

LANCASTER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION, INC.
DECEMBER 2017 MEETING MINUTES

President Dave Gribble called the quarterly meeting of the Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. to order at 20:05 hours on December 13, 2017, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests / Presentations – Allen Fowler from UGI Corporation presented an hour-long awareness training prior to the start of the meeting for our membership. Allen’s program focuses on increasing safety education of first responders and UGI employees. This program can also be brought to local fire stations for regional training opportunities. More information on this class can be found at www.ugi.com/firstresponder or by email at firstresponse@ugi.com. Allen also spoke about the opportunity to earn \$500 for your fire company by posting safety messages about “Call 8-1-1 Before you Dig”, under Pennsylvania’s PA One Call program.

Previous Meeting Minutes – A motion was made by Nelson Dagen to approve the Minutes of the September 2017 meeting; seconded by Duane Hagegans and approved.

Secretary Report – No report.

Law / Legislative - Ernie Rojahn reported that Federal SAFER grant has not been renewed yet, meaning that it could expire by the end of the year. Senate has passed its support for it, but it hasn’t made it through the House yet. An update to the former SR60 program will begin in January, called SR6. Only about ½ to 1/3 of the SR60 topics have been addressed. The committee on the new project is listed in the current PA Fireman. The money allotted to the Firemen’s Relief funds this year was \$5 million lower than last year, the lowest in 13 years. There is still a push for more online training for basic fire training classes. The State Commissioners Office, under Kraig Herman, has started a program to help educate senior citizens, specifically retirement communities, about fire safety.

Fire Marshal – The two local PA State Police Fire Marshals, Trooper Ryan Gehman and Trooper Jeff Purcell were present. Trooper Gehman spoke about the work load currently placed upon the three fire marshals in this region, but commented that they will be adding a fourth fire marshal by February / March. In addition to Lancaster and Chester counties, they will start having responsibility for fire investigations in York County soon. Trooper Gehman asked for patience by the fire chiefs for their response times, which will depend on the fire marshal who is on call and whether they are currently on another call elsewhere.

LCWC / Communications – Matt Shenk reported the following:

- Touch 2 will begin on January 8, 2018. The code plugs have been built and reviewed. The vendors are prepared for their work. There was an encryption issue which appears to be resolved. They will be starting in the southern end of the county and working north.
- Please let Matt know if your agency’s point of contact has changed. The vendors will be calling to schedule an appointment and it is important that all the radios are available due to the vendor performing preventative maintenance on the radios while programming.

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- There is a new trouble reporting system on the LCWC website (resources>forms>LCWC radio report) that has been developed and is available 24/7. It is an online form that will automatically be sent to various LCWC staff members. This is so the radio technicians can identify problems in a timely manner to assist in determining the source of the problem.
- York County has agreed to have RELM radios on their system. RELM will join Motorola and Harris. Radios must be Phase 2 compliant. Please send Matt an email if agencies have an interest. In 2018, Matt will be working with Chester County on similar issues.
- Preventative maintenance was performed on the low band paging bases within the past two weeks. There is an intermittent issue with 33.90 paging at the Millersville and Courthouse bases. The Technicians have been investigating and continue to track these occurrences.
- Matt Shenk's email is mshenk@lcwc911.us.

Operations Manager Jeff Garner reported that Troy Hatfield, the LCWC fire support point of contact, will be retiring at the end of the month. Agencies were reminded to continue to use the fire support email (firesupport@lcwc911.us) as other support staff members will be filling in until a replacement is in place.

In response to the Fire Advisory Board report, Director Mike Weaver reported that there may be a possibility of having tone/voice paging on the P25 system with a Unication pager. This will be determined by the spring of 2018 when Unication has promised a response to LCWC's query about the technical issues. Mike also stated that the commissioners are aware of this possibility and they are also aware that the fire service would like to have tone/voice paging.

LCWC does not oppose a letter from the LCFCA to the commissioners regarding tone/voice paging; however, LCWC recommends the timing of the letter to be in line with the technical issues that are being investigated by Unication.

