

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

**330 Emig Road
York, PA 17406**



**Monthly Meeting
3rd Monday**

April 16th, 2012

President Steve Buffington called the quarterly meeting of the York County Fire Chiefs and Firefighters Association to order.

Prior to the meeting, Dick Sterner, from the American Red Cross stated what services the Red Cross offers to fire and natural disaster victims, and stated their responses for the Canteen units. Later this month, Dick Sterner will be retiring.

President Buffington led the pledge to the flag and a moment of silence. Thirty - four people were in attendance.

President Julie Yahnke, from Red Lion Fire Company welcomed everyone to their department this evening. She hoped everyone enjoyed the meal. If you go home hungry, it is your fault. There is plenty for everyone. She welcomes everyone to take a tour of the station. Just last year, they remodeled the downstairs as their live in quarters, as well as office space and meeting rooms.

Keith Ewan from DCNR spoke about the recent brush fires and forest fires that have recently occurred in our areas. He stated with October's snow, it damaged a lot of tree limbs, which is now fueling the fires. The lack of tree foliage and the dry conditions have not helped with battling the fires.

President Steve Buffington approved the minutes as published.

Treasurer Bob Bowman presented the following report: Beginning Balance: \$7,909.07 with all balances and withdraws; we have an Ending Balance of: \$7,868.29

BOARD OF GOVERNORS: John Senft: The Board met this evening prior to tonight's meeting. We discussed our current financial status and the interest on current funds. We discussed facility issues, and the review of policies at the Fire School. We then met in an Executive Session to discuss personnel.

COMMUNICATIONS: Erik Brown: We met last Thursday. We approved several radio designations. On April 21st, we will be doing narrow band testing in the northern end of the county. Those departments that are being involved should have already been contacted. Next Tuesday and Wednesday, we are scheduled to present the training program in Wellsville and Thomasville.

911: Erik Brown: Phil is currently in the hospital. He seems pretty sick. You are welcomed to stop in. We believe he is at York Hospital, room 7111. He has his good moments and bad moments.

FIRE SCHOOL: Richard Halpin: This past month, we had 398 hours of training. 184 of those hours were our classes. Just a reminder, VFIS is hosting a Retention and Recruitment class at the Fire School on May 1st and a Highway Safety class on May 30th. To register for the class, you have to register with VFIS. Select VFIS Insured on the registration form. We have had some students come to class dressed inappropriately. Please remind your members to dress appropriate for class.

OEM: Tom Graybill: Nothing to Report

HAZ-MAT TEAM: Tom Graybill: There were 4 calls for the month, 16 for the year. The Haz-Mat team did receive their certification good for the next four years. We will also be hosting a Haz-Mat Technician class on June 16th, 17th, 23rd & 24th. If you interested in taking the class, let me know, so we can get you registered.

YORK COUNTY ATR: Chief John Sanford: There were 2 calls for the month, 5 for the year. The class were both vehicle related. One was with Windsor Fire Company. The other was with York Area United. Our annual Trench Rescue Week-end is coming up in about two weeks. We currently have about 75 students registered from two states.

FIRE POLICE: James Robertson: There are some departments that still have not sent in their rosters. The next meeting is scheduled for April 23rd, at Station 28.

FIRE SCHOOL COMMITTEE: Bob Sells: No Report Given

RIT: Joe Yahnke: Nothing to Report

RESCUE INSPECTION: Tim Mooney: We are in the process of inspecting two Rescues. Station 4 and 26 are looking to upgrade their units to Heavy Rescues.

FIRE PREVENTION: Steve Tawney: No Report Given

FUND RAISING: No Report Given

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A motion was made to pay the bills. 1st: Jan Cromer 2nd: Albert Shaffer Motion Passed

President Buffington stated that last month we approved a motion to stop the implementation of the new plan. To clarify that motion, Bill Carlisle stated that we do not stop the implementation, but to discuss the plan as an association once all the trainings have been conducted.

President Buffington stated that there have been some communication breakdowns with the Public Safety Policy Board. Before, there were so many voting members not present at the meetings that we have decided to scale back the amount of members. The members will include a representative from each of the following: Police, Fire, EMS, and Fire Police Associations, York County OEM Director and the 911 Director.

Just a reminder that when you are sending out web based pages over the system, they are department related messages. As one of the agreements when your department signed the contract, the system was not to be used to send personal message. Pages can be sent out for training alerts, work details, and other similar uses, but not for personal use. If your department is found sending personal messages, the department can lose it privileges, and their account will be shut down.

