

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

**330 Emig Road  
York, PA 17406**



**Monthly Meeting  
3<sup>rd</sup> Monday**

October 15, 2007

- President Skip Rupert called the regular monthly meeting of the York County Fire Chiefs and Firefighters Association to order and led the pledge to the flag. There were 31 people in attendance.
- Carl Avery advised that the Fire School minutes from last month were not correct and he sent an email to Cindy.
- Minutes from the previous meeting, with the exception of the Fire School minutes, were approved as published.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

- Bob Bowman advised there is a balance of \$26,475.52 and all bills have been paid. As a side note, there was reimbursement from the County of \$98,887.26 for various expenses on the Burn Building, to date.
  - President Rupert asked for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, Commissioner Jim Roth made the motion, second by Chief Shank. Motion carried.

## **BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

- Chief Senft reported that the Board met 2 times.

Discussed 2 items;

- Funding for capital improvements for the Burn Building
- Status of Fire School State Certification Program
  - The Board also met this evening and gave an endorsement of the Agricultural Training Program

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

None

## **RADIO COMMITTEE**

- Chief Shank reported that there was no meeting.
- Chief Shank also reported that he has been hearing a lot of use of the radio for calling units in and out of service; personnel should be using the phone for this
- Chief Nichols asked about unknown type alarms and also asked for direction on calls that the police are being dispatched on and then 20 minutes the Fire Department is being dispatched for neck pain, etc

## **911**

- Audrey Rychalsky advised that a transition plan is being developed and the plan is to be transitioned to the new building by early December.
- There have been a few issues with the radio consoles and there should be a resolution by mid November.

- The 911 center is hiring Part Time Dispatchers to start in January; if you know anyone at your station that might be interested.

### Radio Project

- The project is on schedule; testing has been positive. Field representatives are coming in this month to do Fleet Mapping.
- Chief 25 wanted to know if he should buy pagers now; he was told by a sales representative to buy whatever he wanted.
- Audrey advised the Legacy system will be maintained for 1 year. There is no good date at this time for deployment of pagers but she will check with Rob Sterner and get a better date and that information will be included with the minutes.

### FIRE SCHOOL

Carl Avery advised the following

#### Hours of use:

- ☛ From 9/17/07 to 10/15/07 there were 48 events held through your Fire School, totaling 223 hours of Training / use. Our Facility now averages 8.14 hours of use a day, **every day** of the year to date. As of close of business on Sunday October 14, 2007 the annual total of hours is 2484

#### Firefighter's Memorial Garden Dedication:

- ☛ On September 23, 2007 several members of the Schaefer family joined the gathering of approximately 85 persons to dedicate the memorial garden. Dean Pearson provided Chaplin services for the even, and York City Fire Fighter Ken Sheffer accompanied the services with his Bagpipes. President Skip Rupert and Program Coordinator Carl Avery were speakers. The highlight of the event was the Presentation of a very special piece of Photo-Art by Brian Bastinelli to the Schaefer family in memory of Paul Schaefer, the Fire School former director. Eagle Scout Eric S. Tome also received a framed copy of the photo-Art as well as a certificate of acknowledgement of his work in designing and creating the garden.

#### The ENTRY LEVEL Program:

- ☛ We have concluded our offerings of the ELIS (*Introduction to the Fire Service [Part 1 of the 4 part Entry Level Series]*) Programs for this year. We will be scheduling our next ELIS class, to be followed by the rest of the Entry Level Series, for the beginning in January of 2008. **The targeted date for this course to begin is January 13, 2008 (Tentative) – This will be a Weekend Series of Classes**
- ☛ The Interior Firefighter class (EFLIF) is scheduled to begin October 23 (an evening class). Instructor Rick Witten will be the lead instructor for this class

#### Firefighter I Testing

- ☛ **Nineteen Firefighter Candidates met the cut off date of September 29<sup>th</sup>, for the exam.** They began the testing process with a written exam on Friday October 12, 2007 and will move on to the next step, the Skills test on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007

