

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

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



MONTHLY MEETING
THIRD MONDAY

May 17, 2004

President Skip Rupert called the regular monthly meeting of the York County Fire Chiefs and Firefighters Association to order. Forty-seven members were in attendance. After the pledge to the flag a moment of silence was observed for Past Chief Lawrence (Larry) C. Hunter who passed away on May 4, 2004. He was 69 yrs. old and was a member of the Wellsville Fire Company for 52 yrs. (1952 – 2004). Chief Hunter held the offices of Fire Chief, Asst. Fire Chief, President, Vice President, Secretary, Asst. Secretary and Trustee within the Wellsville Fire Company.

Minutes of the previous meeting were then approved as posted. Bob Bowman presented the treasurer's report. There was a motion by Chief Rick Shank seconded by Chief Tim Haller to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried. President Rupert reminded members to provide Cindy with their updated email information when they switch services if they wish to continue receiving minutes.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS: Chairman John Senft reported meeting with the Executive Committee prior to the meeting. The following items were discussed:

- Insurance Issues (resolved)
- Workers compensation Issues
- Building & Grounds Issues
 - Looking to replace the electrical service for the grounds with a higher amp service.
- HazMat Account rolled over into another account.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

RADIO COMMITTEE: Chairman Rob Bissey reported that the committee had met on May 13th. One application was approved for Car 61.

- Read the Draft for the Funeral/Retirement Policy.
 - To be voted on next month
 - Copy of policy attached with this email
- Train Derailments will be dispatched using the Train Fire Response.
- Further discussion on Mayday Response.
- Discussion on a standard dispatch for "working fires".
- Discussion on Bomb Policy
 - If the 911 Dispatcher advises you to hold your position and call the 911 Center while responding to a call, stop and do so. Do not advise you will call when you get there.
- Firefighters when responding to calls should not be calling the 911 Center by phone with additional information or requests to change or upgrade the dispatch. These requests should be coming from the Chief, Department Officers, or the Duty Officer riding the apparatus, via radio.
- No one should be calling the 911 Center requesting information on a call they missed the dispatch for.

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

Activity and Progress continues to increase at the fire school. In the month of April, the school's facilities were used for 168.5 Hours of training, classes, meetings and other such related activities. This is a 12% gain from the previous month and is consistent with the trend to increased usage of our facilities since the first of the year. There were 512 personnel hours logged in School sponsored classes. We have also assisted various fire companies with obtaining classes to be held at their own facilities, such as the Hazardous Materials Operations Class going on in Springettsbury Twp at this time. Some of this Months highlights are:

- The School has been the site and sponsor of 4 Training Courses for The Emergency Responders of York County, these were:
 - Truck Company Operations
 - VFIS Emergency Vehicle Driver Training, Train the Trainer
 - Structural Burn Seminar
 - Confined Space Rescue
- York County Fire Police held scheduled training here
- The Public Safety Class from York County Vocational School held several sessions here
- Glen Rock Fire Department used the training grounds for a Company Drill
- A Truck Company Operations Class, Sponsored by East Prospect, used the training grounds to conduct their Hands On Training
- The School also has provided class room space for the County to Conduct CPR and first-aid training for their employees as well as training for Personnel from the 9 – 1 – 1 center

The Program Coordinator attended the Fire Department Instructors Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. Classes attended were:

- The Training Paradox, Safety versus Realism
- Mayday, Mayday, Mayday when should you call a Mayday
- Roundtable Discussion with Chief Alan Brunacini, Chief Bill Goldfeder and others
- PowerPoint from Scratch
- Train Officer Development
- Mini Vans, SUVs and Pick-ups, The Rescue Technicians point of view
- How courageous are you to make the change (a program about Fire Fighter Deaths and the willingness to take corrective actions)

The Program Coordinator also talked with various dealers in the expo areas about how we could work together to improve training here at our school. Leads were made and connections established but no fire deals were implemented. The National Fallen Firefighters Foundation working with FEMA has started work on the Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives. The PowerPoint presentation associated with this was sent as an attachment to all on the fire school e-mail list. Printed copies are available at the fire school as well as the CD version of the.