NEW BUSINESS:

Brad Dunham stated that he has yet to receive Red Light / Blue Light lists from Mt. Wolf (Sta. 22) and Yorkana (Sta. 38).

REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:

Chief John Senft stated that the PA Fish and Boat Commission recently held a ceremony presenting the Heroes of Water Rescue Award. This year, the award was presented to Tom Eckert for all that he did with Water Rescue.

President Steve Buffington stated that at the end of the month, he will be retiring as the Fire Chief for York City. He will then be taking the position of Building Code Official for York City.

John Kottmyer is also retiring from York City Fire Department. He will now be in charge of the York Hospital EMS Academy as well as Medic 97.

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for 7:00 pm on Monday, May 21st, 2012, at the York County Fire School.

Motion was made by Bob Bowman to adjourn the meeting. 2nd: Tim Mooney Motion Passed

Sincerely,

Heather Grove

Heather Grove
Recording Secretary

RADIO WORKGROUP MEETING

FIRE / EMS / EMA RADIO WORK GROUP

Meeting Minutes
 April 12, 2012 Meeting

Highlighted are IN ATTENDANCE TODAY:

911 Representatives	Fire Representatives	EMS Representatives	Alternates / Others
Eric Bistline	Richard Shank	Joe Madzellan V.P.	Rich Godfrey-EMA
Julio Mendez	Erik Brown – W.	Alex Wilson – E.	
Cindy Dietz	Dave Michaels-M.	Shannon Fouts – M.	Joe Hammers-Fire Pol.
Phil Treffinger	Chris Krichten – N.	Ted Hake – S.	
Nate Kirschman	Tony Myers E.		Dave Nichols M. – Alt.
Ryan Renninger		Mark Moody - ALS	
Mel Grove			Ryan Brenneman N. Alt
Greg Kidd			
Rena Aikins			

1. Approval of March 8, 2012 meeting minutes. Approved as written.
2. Review Open Issues Log. #s 5-16) No Updates. # 17) What is status of this policy? Protocol Sub Committee will bring back to this group to discuss proposed changes. Most items on Issues Log are in sub committee's hands and are under review. They will bring final decisions to this group in the near future. [See Open Issues Log]
3. Discuss e-mail vote on J.E.T. Response. Radio Identification #? (S. Fouts) The last discussion Shannon had with the Federation told they passed the inspection. The Federation has passed this on to the Department of Health to make it completely official. This most likely will go thru, may take some time because it is not top priority to them to get it done before existing companies get their paperwork. We had come up with a designation of "Ambulance 210" for them. As soon as Shannon gets something back from the Federation or Department of Health about their certification, she will let us know. We can come back and vote on the "Ambulance 210". Motion to approve Ambulance 210 on condition that they get their certification. (letter needed from Department of Health) T. Hake motioned and seconded by D. Michaels.
4. Discuss York New Salem Application for Radio Identification: Truck 8 (E. Brown) Read the equipment list that it has on board. C. Krichten motion to approve, C. Dietz seconded.
5. Discuss Red Cross Applications for proposed Radio Designations – see sheet attach'd (E. Brown). Each person and vehicle is listed. One motion to approve all that is listed. C. Krichten motioned, seconded by T. Hake. (list is attached)
6. Discuss Wrightsville Fire Department Application for proposed Radio Designation: Deputy 41A and Deputy 41B. (E. Brown) We have in place that letter designations are for career fire departments, so we suggest that they use 41-1 and 41-2. Motion to allow them to use 41-1 and 41-2, if they will accept it that way. (C. Krichten 1st and D. Michaels 2nd) Erik will get with the chief on that.

