

April 15, 2002

The quarterly meeting of the York County Fire Chiefs and Firefighters Association was called to order by President Skip Rupert. Fifty-eight members were in attendance. The meeting was held at VFIS. The address of welcome was given by Art Gladfelter. Response was given by Association member Rick Witten. Roll call was taken. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. John Thoman from Life Lion was present and spoke about the positioning of Life Lion at the York Airport in Thomasville for a trial study beginning on April 18<sup>th</sup>. There will be no change in dispatch, however with the shorter eta they will now have, they may arrive before an LZ can be established at the scene. Life Lion is requesting the fire department still respond to provide scene safety. Bob Bowman presented the treasurer's report. There was a motion by Mike Miller second by Joe Stevens to accept the treasurer's report as read.

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS:** Chairman Kevin Lain reported that there would be a meeting next week to discuss the curriculum and instructors currently on staff at the school. He said there is currently a vacancy for the position of Assistant Director at the school. Chairman Lain also stated that until someone could be found Barry Myers would handle maintenance at the school. If anyone knows of any maintenance men looking for work have them contact Paul or Skip.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Communications were turned over to the Board of Governors and will be discussed at next months meeting.

**RADIO COMMITTEE:** Chairman Rob Bissey reported one renewal application for Truck 49 was received and approved. He also advised that the FCC licensing renewal problem had been taken care of.

Rob stated that York County 9-1-1 had a meeting with Lancaster County 9-1-1 to discuss the conflicts being incurred by Lancaster simulcasting on 33.90. York County has received their simulcast license and it is projected to be about two months before it is turned on, it won't be perfect right away. A trouble reporting system will be set up by York, specifically for simulcast problems when it is turned on. Suggestions to rectify some of the problems simulcast will be causing both Counties are as follows:

1. Modify the dispatch so that equipment is only given on the first voice. The second voice would only be the address and nature.
2. Eliminate the Wednesday evening Siren & Monitor Test.
3. Install an indicator on the York County Fire Radio as well as the Lancaster Fire Radio so each one knows when the other is transmitting and sending out tones.

Rob suggested everyone think about the first two suggestions until next months meeting.

9-1-1 Quality Assurance noted the following problems to the Radio Board Committee:

1. Firefighters calling the 911 Dispatcher by phone to find out why their pagers were open when they came home, and wanting to know if there was a still a call. Firefighter's significant others calling 9-1-1 to see if their husband/boyfriend is on a call.
2. Use your zone frequencies. Command should only be talking to York on 33.88, not giving orders to his equipment.
3. Use a mobile radio for command. Portables are very hard to copy.
4. When speaking to York use clear text terminology, which is outlined in the guidelines. Do not ask for a tactical channel, or tell units to come in code 3, or say upgrade the box. If you want the box upgraded to a 1<sup>st</sup> alarm or 2<sup>nd</sup> alarm structure response ask for it.
5. Do not volunteer your station; let the dispatchers follow the box cards.
6. There are too many OIC's on the air. The highest ranking Officer, or Duty Officer are the only ones who are to call responding.
7. When you receive a call at your station do not dispatch it yourself call 9-1-1 by phone or on 33.88 and have them dispatch it.

Chairman Bissey read part of a letter he had drafted to be sent to EMS Chiefs and the Municipalities that they respond in, requesting they stop using the Chief designation. Next Radio Board meeting will be May 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the 9-1-1 Center.

Cindy Dietz from the 9-1-1 Center reminded those that received the Firehouse Software in March to get it loaded and start using it. If anyone needs assistance call her. She also requested anyone who still had the maps that 9-1-1 handed out about a year ago to draw their new boxes on them and turn them in, no other information on the map needs to be updated. The Data Supervisor who is working on the GIS database needs the information now. If you need another map contact Cindy. Anyone who still needs to complete their new boxes is strongly urged to get them done, the box alarm information is also needed to go along with the maps for the database. If your information is not turned in when they get to your municipality it will cause a delay. Cindy also brought along copies of the new Red Cross Guideline and a paper on Life Lion's new flight times to different municipalities in York County.

**FIRE SCHOOL:** Director Schaefer had packets for everyone. He reported Engine Company Ops for the 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> is filled. There is an Advanced Firefighting class on May 1<sup>st</sup>. The Essentials class beginning on May 2<sup>nd</sup> is full and the next one will begin on September 10<sup>th</sup>. There is an Advanced Fire Police class on the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> of May. Pump I and Pump II classes will run July 9<sup>th</sup> and August 18<sup>th</sup> and a Firefighter I class on August 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>.

**HAZMAT:** Director Schaefer reported five calls for the month and 12 for the year. Hazmat personnel will be going to Hunt Valley for training. Penn Township Hazmat no report.

**ACCOUNTABILITY:** Steve Dietz reported the committee would meet and report back next month.

**EMA:** No report

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Bob Bowman reminded everyone to pay his company dues for 2001/2002. President Rupert reported he went to FDIC as a representative for the Association and it was fabulous. A Battalion Chief from Baltimore County gave a class on ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder). Skip is trying to set up the same class at the school, one for instructors and one for line officers. Skip also received a CD on topics of interest from the seminar; he said he would be happy to burn a copy for anyone who is interested. He will give a report on the seminar at next months meeting. Skip stated we should think about making reservations for two people now for next year at FDIC, that way hotel reservations can be made ahead of time. Bob Bowman presented the bills, motion by Bud Strickler second by Rob Bissey to pay the bills.

**NEW BUSINESS:** There was a motion made by Chief Gemmill second by Chief Fornadel to reserve two spaces at FDIC for next year. Motion carried.

Chief Bissey asked the Association to back a letter of support he wrote to the Environmental Quality Board on behalf of the Association. The letter supports York Water Company's petition requesting the Board designate Lake Redman and Lake Williams as Warm Water Fishes (WWF). A motion to send the letter of support was made by Chief Bissey second by Bob Bowman. Motion carried.

Chief Stevens brought up the discussion of the burn ban and whether to extend it or not. Rob Bissey stated that Lake Redman was full and Lake Williams was down 76 inches, coming up 1 – 1 ½ inches per day.

Paul Schaefer said that the water used at the Fire School was coming from the creek and being pumped into the pit and reused.

Chief Witten questioned whether we were wasting more water by extinguishing all the controlled fires.

Discussion followed. It was decided to let the ban run out at the end of the month, and put the decision back to the local level if some municipalities still wanted the ban to continue.

**GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:** Paul Rickenbaugh from the Office of the State Fire Commissioner said they have a new web page, it can be seen at [www.osfc.state.pa.us](http://www.osfc.state.pa.us). He also advised that there are forty bills in the General Assembly regarding another state grant. He urged everyone to go to their elected officials if you would like to see another grant made available.

Cindy Dietz said there would be an Open House in honor of National Telecommunicator's Week on Thursday April 18<sup>th</sup> from 11pm thru Friday April 19<sup>th</sup> until 2am. Everyone is welcome to stop in.

President Rupert asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion made by Bud Strickler second by Joe Stevens. Meeting adjourned by president Skip Rupert.

**Note:** Terry Strickler and Jacqui Dell-Shearer are asking all departments to turn in their information papers for the Convention Book they are publishing. The deadline to turn paperwork in is the end of May. Anyone who needs the paperwork contact Cindy Dietz.

**2001/2002 dues are now due. They are \$10.00 for the two years. Make checks payable to the Fire Chiefs and Firefighters Association.**

Next meeting scheduled at 7:30 pm on Monday, May 20, 2002 at the Fire School.

Sincerely,

Cindy A. Dietz  
Secretary