

August 19, 2002

Vice President Steve Dietz called the regular monthly meeting of the York County Fire Chiefs and Fire Fighters Association to order. Sixty-three members were in attendance. Following the pledge to the flag Chief Dietz thanked all the departments who brought new equipment to be on display. He also thanked Reva Shearer from VFIS, and Dave Huffnagle & Trever Rentzel from RMI for providing refreshments for the meeting. Chaplain Roberts spoke on starting a Chaplaincy Corp for York County Fire Fighters, Fire Police, and EMS he outlined how the program would work, providing available chaplains throughout the county 24/7. Chief Dietz asked everyone to give the program some thought and refer any volunteer chaplains to Chaplain Roberts. Chief Ira Walker displayed some pillows that a member in his community makes with personalized fire department emblems on them. Information and pillows will be on the back table if anyone is interested. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Treasurer Bob Bowman absent financial report not read.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS: Chairman Kevin Lain reported there would be a special meeting on August 28th at 1830 hours to review the building progress. He also said it will be about two weeks until we receive Fawn Grove's Pumper.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

RADIO COMMITTEE: Chairman Rob Bissey reported the committee met on August 8th and new designations for Tanker 56 and Truck 54 were approved. Chief Bissey also reported he received a letter from the Civil Air Patrol in York requesting use of our radio frequencies. The committee voted to turn them down due to the large amount of radio traffic already on our frequencies and limited radio capabilities. At this time CAPS is able to communicate with the EMA Van and it was suggested the van be called to the scene if communications with CAPS was needed. Chief Bissey stated new box alarms from stations 7, 13, 15, 16, 17, 24, 52, 62, 66, 67 & 68 have still not been submitted and suggested they should be turned in as soon as possible. Next scheduled meeting will be held on September 19, 2002 at the 911 Center. Chief Ream asked the committee why the SOG's that were approved are not being followed by the fire departments, and presented examples. Discussion followed. Chief Bissey stated that much of Chief Ream's problem is internal between stations and they would have to handle it between themselves. Chief Ream also wanted to know why the Committee was still allowing lower ranking officers to talk on the radio once the Chief was responding. Chief Nichols wanted to know if there was anything to report from the preliminary report that the County received from the new study. Cindy Dietz said that the preliminary report only outlined what the problems were not how to fix them. The final report with a plan should be available later in the fall.

JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR WARD: Junior Fire Fighter Heather Marsteller from North Hopewell/Winterstown Fire Department was present to accept her award from Chief Chandler. Vice President Steve Dietz presented her with the traveling plaque. This is the second year in a row for North Hopewell/Winterstown to take this award.

911: Cindy Dietz advised those who have still not completed and turned in their box alarms & maps that they need to do them and turn them in now. She also stated for the record to anyone who finds themselves responding to the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Plant you will be dispatched to Box 57. Box 57A means to access from Atom Rd and Box 57B means to utilize Lay Rd. Cindy reminded everyone that York County has started collecting data for the state. FH Reports dated April 2002 thru July 2002 can be sent in now. August 2002 reports are due the first week of September. Please remember to send your personnel counts along. Cindy also stated when an incident is in York County command for that incident needs to be on 33.88 it is not acceptable to have command for a York County incident on another County's frequency.

FIRE SCHOOL: Director Shaefer reported two pumps tested for the month, eleven for the year. He reported 1026 students for the year. Module #1 for the Rescue Class is full. Will be replacing apparatus with the Fawn Pumper in about 2-3 weeks. Paul spoke on the Pump II class and how they pre-planned a disaster during the last class. The next class they will put the plan into action. Essentials Class starting on September 10th still has room. Paul thanked everyone for bringing their new equipment. Storm damage is almost taken care of. Director Shaefer reported there was a Highway Incident Safety Program being put on for Fire Fighters and Fire Police sponsored by the State Fire Academy and Penndot. Chief Dietz elaborated on the program and spoke a little about York Penndot's Incident Response Vehicle.

HAZMAT: Director Schaefer reported six calls for the month and 34 for the year. No revenue and \$975.11 in outstanding bills. Physicals for members are still going on. Chief Nichols stated that on Wednesday August 21st at 0930 there would be a formal critique on the Fairgrounds Drill. Penn Township Hazmat no report.

ACCOUNTABILITY: No Report

EMA: Tom Graybill reported that EMA would be hosting and IC Class – Abbottville in October. A Hazmat Tech Class is also coming. The York County Counter Terrorism Task Force is meeting regularly. Purifying Respirators are in and will be going out to response teams, hospitals, and police as soon as they are catalogued. Vice President Dietz inquired about the County's position on implementing a burn ban. Tom explained that EMA would like to keep the bans localized and have each municipality implement their own bans with their own restrictions. Discussion followed. Chief Nichols made a motion to adopt a resolution supporting a countywide burn ban due to the extremely dry conditions and low water levels. Chief Mike Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried. Vice President Dietz will write the resolution and send it to the County Commissioners.