7. **Discuss Hanover Hospital ALS Application for proposed Radio Designations: ALS 51, ALS 51A, ALS 51B, and ALS 51C. (E. Brown)** This is a work in progress. Considering using these. Apparently there is some confusion with some of the designations with the Hanover Fire Department. Some of it may be a radio discipline problem. Apparently some of the Captains are coming on as 46B and not as Captain 46B –an example I was given. And some of the ALS were not using the prefix of ALS...etc. So they want to use these listed above, if this is acceptable with us. (officer designations) They are not looking to get away from the Medic 46 number, but looking to change the officer designations to the above. Cindy commented wondered why they don't use the same number (46?) Chris thoughts about in the future we may need to think about different series of numbers for the officers. They may need to use multiple numbers in the future.? Some home work would need done on how to do this in the future. Cindy reach out to other Counties to see how it is done. Policy that is in place allows them to use this designation(s). It is available to them. We just need to know that this is what they want for sure. Erik Brown will get back with them. Proper radio usage was mentioned. Let us know exactly what they want to use.
8. **Discuss Notification of Forest Fire Wardens (J. Madzellan)** There is a State Forester that would like to come to the next Fire Chief's meeting and discuss this reporting incidents to them so it gets to the State level. Cindy commented that they recently lost funding and they wondered if we could make it a policy to add them to fire incidents, brush fires etc. possibly additional resource/standby or call their duty officer. As long as they get a page, they can follow up on the fire and get credit for being notified. If they do not get notified or called, they may lose further funding and will lose this resource. Julio said at the last Fire Chiefs Association Meeting, a representative spoke, there may be something in those minutes. The Fire Chiefs should add them to their resources.? (notify 71 or 72)
9. **Other Business.** There is another Radio Designation request for "Traffic 49". Read the list of equipment it has. We have three service units so they want to convert this from a Service Unit to Traffic.... Motion to approve by Mark Moody and seconded by Joe Hammers. There was a discussion on what equipment recommendations that was to be on these units. We recommended they follow the equipment list on-line (York County Fire Police Web-Site List) www.ycfp.org/equip.html. Joe Hammers commented that they now can inspect them. And he is working on the list. Have we notified the Fire Departments that we now recognize Traffic Units? It was brought up at the last Chief's meeting. We should get a recommendation from Fire Police, they inspect it and let us know that it meets the standard. We approved the use of "Traffic Unit". It is up to them to comply to the minimal list the Fire Police have set up. When we get applications for Traffic Units, they should let us know how it runs -as a fire department piece or fire police unit so we know what cap codes to use. (it can be put in as one or both)

Spring Grove...they have been calling. We approved the policy for fire designations and in there it listed how they are to be numbered 4-0 or 4. Because they just have one. The dispatch staff need to get used to calling them Engine 4. (no dashes) ...

Pleasant Hills pagers? Is something being done with them? Yes, Nate Kirchman is working on that. He will get a hold of Vic. We did testing there the other day. We will follow up on that.

Paging – on the 21st (April) we are doing a narrow band paging test in the North end of the County. Franklinton (station 65) had problems with pagers not alerting, we correct it by doubling the power of the transmitter up there. We thus learned where all the weak signal areas

are. So we are going to have a little service interruption from 0900 – 1300, approx.. We will report the results. We will need volunteers for the testing. The tests will be quick turn off and right back on. We will staff the stations in those areas. This testing is necessary for narrow band preparedness.

Update on Phil Treffinger. He is in the Hospital. He is undergoing treatment. Not sure if he will return to work at this point. Nate Kirchman will handle any technical issues that Phil usually handles. (his calls are forwarded to the Radio Dpt.) Ryan will handle any administrative issues that come up. Ryan is checking his e-mails.

Regarding Emergency Button Activation -- Policy # 60.16 of the York County's Communications Procedural Manual– Signal 13 – to use in a situation where the life of a Fire/EMS person is threatened. ... Our Policy Committee would like to come up with an update of this current policy. We feel it could be improved. Discuss your input and we will update a new draft for the Policy Committee. Various discussion. Would like to eliminate the word "Clear". If you can say signal 13, do it. But if the dispatcher asked you to check your display and you don't say anything, the dispatcher should send help. But they need to announce the need for help on another channel so the "perpetrator" does not hear the alert. Also let dispatchers know if it was an "Accidental Activation" and use that language only. Look at the Police policy on this to make sure the wording is the same. (attached current Fire/EMS policy) Julio is meeting with the Policy Committee, we will draft this and distribute it to you by e-mail. We also would need to train on this once finalized.

PSAB – Executive Board has given an organizational chart. See attached handout of official restructuring. Please read.

10. Next meeting Thursday, May 10, 2012, 9:00am. at the Emergency Services Center – Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Erik Brown

Penn Township Fire / Rescue

Future Meeting Dates and Locations:

FIRE / EMS RADIO WORKGROUP:

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Location:</u>	<u>Meeting Room:</u>	<u>Time:</u>
May 10, 2012	ESC-911	Conference Room B	9:00 AM
June 14, 2012	ESC-911	Conference Room B	9:00 AM
July 12, 2012	ESC-911	Conference Room B	9:00 AM