

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

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



MONTHLY MEETING  
THIRD MONDAY

November 15, 2004

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. Seventy-three people were in attendance.

President Rupert introduced Steve Shank from Lancaster County who was there representing the State Firemen's Association. Mr. Shank stated that there was a new president going into office and he was at the meeting to encourage all departments to have representation at the State Association meetings (membership applications were made available). He said there are new benefits and programs being offered. He talked about the death benefit program and scholarship programs. He also talked about a fire prevention program that awards cash grants. The program is sponsored by VFIS. Lori Gillen from VFIS was present and had brochures detailing the Robert Little Memorial, Fire Safety Education Awards program.

President Rupert then introduced Trooper Patrick McKenna Jr., the new PSP Fire Marshal for York County. Trooper McKenna said he was replacing Trooper Schriver. He has been active in the fire service for the past 22 years. Trooper McKenna talked about callouts stating that the callouts through the week were done through the barracks and he would be contacted directly, but on the weekends they utilize a troop wide callout system so you may not get him personally. Trooper McKenna provided the following information:

Trooper Patrick McKenna Jr.	Station 717-428-1011
PSP – York Fire Marshal	Pager 717-852-3656
110 North Street	Cell 717-443-6073
York, PA 17403	

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

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

- Waiting to hear back from the County Commissioners on the budget.
- Future projects for next year.

**COMMUNICATIONS:** None

**RADIO COMMITTEE:** Chairman Bissey reported that the committee met with three members present on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Rob reported the following applications were reviewed and approved, Engine 49-1 (new piece), Engine 49-2 (renamed), Service 39 (fire police unit), Rescue 39 (light rescue – approved pending inspection), and Attack 42 (replacement piece). The committee will be taking off in December. The next meeting will be held in January.

President Rupert asked if the committee had discussed the Funeral Policy SOG. Rob advised they had not because the County representatives were off due to it being a County holiday, and were not at the meeting. Discussion followed.

**911:** Rob Sterner introduced himself as the 911 Project Director. Rob stated that he had brought members from the Kimball consulting team with him to discuss digital paging after he gave his report.

- The CAD RFP responses are due in by Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. He anticipates receiving ten responses. The CAD Evaluation Committee will then narrow down the selection to three vendors. The chosen top three vendors will do a formal four-hour presentation for the CAD

Committee and a separate three-hour demo for first responders with real life scenarios. The demos for first responders will be held on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 14<sup>th</sup> from 1800-2100 hours in the Pleasant Acres Nursing Home Auditorium. A different vendor will demo on each date. All are invited to come out and give their feedback. A CAD Vendor will then be selected by the end of the year.

- FCC T-band licensing; all the paperwork has been completed. County is waiting on the FCC's decision (a decision is expected this month). Senator Specter and Congressman Platts have helped keep the pressure on the FCC. Rob encouraged the body to contact Senator Santorum, Senator Specter or Congressman Platts to keep things moving. Rob will see that email is sent out to all the Chiefs with information out to on how to contact the politicians. Rob spoke about the interference letter that was sent to the FCC and again explained what it meant.
- The Commissioners have made a decision to move forward with the Project. For the radio portion of the project they have decided that the County will cover the following:
  - 100% of the cost for the radio infrastructure
  - 100% of the cost for digital alpha numeric pagers
  - 90% of the cost for public safety grade portables
  - 70% of the cost for mobile radios
  - 70% of the cost for base stations
    - There will be a 3-year leaseback program offered.
    - All equipment comes with a 3-year warranty.
    - County will pay for all training.
    - County will pay for all basic installations.

Further along in the project the county will be able to provide a grand total figure for each department so they will know how to budget for radios.

Steve Dietz: What will the percentage be for the leaseback option?

Project Director Sterner: 4%

Chief Walker: When will we be able to get a radio schedule for our costs, so we can plan our budgets?

Consultant Cunningham: During the first seven months of 2005 an early estimate should be able to be provided. Early in 2006 a hardened lock down price will be given.

Chief Nichols: Will we need to turn in our old equipment or can we sell it?

Project Director Sterner: There is no trade back you can sell it or do whatever you want with it.

Chief Nichols: Is the cost sharing for White Rose Ambulance going to be the same?

Project Director Sterner: The Commissioners must decide, but due to their first due territory, consideration will be more than likely given because they are part of the system.

Chief Nichols: They should then be made to run as a true response agency.

Chief Tony Myers: Will the three different tiers of portables be offered to the fire service?

