

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

**330 Emig Road
York, PA 17406**



**Monthly Meeting
3rd Monday**

November 17th, 2008

President Joseph Yahnke called the monthly meeting of the York County Fire Chiefs and Firefighters Association to order and led the pledge to the flag and a moment of silence. Fifty - six people were in attendance.

Brian Morrin from the York County Office of Emergency Management presented his Power Point presentation on Public Information Officers, Dos and Don'ts.

President Joe Yahnke asked for a motion to accept the minutes as published. 1st: Chris Krichten 2nd: Rick Witten. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer Bob Bowman presented the balances of the treasurer's report.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS: Chief Senft: The Board met this evening, prior to this meeting. The total amount on the capital project is: \$1,717,365.61 A total, \$1.25 million was paid from county bond. The Draw down document is in process for the \$1.5 million grant through the state.

911: Eric Bistline: Met with communications committee. They have been installing new radios in the stations. They have identified some software issues. They believe they have identified that issue. There is a delay in the "Going Live". This allows everyone more training time. No date has been set, but an estimated time is shortly after thanksgiving, but don't hold anyone to that. Eric says to turn on the radios, get them out of the boxes, and work with them. Make them do what they need to do. If you need to, e-mail Phil, and they will try to get the issue handled.

Numerous questions were brought up and addressed. They are working on getting the base stations/control stations with the latest programming. The go date is the switch over date for using the radios.

- Sta. 11 expressed concerns with paging issues, and things going downhill the past 2 weeks. This issue should be an update issue, which they are working on. Information for upgrades should be on the website.
- Who will the distributor be for additional radios and equipment? That would be Roger Kohr.g
- There is a timing issue, and an issue on the limit of characters per dispatch.
- Others expressed concern between really good dispatchers getting the proper information out, and others writing in code, like what does this mean. When this issue occurs, contact the supervisors. This is a training issue with that dispatching staff.
- Another issue concerns the charging of batteries in the charger. When you get a red light, pull the battery out and retry. The battery may be too cold. Let the battery warm to room temperature or place it in the charger, and it will begin to warm itself. If too warm, it will go in a rapid charge. The batteries have a one year warranty on the. Everything else is 18 months from we accept the system.

RADIO COMMUNICATIONS: Rick Shank: We have approved Truck 68. We have had numerous meetings. They are trying to update everyone with SOPs for the Radio System. There was a meeting tomorrow night, but it has been canceled. There was something on Central PA Fireman about removing the antenna from the mic, and placing it on the radio. This is a safety concern. There is no guarantee that it will work, since you would not be using them properly. Deal with the antenna. It is there for a reason. If you break or burn up the radios doing such an act, you bought them.

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

Activity:

- ☛ For the month of October the Fire School hosted 44 events which accounted for 233 hours of activity. This resulted in 3138 Student hours. For the year 2008 to November 16th, the fire school has accumulated 2335 hours of use and approximately 33200 student hours. We are averaging over 3200 Student hours per month.

The ENTRY LEVEL Program:

- ☛ The Exterior Firefighter class that was postponed due to construction issues HAS BEEN CANCELED DUE TO INSUFFICIENT ENROLLMENT. The Interior Firefighter class that was to follow, has also been CANCELED
- ☛ The next Exterior Firefighter program will begin on March 5, 2009 and will be part of the series of Entry Level Program that will kick off on January 11, 2009 with ELIS Entry Level Introduction to the Fire Service, This will be followed by the next in the series ELFG Entry Level Fire Ground Support which will start in February. Any student who meets the course requirement and pre-requisites can attend these classes
- ☛ **REMEMBER the ENTRY LEVEL PROGRAM is a series of 4 courses, the ELIS (Introduction to the Fire Service) course is a prerequisite for Fire Ground Support which is a pre-requisite for Exterior fire fighter which is prerequisite for Interior Fire Fighter**
- ☛ **Each of these classes is a stand alone Course and may be taken at anytime – If you have any questions about this please call the fire school**

New Classes Scheduled:

- ☛ A **pump operator II** class has been **added** to our schedule with the dates of **November 30th and December 7th**
- ☛ An **Engine Company Operations** Class has been added to our schedule with the following dates **December 15 and 18 – 18:30 to 22:30 and December 21 – 08:00 to 17:00**
- ☛ **PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR PRE-REGISTRATION FORMS for the classes listed above and others**
- ☛ **ALSO IN THE WORKS:**
 - **An 8 hour class on Railroad Emergencies (Maybe this fall or in 2009)**
 - **Academy on the Road, Fire Officer 1 (State Budget issues may affect this) (March and / or February of 2009)**

Current and Future Schedule:

