

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

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



MONTHLY MEETING  
THIRD MONDAY

March 15, 2004

President Skip Rupert called the regular monthly meeting of the York County Fire Chiefs and Fire Fighters Association to order. Seventy-one members were in attendance. President Rupert introduced Ernie Waters from GPU 1<sup>st</sup> Energy. Mr. Waters introduced Sherry Sheeler and Ryan Latchman who he had brought with him. They proceeded to give a 1-hour presentation on how GPU reacts and communicates during an emergency. The minutes from last month's meeting were approved as published. Bob Bowman presented the treasurer's report. There was a motion by Joe Stevens, seconded by Rick Shank to accept the treasurer's report. Motion Carried.

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS:** Chief Senft reported the Board had met prior to the meeting and discussed the following items:

- Hazmat Assets transition to the County had been completed.
- Facility Improvements
- Long Term Planning
- Karen Diebold was present at their meeting to give a web update. Website is almost finished.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** None

**RADIO COMMITTEE:** Chairman Rob Bissey reported the Committee met on March 11, 2004 at the Water Company. One representative from EMSA was present. The following was discussed:

- Approved the following designations for the Fire Radio.
  - Brush 29
  - Service 24-2
  - Brush 45
  - Hazmat 91A
  - Hazmat 91B
  - Communications 91
- A letter was received from Bob Fasick requesting the Association sign off on the old Hazmat frequency. The Association no longer has a need for that frequency; letter was signed and sent back.
- Discussion on radio verbiage. Replace Firefighter Down with Mayday. To be brought up under new business.
- Discussion with the representative from EMSA. Didn't feel as though they were getting the point, however he hopes they now know after further discussion, the Association does not wish for them to use the designation of Chief. Hopefully this will be taken back to the EMSA Meeting
- Discussion as to whether or not the Chiefs Association would like to combine committees with the EMSA Radio Committee. After the County holds all the radio licenses the Radio Committee will become an Advisory Board to 911.
- Next meeting will be held April 8, 2004 at the Water Company on Mount Rose Avenue at 7pm.

**911:** Director Bob Fasick reported that there are two tower projects in the works.

- Wrightsville Tower – drawings have been completed. C.S. Davidson will review them this coming Wednesday and return them by Friday.
- West Manchester Twp. – working on the tower tomorrow and should have the work completed then.

- Audrey Rychalsky reported the meeting she had with the delegates from EMSA did not go well. She presented her position to them, which was that the highest-ranking officer on the air that day would use the designation “EMS + their unit number”. They were not happy with that resolution.
- Cindy Dietz reported she received an email from Kent Leid at the State Fire Commissioners Office. He said that all of our reports (since 2001) have been imported into the state database giving them 29,000 reports from York County. That is exactly half of the number of reports they have for the entire state. The stations in York County have done a great job.

**FIRE SCHOOL:** President Rupert acknowledged the work the volunteers have done at the school. The volunteer helpers, Joe Yahnke, Billy Holtzman, Neal Irwin, Mike Caum, and Travis Searle were called to the front of the room where they were presented with job sweats from Bern Anthony. Bern thanked them and also thanked Joe Yahnke for his special work with the juniors at the school.

- Carl Avery reported on the following:
  - The Fire School has been a busy and hectic place lately. There has been a major reorganization of the office and lobby area. This involved the addition of a third phone and unfortunately some interruption in the fax service. The Fax is back up and running.
  - Cancelled an Engine Company Operations Class due to lack of enrollment. This was a Hands On Training Course and could not be run without adequate attendance.
  - Several requests for more Haz-mat operations (IAFF) classes. Looking into scheduling this every other month. More details on this as they become available.
  - Web sight is up and is being tested, look for an announcement coming soon on it being ready.
  - The re-designing of the Lobby area of the Blue Building is near completion.
  - The Extinguisher Shed project is scheduled to begin after the Lobby work is completed.
  - A working relationship with York Technical Institute has been established. This could provide us with “free” externs from their Business Administration Track.
  - Clean up of the Ladder Shed has started. They will be making a proposal for a command post as a separate but associated goal; this will include putting in a phone extension to the Drill Ground. A Public Address system is also under consideration.
  - Installation of a heater and insulation for the bathroom located on the training grounds (end of the ladder shed) is being considered. This is a significant issue with year round use of the facilities.
  - Working with the ATR team on developing confined space-training area.
  - Improve lighting in Apparatus bays – proposal under consideration.
  - Window Blinds for class rooms have been installed.
- Bern Anthony reported:
  - New Essentials Class starting June 14. The class runs 0900-1300 three days a week.
  - Mailboxes have been installed for Instructors, Board Members, etc.

**YORK COUNTY ATR TEAM:** No Report

**EMERGENCY OPERATIONS:** Kay Carman thanked the Board of Governors and the Chiefs Association for making the Hazmat transition go as smooth as possible.

- Tom Graybill reported the Department’s new website YCDES.org is up and running but still under construction.
- Hazmat Technician Class is scheduled for May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup>.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** President Rupert named the following people to the Fire School Committee; any problems contact one of them or Carl Avery

- |                              |                     |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| ○ Bern Anthony (chairman)    | 487-7738            |
| ○ Joe Yahnke (vice-chairman) | 577-8107 / 246-0544 |
| ○ Tony Surtasky              | 755-4822            |
| ○ John Kottmyer              | 870-6824            |
| ○ Dan Hoff                   | 577-4628/259-0877   |
| ○ Mike Caum                  | 887-1930/227-8039   |
| ○ Steve Lane                 | 766-4198            |
| ○ Larry Schroyer             | 848-1826            |
| ○ Tony Myers                 | 495-3330            |

- President Rupert asked for a motion to pay the bills. Motion made by Rob Bissey, seconded by Trevor Rentzel to pay the bills. Motion carried

**NEW BUSINESS:** On recommendation of the Radio Committee, Rob Bissey made a motion to amend Policy # 73.5A Standardized Verbiage. The amendment would include dropping Firefighter Down and replacing it with Mayday. Joe Stevens seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

- Chief Cromer voiced his opinion on the latest Fire Incident Type Policy. He stated that the dispatchers were using structure fire for incidents that were not structure fires. Updates are also not being heard by the responding units
- Chiefs Rentzel and Barry Myers expressed the same concern citing examples.

Rob Bissey said the Radio Committee is addressing the issue. Audrey Rychalsky encouraged anyone with specific problems regarding the incident types to email her or Cindy.

**GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:** President Rupert announced the next meeting would be a quarterly meeting held at VFIS on Leader Heights Rd.

- President Rupert said a warning was sent down this week where he works, that Oxy Clean will be sending samples in the mail.
- Chief Stevens said Station 23 would be hosting St. Baldrick's this Saturday. Registration at 3pm, Shaving at 4pm. No replies on Skip's challenge.....
- Carl Avery reported the flag at the school was flying at half-mast due to the loss of two Pittsburgh Firefighters who died in a building collapse.
- Kay Carman explained the reason for the Hazmat 91 designation was so that she could return the 20 designation back to the school.

Meeting adjourned by President Rupert at 9:20 pm.

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

Next meeting scheduled at 7:30 pm on Monday, April 19, 2004 at VFIS on Leader Heights Rd. Light refreshments will be served before the meeting.

Sincerely,

Cindy A. Dietz  
Secretary