Lancaster County Emergency Management – Randy Gockley advised that he will be meeting with a representative from PPL and the issue that recently took place in New Holland; it was delayed due to an issue with finding the correct point of contact at PPL.

Randy will also have a meeting with PSP on January 4th relating to a concern of theirs about fire chiefs requesting tow trucks at accident scenes prior to their arrival. PSP has contracts in place with local towing companies and an on-call list, so they are expected to honor those arrangements.

LEMA is working to redo the mass casualty incident plan, specifically a plan to prepare for a higher number of victims.

An active shooter incident will now add fire company response to the EMS dispatch.

Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center – Todd Kirkpatrick reported the following:

- 2017 was a good year in terms of student and class numbers.
- The props are now winterized.
- The Fire Chief will be able to sign Waivers and Use Agreements for the facility on behalf of all his members.

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- EVOG is now known as EVOT, which now requires an instruction manual, which adds to the price of the class. It is still 16 hours, but now the certificate states which type of vehicle was used in the driving course.
- The annual Chiefs Association training weekend is still light on registrations. A reminder that the Sunday session was added due to a request that asked for the ability for more officers from one company to take the class without stripping the first due. The registration will be open to out of county students soon. The weekend will also include a Friday night class; more information and times will be announced soon.
- The 2018 LCPSTC schedule is on the website now.
- Haz Mat refreshers can be scheduled through Todd and are eligible for funding through the grant program.
- He is also looking to schedule an evening / weekend class of ICS 300 & 400 due to a request.
- The Training Center will also be hosting "Saving Your Own" class on January 25, 2018 from 19:00-20:30 hours.
- Some props will need to be replaced in coming years, adding to the annual budget.
- Director Elmer will be retiring on February 16th.

Lancaster County Fireman's Association – No report.

SAFER Grant – Duane Hagelgans reported that we are close to finally getting reimbursed. There are a few more adjustments being made to make sure our expenses match up to the grant narrative. We also plan to amend the grant narrative to include radio advertising instead of television commercials to get more air time and duration of the ads.

Apparatus Reviews – Engine 69-2 was reviewed recently.

Standards Committee – No report.

Golf Committee – No report.

EAST Committee – No report.

Radio Advisory Committee - Dean Gantz informed the membership that they will be meeting every month. The survey they sent to the fire chiefs asking for input showed that voice paging was the #1 priority right now. Switching voice paging from low band to the former police Channel A can be done, but it will be a lot of work and costly. The leadership at LCWC has informed the County Commissioners that the fire service wishes to remain with voice paging. The Commissioners have requested a list of what needs to be done to switch voice paging. Dean asked for the membership's support to draft a letter to the County Commissioners stating our position to remain with voice paging. This will be discussed under New Business.

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Unfinished Business – None that wasn't addressed earlier in the meeting.

New Business – Tracy Tomlinson made a motion for the Radio Advisory Committee to write a letter to the County Commissioners from the Fire Advisory Committee, to be signed by the Fire Chiefs, stating our need to stay with voice paging. The motion was seconded by Earl Good and passed unanimously.

The 2018 meeting dates will be March 14th, June 13th, September 12th, and December 12th.

Treasurer's Report - Treasurer Rick Harrison reported the following: two checks were written, one to Incite CPA for our annual non-profit filing for \$195.00 and the other to LCPSTC for \$315 for food from the September meeting. The Checking account has \$7,552.05 in it and the Savings Account has \$63,507.33 for a total of \$71,509.38. We also have about \$18,500 in outstanding reimbursement from the SAFER grant that should be coming soon.

Tracy Tomlinson made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented; seconded by Nelson Dagen and passed.

Good of the Order – Duane Hagelgans stated that Millersville University will be hosting a leadership training class with a Navy Seal as the honored guest on February 3rd.

Roll Call - Roll call showed (47) in attendance with (17) Fire Chiefs, (6) Deputy Chiefs, (7) Assistant Chiefs, (10) Past Chiefs and (7) Guests, representing 25 fire departments.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 19:30 hours at the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 21:15 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane Ober
Secretary
Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Assn. Inc.
December 27, 2017