

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

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



MONTHLY MEETING
THIRD MONDAY

September 19, 2005

President Skip Rupert called the regular monthly meeting of the Fire Chiefs and Firefighters Association of York County Inc. to order and led the pledge to the flag. Twenty-six people were in attendance.

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved as published. President Rupert asked for a motion to accept the Treasurer's report John Fornadel made the motion, seconded by Chief K. Miller. Motion carried.

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

- Revision to the by-laws.
- Banking and Investments
- Budget for next year
- Marketing and Coordinating for next year

COMMUNICATIONS: None

RADIO COMMITTEE: Chief Dietz reported no meeting held on September 8th, due to Chief Shank being out on sick leave. Next scheduled meeting will be on October 13th.

911: Project Director, Rob Sterner reported on the following aspects of the Emergency Services Center Project:

Radio –The Radio RFP (request for proposal) was released. Pre-proposal site visits took place with 16 vendors, several weeks ago. Bids are due back on November 16. The Radio Subcommittee will assist in reviewing the bids and provide their comments to the County.

The main contract will most likely be with either Motorola or MA/Com, site development contracts may be awarded to another vendor. By January 2006 the County would like to have a vendor under contract.

Building – The design development phase has been completed. The County is working on construction documents. On the County website www.ycdes.org you will find a PowerPoint with 3D images of the building design and elevations. The land development proposal was submitted and accepted by the Planning Commission last Thursday. Bids for the building will be on the street late in the fall of 2005.

CAD – Phase I of the CAD Project is finishing up. Master file training for the build team will occur in October. Go live for CAD is projected for May 2006.

Rumor – Rob reported on a rumor that frequencies were denied. This is not true. The Department of Emergency Services was granted all of their frequencies on t-band (in excess of 50). Rob explained that they asked to have one license rather than individual licenses for base stations. Mobile licenses were granted on September 13th. At this time they are leaning toward individual licensing, the consultant does not see this as a problem just extra paperwork.

Questions –

Q – Chief B. Myers asked what would happen with the Civil Defense Sirens.

A – Rob said they are not part of this project and will not be replaced as part of this project. They will be looked in to as another project. He believes they will continue to function on low band as they currently do, but he will check in to it further and report back.

Q – Chief Dietz asked if the sirens continue to operate the way they currently are, would we have to maintain the 33.90 licenses.

A – Rob will check on this also and cover it at the next meeting.

Q – Chief Senft asked if someone could report on this at the EMA meeting scheduled for next Monday night.

A – Rob will send an email for clarification and talk to someone in EMA about his or her meeting.

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

Statement:

Essentials Class:

The Fire School's last offering of the Essentials Class (the 88 hour EBM Class) is turning out to be very well attended. We have 44 students enrolled in Class. The maximum number for this Class is 30, as you can see we had a slight problem. We did not cut off pre-registration at 30 for several reasons, first is the unfortunate history we have had of 'No Shows' for Classes. The previous Essentials Class was capped at 30 and only 20 attended. Second, it is the schools desire to get to serve every student with an opportunity to take this last class. As I stated we had a problem. I would like to Thank Lead Instructor, Doug Eash for his cooperation in dealing with situation. The Class needed to be split and was. We are now running a SECOND 88 hour Essentials Class with Neil Gunnet stepping up as Lead instructor for the Monday/ Wednesday program. Both Doug and Neil need to be recognized for their mutual effort to assure that No Students were denied an opportunity to take class.

Extrication Workshop for Junior (Explorer Post also) Fire & Rescue Personnel:

This outstanding opportunity for Junior Fire Fighters and Explorers MAY have to be canceled due to lack of Enrollment. While this event last year stirred a lot of positive comment and all of the participants expressed enthusiasm for what they learned and how they learned it as of the date of this report we have received zero applications. The Fire School invests approximately \$1000.00 to make this event happen. We cannot afford to make that kind of investment if no one takes advantage of this highly regarded learning experience. PLEASE WATCH YOUR E-MAILS for further notices. If the event is NOT cancelled it will be held on October 1 & 2, 2005. The Extrication Challenge Workshop is geared toward Junior Fire & Rescue teams (**but Rescuers from all levels can come and learn**). We have several Excellent Presenters scheduled for a classroom session on Saturday; The Topics are Patient Packaging with John Kottmyer, Highway and Scene Safety with Frank Dealy of Montgomery County and our own Skip Rupert of York County to speak on how to get the most out of your rescue tools. Couple this with one of the best hands-on training formats for future rescuers and you have 2 days of unsurpassed training. Well there is one more thing needed. YOU! If you have a team of juniors, Time is getting EXTREMELY short. Contact your Fire School BEFORE THURSDAY MORNING. PLEASE, if you have a Junior or Explorer program that would like to participate let the school know as soon as possible