Our extern from York Technical Institute (YTI) has proven to be a tremendous asset to our organization. She has often gone the extra "mile" to do her part and help us improve service here at the fire school. I meet with a member of the YTI staff to review her progress here.

Coming Events:

- June 5th and 6th – Advanced Fire Police
- June 5th and 6th – Row House and Town Home Fire Fighting
- June 8th, 10th and 12th EVOG
- June 12th and 13th Basic Vehicle Rescue Operations
- June 14th running M-W-F 9:00AM to 1:00 PA- Essentials
- June 15th and 17th – Fire Ground Operations
- June 26th and 27th – Basic Vehicle Rescue Awareness
- June 26th and 27th – Pump Operations I

Projects:

1. The Program Coordinator in conjunction with the Fire School Committee Chair feels the following three projects are of high priority and deserve prompt attention.
 - a. Updated Emergency Medical Equipment (First Aid Kits), Preferably 2 Units, one for the Training Grounds and one for the Cass Room area.
 - b. Automatic External Defibrillator(s) Again one need, prefer two for improved coverage of our facility
 - c. Radio Communications, We have received strong support from The City Fire Department with Radios for classes that have included Live Burn Scenarios. However, Both the Program Coordinator and the Fire School Chairman feel that having our own radio system of 6 to 10 portable radios would contribute greatly to both the safety of our teachers and students as well as aid in the coordination and execution of classes as well as help us improve our compliance with NFPA 1403 for example section 6.4.9
2. We need to order new heat resistant panels for the burn building. The estimated cost for this is \$3,571.50 (see attached). This would be for 10 panels (minimum order) our last purchase of these panels lasted us over 10 years
3. York County Vocational Students have assisted with our on going clean up projects
4. Current School Rules and Policies are under review. Several different Fire School Operations through out the state have been contacted. They have been requested to share their rules and policies with us. We can then adjust ours to be current and in-line with other schools.
5. The new Extinguisher Shed has been put in place and is undergoing customization to fit our needs.
6. A quotation has been received from B-H laboratories (Analytical Labs). The Cost per grab sample from our pond will be \$135. 00.

Other: The school wants to thank Hake's Sawmill and Keystone for their recent donations to help us maintain our school training facilities. Their help is certainly appreciated and help us direct our financial resources to other areas that need support.

Bernard Anthony reported on the following:

- When using the ventilation roof leave it as it is. Tim will put the plywood back when you are done.
- Vo-Tech Students have been helping out with the cleaning and other things at the school.
- Opening at Vo-Tech in the fall for a part time fire instructor. Bern will not be working there in the fall, but will be assisting the school in choosing a replacement. They will still be working closely with the Fire School.
- Bill Hoover gave a brief synopsis of the Fire Operations Program.
 - The 4 modules are equal to an 88 hr. Essentials Course.
 - Great refresher for older firefighters or those preparing for FF-I.
 - Modules can be picked up when it is convenient for the student.
 - Modules total 96 hrs. when all 4 are completed.
- Tim said there is available firewood on the grounds from trees that have been taken down. See Tim if you are interested.
- Tim asked that you allow the school to provide straw for the burn building when you have live burns.
- York Water Co. provided a cut away.

YORK COUNTY HAZMAT: No Report

YORK COUNTY ATR: Mike Cadden reported 2 calls for the month and that the Team will be holding a Trench Weekend the third week in September this year.

911: Audrey Rychalsky reported:

- The contract for antenna work in Wrightsville is on the agenda this week in Wrightsville for approval. There had been some problems getting a response from the Wrightsville solicitor.
- There was a problem with simulcast dropping off at the start of a page, work was done at the Pleasureville Site and the problem was fixed last Friday.
- Incident Type training for the dispatchers did not occur yet due to staffing issues.
- Introduced Rick Taormina from L. Robert Kimball and Associates. He is one of the consultants assisting with the initial needs assessment and the CAD project. He said decisions from the Fire Service will need to be made on the following items:
 - Alpha paging
 - Fire Station Alerting
 - Rip and Run
 - MDT's in apparatus
 - How many mobiles
 - New pagers
 - RMS (Records Management System) – Firehouse Software Interface

President Rupert referred Mr. Taormina to the Fire Radio Committee to obtain answers to his questions. They are to represent and report back to the body.