Project Director Sterner: Yes, L. Robert Kimball will work something up explaining the different options each portable offers and it will be sent out. Departments will be subject to the cost percentage difference if they choose a higher tier portable.

Chief Schmidt: What year will the departments be expected to start paying for the equipment?

Consultant Cunningham: The exact schedule is unknown at this time; possibly some money will need to be paid in 2006 and some in 2007. If the leaseback option is chosen you may have five years to pay it back.

- Rob introduced John Cunningham and Brian (Rusty) Jones from L. Robert Kimball and Associates, who are consultants on the project team. John began by explaining the radio-paging concept.
  - Digital Alpha-Numeric Paging countywide.
  - A system that would be phased in.
  - No shared costs with a digital paging system.
  - A digital interface is quicker than radio paging.

Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Jones spoke to the group and discussion followed on digital paging concerns. It was suggested to those who did not get to ask their questions, or thought of additional questions they wanted to ask, to email Rob Sterner at [rhsterner@york-county.org](mailto:rhsterner@york-county.org).

**FIRE SCHOOL:** Carl stated he has VFIS Rollover applications from Lori Gillen if anyone needs one.

Carl Avery, Program Coordinator, submitted the following report.

**Statement:**

The year is winding down and there are only a few classes and activities left at your fire school. This does not mean things are quiet here as we are working on next year and will have a calendar of classes and events ready for everyone soon. It was once said to me, "We've got some things for you to do at the fire school." Nothing could have been more accurate. We have accomplished a lot and we have more on our things-to-do list. Your Fire School is committed to continuous quality improvement. We also are working hard to improve fire and rescue educational opportunities for all fire rescue personnel in and around York County.

One of the ways we've done this was to work in cooperation with the East Prospect Fire Company and Lower Windsor Township in presenting a Farm Rescue Program. While the fire school will continue to offer a variety of classes at the school, we will also work with local departments to provide the best access to classes we can on a local level. We are already looking into doing a similar program next year and the Fire School stands ready to support Fire and Rescue training throughout the county.

A Firefighter One Certification Test will be held here in November on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. This test will be administered through HACC. Perry Pierich, Test Site Coordinator, is currently reviewing applications. Acceptance letters should be going out very soon, if they have not already. We have had several applications come into the school as late as this Saturday (11/13/04). These have been forwarded to Mr. Pierich for his review. Depending on a variety of circumstances, these applications may or may not be rejected. It is noted that we have dates for a Firefighter I Certification test set for July 15 & 16, 2005. We also plan on having Certification tests for Driver Operator – Pump and another Certification test for Ropes coming to the School in 2005

It is with a great deal of pleasure that we announce your Fire School will be the host of the 2005 Mason Dixon Extrication Challenge. This regional Extrication Challenge will take place May 6 – 8, 2005. Rescue Teams from the Northeastern United States as well as guests from other parts of the United States and Canada will be welcomed to attend this event at your hometown Fire School. They will come here to display their tools, talent, and techniques in a series of scenario-based challenges. Skip Rupert is the event Chairman and Program Coordinator Carl Avery will manage the event

Challenge the Future; Extrication 2004 took place on October 9 & 10, 2004. While we did not get the attendance we had hoped for, we look for that to improve as we approach next year. There will be a subtle but significant name change for next year; we are going to call our event an Extrication Challenge Workshop. This format worked well and the three teams we had are enthusiastic about returning and we have already been approached by another York County Fire Department about joining in on the Workshop. Mark down September 30, October 1 & 2, 2005 for next years Workshop. If you have a team of juniors, it is not too early to plan for next year. Contact your Fire School and we (Mr. Rupert and I) will be glad to help you get started.

October has been our busiest month this year with the 911 Center using our facility for training, Fall Essentials and EMT Classes being conducted, as well as Haz-mat classes. The School and its facilities were in use for over 359 hours. For November we anticipate a drop to 264 hours of use. We anticipate the Scheduled usage of the school to taper off towards the Holidays. The hours will build up soon after the beginning of 2005.

The Fire School is working on next year's schedule with an emphasis on and Basic and Advanced Courses. Dates have not been finalized yet. Highlights for next year will be: Four Essentials Classes (1 Spring, 2 Summer, 1 Fall), Eight Haz-Mat Ops Classes, Preventive Maintenance,, Pump I and Pump II, EVOC (Leading to a Driver Operator – Pump Certification test), Ropes 1-5 (Leading to a Certification test), One Basic Vehicle Rescue Series, One Bus Rescue, One Heavy Truck Rescue Class, One Fire Officer One. It will be a busy year, but as always, all the fire school can do is offer classes. It is up to

YOU, the Fire Officers and Firefighter and Rescue personnel of York County, to take advantage of the programs we offer.