Fire Fighter I testing:

We have NOT scheduled another Open Firefighter One test for this year. We are working with Red Lion and Buck's Community College to conduct an IFSAC Firefighter One test. We are also more than willing to work with any individual or group of departments who want to schedule a test and use our facility. We have a very good working Relationship with Both Bucks and HACC (HACC is Pro-Board Certification). And we are willing to work with all parties to facilitate testing here at your fire school. PLEASE REMEMBER both IFSAC and Pro-Board Certifications have Reciprocity.

Administrative Assistant:

With the departure of our Administrative Assistant, please be advised that confirmation of pre-registration and mailing of certificates will be affected by her this. We are attempting to fill in as best we can. However her absence leaves a sizeable void in our organization. Her position has not been filled as of this time due to budget constraints. We are currently researching what other options we have to help us fill this void.

Curriculum and Teaching Issues:

The new Essentials program (a series of four Classes / Modules) that is to be adopted by the Commonwealth is an area of concern to me. While Commissioner Mann's and Fire Academy Director Dunkle's presentation alleviated a lot of my concern, I am still undecided as to how we will present the new program as part of the Fire Schools Curriculum. I will be working with Both HACC and Bucks and local instructors to determine how best to schedule the new classes. We MAY have a delay in getting out our Yearly Schedule at the beginning of 2006 as a result of this. We will have to reconsider the structure of our program offerings. One possibility is there will be a reduction in the number of Essentials Classes from our current 4 per year to only 2 (possibly 3, if we can come up with a way to fit the 166 hours of training into the time available for the summer day time Class). It should be noted that the new Essentials is a series of modular classes that provides a graduated curriculum. This may make the new programs easier to accomplish.

Our next Structural Burn Session will be scheduled through HACC and will run on a Tuesday, Thursday evening, all day Saturday it will be the last one of this year. The dates will be November 29, December 1 & 3 <- Saturday, 2005. It is hoped this will help in paper work processes for Fire Fighter one testing Through HACC. The York County Fire School is here to serve the Emergency responders of York County. I will keep this in mind as we strive to improve the cooperative relationships with ETAs and other Fire schools in our area. As of this time I anticipate running 3 or 4 Structural Burn Sessions next year in 2006. I am currently considering sticking primarily with our core programs of the Basic Fire Series, Pump, Haz-mat and EVOC for 2006. I do believe the Fire School has the opportunity to offer so much more, but without students, we have no class. IF a Fire Company or Group of Fire Companies contacts me with a request for specialized training, Your Fire School will work to get the program. ALSO we have established a very good working relationship with classes being held off campus and then using the Fire School Campus and its resources to supplement the local departments facilities.

Mason-Dixon Extrication Challenge:

I have begun looking for corporate sponsorship for the Extrication Challenge. At last months meeting, President Rupert asked for volunteers to form a committee to help us organize the event better for next year. We still need to VOLUNTEERS. We have the expertise to manage the technical aspects of this event; we need some help in areas such as organizational and support aspects of this event. This event is a major undertaking that provides educational opportunities not only for the teams that participate (We are hoping to see some Local team in 2006) but for the spectators as well.

Burn Building and Flammable Liquids Area:

No significant change at this point in time. The Board has reviewed the Engineer's report and is ACTIVELY seeking estimates to conduct the suggested maintenance of our burn building. Also the flammable liquids area has been drained and is awaiting maintenance and upgrading. It is my understanding that the Board of Governors is having difficulty in receiving bids for the repairs and corrective actions needed. If you can help please contact Chairman of the Board of Governors

Fire School Activity:

By the end of September we will have exceeded the total hours of usage of the Fire School for 2004. In 2004, the Fire School usage was 2360 hours, or an average 45 + hours per week. By the end of the month of September 2005, we will have recorded 2494 hours of use, or an average of 64 hours per week. While these numbers are impressive, they do not reflect our true capabilities. We have had to cancel far too many classes this year. In an effort to reverse this trend Skip Rupert and myself are planning on visiting Local Fire House to get your input as to how we can make us more available and more attractive to you for your Fire Service Training needs. Please remember, the Fire School CANNOT accomplish this alone; we need the continued and strong support of the Fire Chiefs and Training Officers of York County to make our school successful.