- ☛ The 2008 schedule is available online at our web site www.YorkCountyFireSchool.org , just click on the [Click Here to See Available Classes](#) link on the home page.
- ☛ The 2008 Schedule has been published, **we are constantly updating it**, Watch your department / **company Mailings for Updates and New Classes**. We will also **update our Website with new additions as they come along.**
- ☛ **WE HAVE RECEIVED VERY LITTLE IF ANY IMPUT regarding next years classes. We will proceed to develop a class schedule for next year. As it stands now, we may have a several openings in the schedule to respond to needs and opportunities as the year evolves.**
 - One of the classes we are working on is a two day course from SafeIR. It is titled Tactical Thermal Imaging Training for Firefighters. This well respected company (they have presented at FDIC; some members from local departments have attended their presentations and speak highly of them). The class would be product specific to MSA Thermal Imaging Cameras (this company is recognized by MSA to present this training). The cost for this course is \$3000.00 your Fire School is working on grants to fund this program. – This Class and the efforts to bring it here to you in York County are the direct result of an e-mail requesting some additional training in Thermal Imaging.

Burn Building:

- ☛ The Burn Building is completed. Code Administrators has inspected the building and a certificate of occupancy has been issued. Inspector Ken Campbell approved the building's General Final Inspection. The cure burns, which are a prescribed burn from the tile manufacture, were conducted as scheduled With the aid of Station 24, 89, 99 and 62
- ☛ The Structural Burn Session was conducted as scheduled with very positive results, The instructors under the supervision of Lead Instructor Daniel Hoff were all very pleased with the performance of the new building, its safety and the training opportunities it presents us
- ☛ SCHEDULING THE NEW BUILDING, as our local use policy has not been adopted as of yet, the BURN BUILDING will NOT be scheduled for any company drills involving live fire. At the present time ONLY recognized courses which adhere to the Pa State Fire Academy guide lines and Policies will be scheduled. If your department would like to host a state course with live fire training please contact me so that I can reserve the building and assist you with scheduling the course.

ATR: John Sanford: There were 0 calls for the month. Some took advantage of the Confined Space Rescue class as a refresher earlier this month.

Haz-Mat : Tom Graybill: There was a meeting last Thursday with Kay and OEM and line officer. At that time, there was a resignation from Scott Barnett. Tom introduced the new Haz Mat 911 Chief, Bob Boeckel. One goal they are working on is reconfiguring the line officer positions.

FIRE POLICE: James Robertson: Elections are to be next Monday, at North York (Sta. 25).

RESCUE SPECS COMMITTEE: Joe Yahnke: Josh handed out several handouts and discussed them. He discussed the rescue specs and the committee's recommendations that were made. The committee consists of: Josh Young, John Sanford, Tony Myers, Dale Richardson, & Joe Stevens. The committee recommended just the minimum standards for Rescue trucks to be certified for the county. Next month, Josh will discuss and review the recommendations for the minimum standards for the Heavy Rescue trucks. Josh says review the Rescue specs, and next month we can maybe vote on them. It was also discussed regarding Water Rescue designations. The committee made two designations: a boat and a utility/service. A boat is defined as a boat, and a utility/service is a piece used to pull or haul the boat and/or equipment for the boat (example: PPE, rope, gear, etc.).

RIT COMMITTEES: Dan Hoff: No Report

FIRE SCHOOL COMMITTEE: Tony Myers: Progress is being made. They are working with the Board of Governors.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The bills were presented. A motion was made to pay the bills. 1st: John Fornadell 2nd: Chief Shank Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bob Bowman stated that he has a little information regarding the tax credit in state of PA. He downloaded 2 tax forms. They will need to be signed off by your President of Chief. There is a limited amount, so no one is guaranteed to receive the credit. Bob suggests that you you're your taxes early if you want to try and get the credit.

Chief Buffington wanted to say thanks to Chief Shank for ALL of his efforts and the grief in dealing with the radio system and its issues. Chief Shank wanted to extend that thanks to the whole radio committee.

President Yahnke stated that he received a request from Chief Senft that the Wilkes-Barre Fire Department was found in violation of fundraising laws. Make sure you have your 990 forms filled out for Charitable Fundraising through the state.

Shank wanted to remind everyone that if you want to run for an office to see or speak with: Chief Shank: r.shank@mantwp.com, Rick Witten: ffsgtfd@yahoo.com, or Scott Henry: chief35-1@firehousemail.com.

Chief Senft mentioned that we have a facility here at our use to train in, and we should take advantage of that opportunity. We could use some input if you are looking for some specific classes.

It was asked when are we going to be able to stop carrying our Minitor pagers. **DON'T STOP USING THEM.** Once it is decided, everyone will know through a mass e-mail.

REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION:

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for 7:30 pm on Monday, December 15th, 2008, at the York County Fire School.

Motion was made by Bob Bowman to adjourn the meeting. 2nd: Tony Myers. Motion Passed

Sincerely,

Heather Marsteller

Heather Marsteller
Recording Secretary