

March 17, 2003

In the absence of the President and Vice President, Kevin Lane called the regular meeting of the York County Fire Chiefs and Firefighters Association to order. Fifty-one members were in attendance. Following the pledge to the flag, minutes of the previous meeting were approved as posted. There was a motion by Rick Shank, second by Trevor Rentzel to accept the treasurer's report as posted.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS: Chairman Kevin Lain reported the Board met on March 6th. The following items were discussed:

- 1) Maintenance of the building and care taking.
- 2) Replacement of the Director in August of 2003.
- 3) Working on the budget using a four-year average due to the hard winter this past year. Cost \$90,000.00 - \$100,000.00 per year. \$112,000.00 was appropriated. Not much left over for salaries.
- 4) Chief Senft updated the Board on the Radio Project. He assured the Board he was working in the interest of both the City & County fire departments.
- 5) Chaplain spoke to the Board regarding a possible by-laws change and a communications device. To be discussed at a meeting on March 26th.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

RADIO COMMITTEE: Chairman Rob Bissey reported that the Radio Committee met on March 13th and the following items were discussed:

- 1) New application for Adams County Brush 20. Engine 20-2 has been removed from service and will be replaced by Brush 20.
- 2) National Telecommunicator Week April 14-18, 2003. Open House at the 911 Center on April 17th from 0600-1800. Everyone and their families are welcome.
- 4) Reminder that all stations should contact their radio shop and have an annual frequency check done. You should also have pagers cleaned and repaired at that time.
- 5) Still working on the EMS Command and EMS Chief situation.
- 6) 911 Project led by Bob Fasick is looking good. Things are moving along and being broken down correctly.
- 7) From the list that was printed last month approximately 50% of the needed Fire & EMS boxes have been received by the County.

Quality Assurance Issues

- 1) Problem on Med 10 and 33.88 someone keying up and saying "wow". During the transport of a cardiac arrest patient someone keyed up and played "Another One Bites The Dust". (**SOG # 00-01-16**)
- 2) Reminder to use correct terminology on the radio. You should use responding not en route when you are on your way to a call. (**SOG # 00-01-2**)
- 3) Too many officers are still going responding on the radio. The highest-ranking officer is the only officer who should advise responding (**SOG # 00-01-4**)

Chief Bissey stated that a Convener on the radio side of things was needed for our organization. This person would go to area coordinating meetings and establish contacts on a national level with other regional committees. This person should be technically savvy. Chief Rentzel's name was brought up for this position. He was approached and said he would be interested. He will be doing this on his own time.

Chief Bissey reported that Mike Corcoran is still being employed by the County on a month-to-month basis to handle technical issues. ECI has a contract to handle hardware (outside equipment).

Chiefs Shank and Bissey both remarked that Mike took old low band paging equipment and turned it into our current simulcast system. The towers are now clean and labeled.

Chief Shank stated that Mike is not always getting a contract or the money from the County to finish projects or do upgrades.

Chief Nichols asked if permission had been received from the Water Company to move the tower on Greenwood Rd. to the water tank. Chief Bissey said if the letter requesting permission had been sent it should be acted upon this month.

Kevin Lane asked Chief Rentzel where he saw things going, with regards to radio & frequencies. Chief Rentzel said he had just started looking into things and connecting with contacts in Delaware. Chief Lane asked Rob how long we needed to keep patching the current radio system. Chief Bissey said it could be 5 – 6 years if they go with the 700 mhz. that's how long it will be until the television stations are cleared off of it.

Chief Bissey said that the Police are interested in attending a candidate night with us. Chief Nichols said we should pick a date and notify members. Cindy Dietz said she had gotten a copy of the candidates and had a phone call in to York College for a professor to mediate. Chief Shank said he would check with Central High School or the Fire Station to come up with a place and date. Chief Shank will get back to the Secretary with a date. The Secretary will email the invitation to Association Members, Police, and EMS. She will write and mail letters inviting all the candidates.

911: No Report.

FIRE SCHOOL: Director Paul Schaefer reported that the state grant has still not been received. 190 students for the year. The vehicle rescue class went well. Essentials start April 15th Tues/ Thurs. There are still openings for the structural burn class. Chief Gemmill asked about daytime trainings at the school. Paul said he needs a minimum of 13 students to run a daytime class. Anyone who is interested in daytime training should contact Paul. The new Director will be pursuing classes and industrial training.