Current Schedule:

The initial 2005 schedule available online at our web site www.YorkCountyFireSchool.org just click on the [Click Here to See Available Classes](#) link on the home page and it will take you directly to the listing of classes. We continue to send out training announcements monthly. This may be delayed slightly until we replace our administrative assistant. If you are the training officer, please make sure they get posted. If you're a firefighter or another officer; **MAKE SURE TO ASK YOUR TRAINING OFFICER**, "Where are the training announcements?" We will be e-mailing periodic reminders of individual courses and information throughout the year. If you'd like to be on our E-mail list, please e-mail me your information at YorkCoFireSchool@aol.com and we will see that you are added to the list.

Upcoming Courses:

Managing Company Tactical Operations Decisions (MCTO-D) September 24 & 25 08:00 – 17:00

Haz-Mat Awareness Refresher September 27, 1830-20:00

Haz-Mat Operations Refresher September 27 & 28 18:30-21:00

Junior Firefighter / Explorer Extrication Workshop October 1 & 2 08:00 – 17:00

EVOC, October 4 & 6 (1830-2230) 9 (0800-1700)

Volunteer Retention & Recruitment: Problems and Solutions, October 15, 2005, 08:00-12:00

COMMAND SCHOOL (2 – 1 day Classes), by YCEMA and SCPaCTTF Call OEM @ 840-7494

NIMS Training, October 24, 25 (18:30-22:30) and 29 (0800-1700)

Haz-Mat Awareness Refresher, November 2, 18:30 to 20:00

Haz-Mat Operations Refresher, November, 2 & 3, 18:30 to 21:30

Basis Vehicle Rescue-Technicians, November 5 & 6, 08:00-17:00

YORK COUNTY ATR: No Report.

OEM: No Report.

FIRE POLICE: Jim Robertson reported that their quarterly meeting in August was held at the Fire School. Seventy members attended and thirty-five companies were represented. He said that there were two companies in violation of the convention rules. He also reported that three companies, 68, 11, and 104, have not submitted their fire police rosters.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- President Rupert said that Chief Scott Vinup would head up the Fire School Committee. Skip is looking for this committee to take on a strategic planning role and begin planning for 5 – 10 years out. Seven people are needed to be on the committee; per the by-laws two of these people must be Board members. Contact Skip if you are interested. Skip will also be asking Police and EMS for representation on the committee.
- President Rupert stated that last month he was tasked with drafting a letter to legislative officials, to recommend legislative support of SR60. Per Article 2 Section 3 of the by-laws we may not participate in lobbying to influence legislation.
- President Rupert announced the request to remove Article XXI of the by-laws dealing with Hazardous Materials Response. At next month's meeting he will request to eliminate the section and renumber Article XXII to Article XXI. Skip recommended that next year's president form a committee to review and update the by-laws.
- Next month President Rupert will be naming a three person nominating committee. If you are interested in being on this committee see Skip.
- President Rupert declared that Article IX of the by-laws states that the membership shall determine the amount of money the Board of Governors might spend without body approval. Cindy will research the minutes and come back with that total next month.
- President Rupert reported the PFESI Dinner would be on Monday, November 21st. Does the body want to purchase a table as we have done in the past for \$1000.00 (10 seats)? Motion to purchase a table by Chief Dietz. Second by Commissioner Roth. Motion carried. Motion by Bob Bowman to move the monthly meeting to Tuesday, November 22nd. Second by Rob Bissey. Motion carried.
- President Rupert asked for a motion to pay the bills. Motion to pay the bills by John Fornadel, second by Chief Keith Miller. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Albert Schaeffer asked if the Chiefs Association belongs to the State Firefighters Association. President Rupert advised him to get with Chief Senft.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:

- Next month's quarterly meeting is to be held at Station 34 in Red Lion. Cindy will double check and make sure this is still on.
- Reminder – take Fire Prevention Posters with you when you leave.

Motion to adjourn by Chief Dietz second by Chief Witmer. Meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.

The following stations still owe dues for 2005/2006 – 8, 11, 42

Next meeting scheduled for 7:30 pm on Monday, October 17, 2005 at Station 34 in Red Lion. Light refreshments will be served.

Sincerely,

Cindy A. Dietz

Cindy A. Dietz
Secretary