#### NFPA 1006, Standard for Professional Rescue Technician, Core Competencies Machinery/Vehicle Review Course and Test:

- ☛ The Test date for the Core Competencies will be December 8<sup>th</sup>, at this point in time the Machinery and Vehicle portions will be pushed back to 2008
- ☛ **Review Class CANCELED, Due to Low Enrollment** October 27 and 28 will be a review class on the core competencies With Gary Carpenter instructing

#### Fire Officer I:

- ☛ **THIS COURSE OPPORTUNITY WAS CANCELED, DUE TO INSUFFICIENT ENROLLMENT**

#### New Classes Scheduled:

- ☛ A one day Class on New Car technology and Hybrid Vehicle has been scheduled for 3 consecutive days in December **NEW DATES: (12/7, 12/8 and 12/9/2007)**. This class is being brought to our area through

cooperation between the Fire School and Several area Fire Departments. Offering the same class on three days should enable us to reach as many Fire/Rescue Personnel as possible

- ☛ *Coming in 2008, We are working with PAg (Penn State) Rescue training to bring you the following courses:* Intro to Farm Emergencies, Managing Tractor Emergencies, Managing Farm Machinery Entanglements, Farm Chemical Emergencies, Farm Confined Space Awareness, Farm Confined Space Operations

#### **Current and Future Schedule:**

- ☛ The 2007 schedule is available online at our web site [www.YorkCountyFireSchool.org](http://www.YorkCountyFireSchool.org) , just click on the [Click Here to See Available Classes](#) link on the home page.
- ☛ End of year course listing are available at the meeting. **(ALL CLASSES SUBJECT TO CHANGE-DUE TO CONSTRUCTION – WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO KEEP ON SCHEDULE AND ON TARGET FOR THESE CLASSES)**
- ☛ Be sure to check out the website for the latest Updates [www.YorkCountyFireSchool.org](http://www.YorkCountyFireSchool.org)

#### **Burn Building and Scheduling:**

- ☛ We are moving forward on the NEW Building. Construction should begin sometime this month. The Board of Governors intends for us to stay open and continue to offer classes throughout construction.

**This may require some flexibility to meet everyone's needs**

#### **YORK COUNTY ATR**

- Chief Jansen advised 3 calls for the month
- Trench Rescue April 19, 20, 21, 2008
- New communications system through the South Central Task Force

#### **YORK COUNTY FIRE POLICE**

- Jim Roberts reported 19 in attendance at the last meeting.
- There will be nominations next week for positions and then elections will be held for officer positions
- Next meeting will be at Lincoln Station 9 in York

#### **HAZ-MAT**

- 44 calls for the year

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- Chris Krichen talked about RIT. Only 8 departments returned the questionnaire; if your department doesn't want to be a RIT team still fill out the questionnaire and send in.
- Carl sent email to the Chiefs for training next year and only received 6 responses.
- Skip Rupert asked for a motion to pay the bills.
  - Chief Shank made the motion and second by Chief Herman.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Skip Rupert wanted to know everyone's thoughts on having the quarterly meetings hosted by other departments. There is sometimes a challenge getting someone to host; do we want to continue going out or stay at the Fire School. Skip likes going out to different places. January's meeting is to be held at Hellam.
- Chris Krichen – There was a fire at Starbucks and the Fire Department did not receive the Tier 2 reports for the SARA facility. Starbucks said they are submitting the report online to the State and assumed the State was sending the report to the Fire Departments.
- Per Tom Graybill the State went to a new system and Tier 2 facilities are reporting that way but are still to submit the report to the Fire Department and they aren't because they thought the State was doing it for them.
  - EMA has a meeting in December to try and address this
  - Tom Graybill advised that he recently updated the Starbucks plan but did not confirm with Starbucks about the Tier 2 reporting. He assumed that Starbucks gave the report to the local Fire Department. Tom will also address this with the State

