needed for the Heavy Truck Rescue Class. Flyers for the National Fallen Fire Fighter Memorial are on the back table.

Chief Dietz asked if anyone followed up on the SCCTTF grant money for student books for the new Essentials class. Carl said he did and that there was no money available to us. He said that HACC is not charging for the books for their classes, but Bucks Community College is. Carl did not know this prior to scheduling classes.

FIRE SCHOOL COMMITTEE: Carl Avery presented the Fire School Committee report for Chief Vinup who was unable to attend due to a death in the family.

The committee met last week with six members present. Fire School objectives were discussed. A list of objectives and possible strategies will be presented at the next meeting, to the Board of Governors for approval to officially pursue the following:

- An all encompassing Quality Assurance program identifying, risk management, quality of instruction, delivery of service, and customer service issues.
- Local Certification Authority
- Creating a core instructional group
- Obtaining affiliate training status with the American heart Association
- Networking opportunities that would make the school more enticing to outside entities for full time educational and industrial programs, to increase the use of the school, grounds, and revenue.
- Promote fire school activities to a broader based group. Use promotional aides as well as a boutique style approach for items already on hand.
- Next meeting – 3/9/2006 at 1900 hours at the Red Lion Fire Department.

YORK COUNTY ATR: Chief Cadden reported 1 call for the month. They have an Ice Rescue Class coming up. May 5, 6, & 7 will be Trench Weekend. The team has acquired a Search Cam.

FIRE POLICE: No Report

OEM: President Rupert asked Tom Graybill if he had heard anything more regarding out of county Haz-mat Teams. Tom said he has not spoken to anyone since January – and no update was given.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Chief Cadden asked about the status of the Mayday Policy. Chief Shank replied it is still under construction. The committee needs to meet again. President Rupert requested a report on the policy's progress at next month's meeting.
- President Rupert asked for a motion to pay the bills. Motion to pay the bills by John Fornadel second by Chief Shank. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- President Rupert stated that for \$1000.00 he will shave his head and beard (\$500.00 for his head and an additional \$500.00 for the beard) for the Saint Baldrick's fundraiser. He has a pledge sheet along tonight. You may also register and pledge on the website. www.stbaldricks.org. Skip said he will be out of town when the fundraiser shaving is going on, but he will shave just prior to our

March meeting if his pledge amount is met. Chief Stevens then explained how others could form teams and participate by visiting the website. The event is scheduled for March 12th.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:

- Carl Avery reported that Bruce Trego from PEMA will be here next month to discuss NIMS.
- Fairview Township Fire Department Golf Tournament – Saturday May 13, 2006. Flyers on the back table.
- Chief Rentzel stated he was not responsible for the website that was discussed earlier. He said he is concerned with the need for a Public Safety Mic in M/A-Com's design. He said he sent information out as a concerned Fire Chief. He receives no financial gain if Motorola would get the bid.
 - Chief Shank responded that the County Committee unanimously – 100% voted for M/A-Com based on the information given. He said he firmly believes the system will do the job for us. The M/A-Com testing will be done without a Public Safety Mic.
- Dave Gemmill reported the Junior Fire Fighter Association has been conducting trainings the 3rd Saturday of the month, at the Fire School. They had 14 people at their last training and are looking for more.

Motion to adjourn by Chief Dietz, second by Chief Herman. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

The following station still owes dues for 2005/2006 – Nashville - Station 11

Next meeting scheduled for 7:30 pm on Monday, March 20, 2005 at the Fire School.

Sincerely,

Cindy A. Dietz

Cindy A. Dietz
Secretary