HAZMAT: Chairman Paul Schaefer reported 8 calls for the month and 13 calls for the year. A bill for \$750.00 was paid. On March 20th there will be a Technician Class. There will also be a 4-hour Awareness Class that day. Radios were upgraded and tested. Air Packs were tested. The Board is looking at the future of the Hazmat Team as well as a timeline. Chief Tony Myers asked about federal funding and reimbursement per call. He suggested that someone contact Washington DC for information. He said that Harford Co. Maryland is getting reimbursed. Chief Nichols asked if it would be appropriate to ask the Board of Commissioners to subsidize the Hazmat Teams. Tom Graybill said they (the hazmat teams) get fees from Industries in York County and also get Act 65 money. Grangeville Hazmat no report.

SPECIAL RESCUE TASK FORCE: Chief Tony Myers reported that team members attended a structure collapse class last weekend. Members also certified in ice rescue two weeks ago. No calls for the month. The team has members primarily from stations 9, 36, 46, & 61.

EMA: Tom Graybill said that Kay Carman and Pat McFadden send their thanks to everyone who assisted during the weather emergencies and also the gas incident. April 22nd is the TMI Drill. March 19th there will be a weather drill. The Regional Counter Terrorism Task Force met at HACC. Attendance from York was not so good. An APD2000, (2) Hepavacs, and a Decon Kit were received at the EMA Office. RACES did a presentation for the Hazmat Team.

Chief Nichols explained who was involved with the local Counter Terrorism Task Force within the Fire Service. He said York City, Manchester Twp., West Manchester Twp., Springetsbury Twp. & Spring Garden Twp (combined), are committed to the task force.

Each one will commit one engine and a crew of four. There are four predetermined staging points in the county. Chief Davidson is the coordinator. Tom encouraged Bob Fasick and Charlie Schwab to get involved with the Terrorism Task Force for Communications.

ACCOUNTABILITY: Chief Rentzel said they needed to decide on a painted tag or an unpainted tag with tape. It was decided as long as there was red on the tag for interior firefighters and yellow on the tag for non-interior it wouldn't matter. It was decided to get blank tags and just cover them with the tape. The hardware will be stored at the fire school. Trevor will get costs and take care of getting the tags. Discussion followed on stations in the lower end of the county not wanting to make the switch. Those stations were encouraged to adapt their current systems so they will work with the countywide system.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Chief Nichols asked if the fire companies in York County needed to assist the fire school financially. Chief Lane said that would not be necessary at this time. Chief Gemmill suggested using Industrial Training to make money.

Chief Rod Miller said that three companies of Juniors have come together to form the York County Junior Firefighters Association. The companies are Yoe, Dallastown, and Loganville. A letter from the Juniors on recruitment and retention is on the back table. Chief Gemmill said things appear to be going well there were 20 Juniors at a recent training at the fire school. Bern Anthony said he has been getting a lot of good Juniors both male and female in his Essentials class.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:

Bern Anthony had packets for Stations 19, 3, & 57. Lori Gillen from VFIS was present and stated that Reva Shearer has taken another job. VFIS has hired her replacement but she will be in training for the next 12 –16 weeks. If you have any problems you should contact Lori. Lori brought pamphlets available on the back table, on classes from VFIS.

A Patient Care Documentation class is being held by VFIS at Station 24.

Chief Bissey made a motion, seconded by Chief Nichols to pay the bills. Motion carried.

Chief Lane adjourned the meeting.

Next months quarterly meeting is scheduled for 7:30 pm on Monday, April 21, 2003 at the Parkville Fire Company in Penn Twp. Light refreshments will be served. Don't forget to bring your reports.

NOTE: "Meet the Candidates Night" is scheduled for 6:30 pm on Tuesday April 15th at the Emigsville Fire Hall, 3118 North George Street. Please try to attend. Response from the Candidates has been good and we have a Professor from York College lined up to mediate. I also need you to submit your questions for the candidates to this email address as soon as possible.

The following stations still owe dues for 2003/2004 – York New Salem, York Twp., Wrightsville, East Prospect, Craley, Clearview, Pennville, Glen Rock, Seven Valleys, DDSP-LF, Lake Clarke, Lake Aldred, Maryland Line, Abbottstown, and McSherrystown.

Sincerely,

Cindy A. Dietz
Secretary