- The most up to date list of Tier 2 facilities that EMA has is from 2005
- Skip Rupert asked if Tom could send an email out to the 2005 list and try to address this problem. Tom advised that he has asked for an updated list and still doesn't have a good list and that Lancaster and Adams Counties are having the same problem with their Tier 2 facilities.
  - Chief Nicholas suggested sending a letter to Representative Mike Waugh to see if he can help
  - Tom will bring all of this up tomorrow at the Committee Meeting
- Chris Krichen advised that on March 16, 2008 at 1330 hours his department is hosting a program called "The Courage to Stay Safe...So Everyone Goes Home". The program is free of charge and there has to be a minimum of 100 people and a maximum of 300. Information was sent out to York County Departments and the 5 surrounding counties. This is an incredible program that talks about a different mentality when at a call.
- The information has been hung up at the Fire School and emailed out last week and it is also on the Station 23 website.
- Commissioner Roth made a motion to send 4 members to the Firefighters Training Conference in Indianapolis in April 2008. Chief Nichols second the motion.
- Linda Spahr talked about Agricultural Rescue Courses for next year. These courses should be free; grants are being written in hopes of having the courses fully funded. The classes will be in 6 modules. There are flyers at the Fire School from Penn State. Classes are to be held in April and October 2008.
  - On October 27 there will be a live Agricultural exercise at the York County 4H Club and will run from 9 am until 4 pm and everyone will be fed lunch.
  - The following persons will be involved in the exercise
    - Haz-Mat
    - Races
    - CART
    - EMS
    - Fire
  - The exercise is free of charge and is being sponsored by the South Central Task Force.
  - Skip and Carl advised this is an excellent program and is highly recommended to everyone

## **GOOD OF THE ORDER**

- Bob Bowman advised he attended the dedication and it was well handled. The presentation was very nice and the family was impressed.
- Chief Senft advised that the York Halloween Parade is Sunday October 28 and is in need of some additional Fire Police. If any department has any Fire Police that are willing to assist; please let Chief Senft know.
- Chief Senft also thanked Shelley Creasy for filling in for Cindy and taking the minutes for the meeting.
- Chris Krichen advised there was recently a line of duty death in Adams County and a lot of York County Departments went to the funeral. Remind your members to wear their seat belts when responding on every call; this accident could have been avoided.
- Skip Rupert advised that the nominating committee is made up of the following people  
Chief Shank – Chairman  
Rob Bissey  
Chief Buffington

If you are interested in running for office, let one of those 3 know.

- Ira Wagner, York County Fire Police said that some gas stations in York County are telling him that they no longer need emergency shut off outside because there is an attendant on duty. He said some of the clerks don't know how to shut off the gas. He also noted that there were no fire extinguishers outside and there are no signs at the pumps saying to call 911 if you have an emergency, instead there are phone numbers posted to call numbers in other states. He wanted to know if there was anything the Fire Chiefs could do about this.
- Next months meeting will not be on Monday, instead it will be on Tuesday.

- Motion to adjourn was made by Skip Rupert. Motion made by Bob Bowman and second by Chief Herman.

Minutes are as transcribed by Shelley Creasy substituting for the secretary, Cindy Dietz.

*October 16, 2007*

*The following is the answer from Rob Sterner on the pager question that Chief Herman had*

*Cut-over is expected to be in the mid June time frame, with paging to follow probably a few months after. We will keep the legacy system in place, most likely, until 12/31/08 assuming all systems worked as expected and if they fully meet contracted coverage requirements. If at all possible, I would discourage any chief from purchasing any equipment for our current system as they will become stranded costs, but that is a decision that they will have to make.*

Next quarterly meeting is scheduled for 7:30 pm on Tuesday, November 20, 2007, at the Fire School.

Sincerely,

*Cindy A. Dietz*

Cindy A. Dietz, Secretary