Bob Fasick reported:

- In the past three weeks the Team has come together three times and put together a layout for the new building and garage for the new 911/EMA facility.
- He will be meeting with the architect next week.
- A threat assessment for the new building has been completed.

EMA: Tom Graybill reported on the following:

- The NIMS Class scheduled for this month was postponed until September or October.
- The Mass Fatality Class will be held this coming weekend.
- Jeff Joy along with the ATR Team will be heading up a group for large animal rescue. October 16 there will be a seminar held on this topic at the 4-H Center.
- Tom distributed a list of clean up contractors to all who were present.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Mike Cadden asked Tom Graybill the status of the requested mutual aid agreement with Harford County HazMat and Baltimore units. Tom reported they have nothing yet they are still working on it.
 - Chief Griffith brought up a contract currently being signed by southern municipalities for mutual aid purposes with Harford and Baltimore.
 - Tim Haller also voiced his concerns on not having an agreement in place for mutual aid for HazMat from Harford County due to their proximity.
 - President Rupert asked that York County take the first step and go to Harford County and extend an invitation to certify them in PA, due to their close proximity to Shrewsbury, Delta, and New Freedom.
 - Tom asked that he be provided with a list of Harford County and Baltimore County contacts for HazMat.
- Motion was made by Chief Shank to pay the bills seconded by Tim Haller. Motion carried.
 - Bob Bowman reported that the 990 tax return has been filed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- President Rupert spoke on Extrication Competitions and Learning Symposiums. The Nationals will be held in Bethlehem, PA this year. He suggested hosting a 1-day symposium for Junior Firefighters this year in the fall (Sept./Oct.) He is looking for a commitment from the departments on how many juniors might participate. There are 6 persons between the ages of 14 – 17 to a Team. Teams may be formed from multiple departments. Anyone who is interested should email Skip. Judges and a Certified Team have already been lined up for the day, for additional information on Extrication Competitions and Learning Symposiums go to www.terc.org. Discussion followed.

- Chief Barry Myers asked if there had been a meeting beforehand to discuss the Funeral/Retirement Policy.
 - Chief Shank advised there had been, and that Cindy was asked to put the information together into a policy format.
- Dave Gemmill inquired about the indicator lights at the Fire Dispatch positions in York and Lancaster Counties. He stated that frequently his stations dispatches are cut out or stepped on by Lancaster. He also stated one of the department members pagers had not activated for a call in three weeks. What is 911 doing about these problems? He said he is reporting these concerns to the Commissioners whenever he is asked. He believes 911 should start worrying more about these things and less about technology.
 - Audrey Rychalsky said that she would schedule a meeting with the Operations Manager in Lancaster to discuss this issue. One problem that cannot be resolved is that the indicator light is not on the paging screen and cannot be moved there due to inadequate space. Another problem is the dispatchers in both York and Lancaster both consider their calls the “more critical” when it comes to dispatching and do not wait for the other county to finish dispatching before toning their calls out.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:

- Bern Anthony has certificates for students who completed the last Essentials Class that can be picked up. He has certificates for stations 1, 66, 2, 36, 18, 57, 16, 49, 53, 47, 13, 6 and 64.
- Chief Senft remarked that the grounds look very good – thank you to the groundskeepers and the students from York Vo-Tech.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

The following station still owes dues for 2003/2004 – DDSP-LF – Station 69

Next meeting scheduled for 7:30 pm on Monday, June 21, 2004 at the Fire School.

Sincerely,

Cindy A. Dietz
Secretary

There are 3 additional attachments included with the minutes this month.

- Apparatus Standards Questionnaire
- Funeral/Retirement Policy
- East Prospect Fire Company 2004 Fire Fighter Competition Invite