YORK COUNTY SPECIAL RESCUE TASK FORCE: John Sanford reported the Task Force participated in the drill at the Expo Center. The Task Force was also called to assist Pleasant Hill Fire Department this past Saturday with a man stuck in the mud at Codorus State Park. All four departments involved with the Task Force had members present. There will be a Rope and Rigging Class on August 23rd and 24th cost \$35.00 and a Trench Class on September 13th, 14th & 15th.

FIRE PREVENTION: Chief Nichols reported on October 12th West Manchester Mall and Safe Kids Coalition will be sponsoring a Fire Safety Scavenger Hunt at the mall. They received a \$2500.00 grant. They will be purchasing 100 smoke detectors to be distributed thru the Head Start program. The Smoke House from Springettsbury Twp. will also be on hand at the mall. Chief Chandler requested Chiefs proofread and possibly offer to type submissions for Junior Fire Fighter of the year so they are legible. Director Shaefer said the Fire Prevention Posters will be here by the next meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Vice President Dietz asked if there was any update on the Penn State Soap Box issue. There was none at this time. Chief Barry Myers asked about the feasibility of combining the Fire Chiefs & Fire Fighters Association with the Fire Fighters Association. He asked if this was not looked into about two years ago. Dave Shilke stated he did not think there was any interest at this time from the Fire Fighters Association. Discussion followed. Open years for the County Convention are as follows Spring Grove 2003, Nashville/Thomasville 2004, Open 2005, and Open 2006. Next Meeting for the Fire Fighters Association is the 1st Thursday in November. Chief Mike Miller made a motion to form a committee to look into a merger of the Associations. Chief Joe Stevens seconded the motion. Vice president Dietz appointed the following committee, Chairman Chief Chandler, Committee: Chief Myers, Chief Miller, Neil Doyle, and Dave Shilke. Neil Doyle stated he thought it would be conflict for him to serve on the committee since he is the current President of the Fire Fighters Association. Director Shaefer presented the bills: Fire School Account Total Receipts: \$21,454.00. Total Expenses: \$60,503.34. General Account no receipts, no expenses. Hazmat Account Total Expenses: \$975.11, no receipts. Motion by Chief Miller to pay the bills, second by Chief List. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: Bern Anthony stated he knew a contractor who had a 1969 1-½ ton dump truck for sale price negotiable \$1500 - \$1700. He said the school could really use one. Discussion followed. Chief Ira Walker made a motion to negotiate for a good price and buy the truck. Commissioner Roth seconded the motion. Motion carried. Purchase turned over to the Board of Governors and Fire School Committee. Bern made a phone call and is now reporting the contractor will go as low as \$1300.00. Vice President Dietz appointed a Chaplain Committee consisting of Chaplain Roberts, Chief Myers, and Cindy Dietz.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION: Jim Robertson from the West York Fire Department said that Chief Moses Baker has been fitted for a prosthesis. He will be going thru rehab to learn to walk.

Chief Dave Markle said that West Manchester Mall is dedicating a wall at the mall to Emergency Services. Paperwork is on the back table to submit a photo and summary of the person to be honored.

Chief Nichols stated anyone wishing to participate in the Spirit of America Program at the Fairgrounds on September 11th contact him. Deadline September 6th.

Chief Dietz asked if anyone was doing anything countywide for September 11th.

On August 27th Tim Severson will be at Memorial Hospital for a Mass Casualty De-con drill.

Chief Dietz reported that this year Command School would be held at HACCC on September 27th, 28th, and 29th 2002. There is now an EMS Track and an Industrial Track. Attendees' will also receive an autographed copy of Brunacini's new 2nd edition Incident Command book.

Chief Bissey commented on the drought situation getting critical, combined flow of 8 million gallons per day from the north and south branches. 1,310 million gallons of water left. When it's gone none until it rains. He cautioned against all non-essential use of water.

Chief Stevens asked Tom Graybill if there was any information from the Drought Task Force. Tom said they were meeting.

Cindy Dietz reported York Hospital's helipad would be shut down due to construction until September 7th. The Alternate LZ will be at Apple Hill Medical Center. Station 19 and Ambulance 18 will be dispatched to the alternate LZ as soon as it is known that Life Lion will be going to YH. Everyone will need to work together and plan ahead so things go smoothly.

Vice President Dietz asked for a motion to adjourn. Chief Wisnom made the motion, seconded by Denny Cunningham. Meeting adjourned.

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, September 16, 2002 at the Fire School.

Sincerely,

Cindy A. Dietz
Secretary