At last months meeting, the association approved sending 3-4 persons to the 2005 FDIC Indy. The Coordinator's office will be working with the board of governors to select candidates to attend.

At the request of the Board of Governors, The Fire School Program Coordinator has completed an initial draft of the Facility Use Guidelines for Company/Departmental Level Training Section 1 Structural Burn Building. This was submitted to the Board of Governors at last months meeting in Shrewsbury. We are awaiting their review and recommendations for revisions.

On November 8, 2004, your Fire School was featured on ABC News Channel 27. A cooperative effort between Manchester Twp. Fire Department and Lowe's Hardware resulted in an informative segment on Fire Safety

#### **Coming Events:**

- Fire Fighter I Test, November 19<sup>th</sup> (1830 to 2230); 20<sup>th</sup> (0800 to completion) administered by HACC
- Advanced Fire Police November 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> (0800 to 1700)

#### **Projects:**

- The Fire School will be working with United Defense on a project to build an armored Firefighting vehicle. We will be assisting in prototype testing. Hopefully this will result in a fire combat vehicle that is suitable for use in terrorist and insurgent environments.
- Lincoln way Fire Company is offering a used Echo ventilation saw to the school for a reduced price. The Board of Governors is considering this and other options
- We are also looking at collection of hand tools and equipment that will be used in classes (Tools likely to be encountered in Obtain Professional Cert per NFPA 1001)
- Initial research and planning for the remodeling of a portion of the existing ladder shed into a Command Post/Field Office has begun. This will be a project scheduled for completion in 2005
- The new pick-up/plow truck has an anticipated delivery in the near future.
- The alarm service is working on upgrading our alarm system. We do not have any more information on upgrading as of this time.

**YORK COUNTY ATR:** Tony Myers reported:

- Recerts for Confined Space were completed last month.

**YORK COUNTY EMA:** Tom Graybill reported he has DOT guides with him that he is handing out. He only received 400 books this year and will be distributing 3 per department. You can go to the website to download the new version or order more books. There were not a lot of changes to the 2004 books so hang on to your 2000 guides they can still be useful.

**YORK COUNTY HAZMAT:** No report.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Treasurer Bob Bowman presented the bills. Motion made by Ken Royal to pay the bills, seconded by Chief Tony Myers. Motion carried.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- President Rupert named the Nominating Committee for 2005 Officers, Chief Dave Nichols, Chief Curvin Wolfgang, and Chief Ron Witmer will serve on the committee. Secretary will email offices open for re-election to Chief Nichols.
- President Rupert spoke with Fire Police Association President Nelson Brenneman and will attend one of their meetings. Jim Robertson from the Fire Police Association attends our meetings as a representative for the Fire Police and will start providing a monthly update.
- President Rupert stated we need someone to host the annual meeting in January. Any department that is interested please contact the secretary.

**GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:**

- Station 55 will be having their annual Festival of Lights Fundraiser. Chief Snyder will place flyers on the back table.
- Chief Walker reported Wayne Shaffer is doing better and has been moved to room 414 at Colonial Manor Nursing Home for rehab. He said 100 people showed up for the blood drive.
- Jim Robertson reported that Moses Baker is in the hospital with an infection around his artificial limb. He also has other health issues and will be in the hospital for some time.
- Chief Nichols requested to know who was on the Project Radio Committee. President Rupert advised Nate Kirshman and Chief John Senft.
- Chief Barry Myers asked if the Association wanted to collectively take a stand on voice paging. Chief Senft believes that the thoughts are that a system has not been identified that meets the Association's needs. He urged departments to individually email Rob Sterner and make their concerns known. Discussion on paging followed.
  - Chief Nichols asked if the Project Minutes could be emailed out to the Chiefs. Cindy Dietz said she would see that they are forwarded.
  - Discussion on another meeting with Rob Sterner, Kimball consultants, and 911 to be held on a Saturday or Sunday. Skip will get with Rob and arrange something.
  - Chief Senft again encouraged departments to email Rob with their concerns.
  - Nate Kirshman would like to present a power point program at the January or February meeting on radio choices.

Motion to adjourn by Steve Dietz. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

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

Next meeting scheduled for 7:30 pm on Monday, December 20, 2004 will be held at the York County Fire School.

Sincerely,

*Cindy A. Dietz*

Cindy A. Dietz  
Secretary

