

LANCASTER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION, INC.
DECEMBER 2019 MEETING MINUTES

President Dave Gribble called the quarterly meeting of the Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. to order at 19:00 hours on December 11, 2019, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Previous Meeting Minutes – The September 2019 Minutes were distributed via email; no corrections or additions were needed. They were approved as written.

Secretary Report – No report.

Law / Legislative - Ernie Rojahn reported that PFESI just held their annual conference in Harrisburg last month. The Firemen's Association of the State of PA (FASP) was able to secure a SAFER grant for Recruitment and Retention and will be offering \$5,000 grants to member companies after January 1, 2020. Ernie spoke of a recent article in the PA Fireman about the Bucks County Fire Chiefs Assn. doing research about the Foreign Fire Tax fund, comparing income and loss in the past decade; municipal pension funds are seeing higher contributions while the volunteer firemen relief associations have seen large decreases.

Fire Marshal – No report.

LCWC / Communications – Jeff Garner spoke about text and alpha-numeric page testing that was done recently. It did not work as planned, so more testing will take place. He also informed everyone of a recent CAD upgrade that will permit certain addresses to be flagged in the CAD, if past safety issues have occurred at that property. This will increase first responder safety, specifically for police officers, but will also be useful for EMS and fire. LCWC is working to create the parameters and the process to add addresses, which will create an alert in the WebCAD. They are hoping to go live in January or February.

Matt Shenk reminded everyone that low-band paging will cease at the end of 2020. He encouraged everyone to start planning now for changing their paging needs, house siren alerts, etc. If any fire department needs help or has any questions, please contact Matt. Also, with it being election time, please make sure your fire company provides Matt (and LCWC) with an updated Point of Contact for your agency so that any information relating to the fire radio system is getting to the right person.

Lancaster County Emergency Management – Phil Colvin gave an update on the Foam Task Force. Two trailers were returned to the Task Force from companies who no longer wish to participate in it. Stevens and Smokestown Fire Companies have requested to house the foam trailers and will receive training on their use soon. Until the training is completed, these trailers will remain out of service. Lafayette Fire Company is the third company in the Foam Task Force, and still operates their foam trailer.

Phil also shared that the South Central Task Force is reviewing the local resources in the region and how to best utilize them. The funds to support them are declining, which could lead to the fire companies who operate them to be responsible to maintain them. The resources are also being studied to see how much they are being used.

Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center – Ken Weber reports that the Training Center has been very busy, with a lot of use. He advised everyone that the schedule is filling up quickly, so do not delay if you have training needs in mind.

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Todd Kirkpatrick reported that the recent LCPSTC Foundation training with Chief Duggan went very well, with a good turnout. Todd also stated that it's been a very good year at the Training Center. They were able to provide 18 certification tests, involving 152 candidates. They just recently piloted a Fire Officer 1 program, which involved a lot of work for Ken to make it happen. Todd also reported that the propane vaporizer is down for repairs, which affects the outside burn props. It will cost \$76,000 to repair and Todd thanked the LCFA for their help with funding towards this repair cost. He hopes to have it back in service by the Spring.

Lancaster County Fireman's Association – Randy Gockley shared that the LCFA has agreed to donate \$50,000 annually to the LCPSTC Foundation, in addition to their \$15,000 towards fire department consumables during training activities, and \$65,000 that they reimburse Lancaster County for their funding of the Fire Services Coordinator position. This is a total of \$130,000 per year that the LCFA contributes to the Training Center operations.

Randy also said the LCFA is trying to get the Pequea Lane burn building ready for use by the Spring. They just recently purchased an air compressor / fill station for \$80,000 at Pequea Lane. LCPSTC will provide the personnel to assist with the fire training. The LCFA's goal is to provide all training at Pequea Lane at no cost.

Randy informed everyone that Ernie Rojahn is no longer driving and needs assistance getting to fire service events in the state. If anyone can help Ernie, it would be greatly appreciated.

Golf Committee – Next year's tournament will be July 17, 2020 at Foxchase. The committee is seeking sponsors for the 2020 tournament.

EAST Committee – No report.

Radio Advisory Committee - Dean Gantz Jr. reported that the committee will not pursue financial aid from the County Commissioners for the new pagers because he has been told they will not support it. Dean also reported that the T-Band frequencies could still possibly be moved, even though the FCC is not interested in doing so. The IAFC would like all fire companies to write their US Senators and Congressmen asking for their support to prevent the auctioning of T-Band, and to preserve it for public safety. Dean will search for the form letter and make sure it is sent to our email group for the fire companies to do so.

SAFER Grant – Duane Hagelgans reported that the SAFER grant has now ended. In the three years of the grant, 116 applicants submitted information to join Lancaster County fire companies, including 36 in 2019. The website will continue, and information will be passed on as it is received. Part of closing out the grant will be getting audited for our efforts. Therefore, we plan to send a survey soon to the fire companies to find out more about the applicants who applied, as well as reaching out to the applicants for more information.

Training – Chief Scott Little reported that they had 87 attendees at the training in September, representing five counties. The committee met last week and are planning the 2020 training weekend, which seems like it will be a one-day event, with multiple classes throughout the day.

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Unfinished Business – No unfinished business.

New Business – Eric Bachman was appointed as the Chiefs Assn. representative to the LCPSTC Foundation Advisory Board, with Rick Kane as the alternate.

The 2020 meeting dates are March 11th, June 10th, September 9th and December 9th.

Randy Gockley asked for the Chiefs Association support of the Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute. He stated that the PFESI relies on donation and sponsors to fund their program, which all of us greatly benefit from. They are led by Jerry Ozog, who is consistently in Harrisburg, lobbying on behalf of the fire service by meeting with elected officials. Randy made a motion for the Chiefs Assn. to donate \$1,500 to PFESI; seconded by Bill Hall and approved. It was also discussed that we have not paid our membership to PFESI yet either.

Treasurer's Report – Secretary Ober read the Treasurer's report: starting balance in the checking account was \$51,135.95, with expenses of \$12,388 related to the SAFER grant, approx. \$8,500 towards the training held in September, and \$85 for food at the September meeting. Income for the past quarter included \$4,250 from FEMA for grant reimbursement and \$2,700 for training registrations. The ending balance in the checking, as of December 9, 2019 is \$38,367.78, with \$63,722.42 in the money market account, for a total of \$102,090.20 in our accounts.

Open Discussion – Brett Fassnacht updated everyone of recent apparatus reviews that took place, including Rescue and Engine 80, Engine 62-2, Engine 57-4, Tanker 34, and Engine 26-1.

Brett gave an update to changes being made to existing apparatus standards, which will be presented in the future.

Next Brett spoke about the idea of a "TAC" unit designation, to replace the former "Engine 5" designation that only existed with Stations 57 & 89, both of whom have switched their units to "Brush". The committee is working to finalize a checklist of required equipment, which is different than a Brush unit. Brett reviewed the naming of this type of unit in neighboring counties (TAC, Attack, and Mini-Pumper) and reviewed the draft standard of equipment for a TAC, compared to the Brush unit. A short discussion was held on this topic before Scott Little made a motion to approve the TAC radio call sign; seconded by Duane Hagelgans and approved. The standard for the required equipment will be brought up at the March Chiefs Assn. meeting.

Brett also advised everyone that a UTV Standard is being reviewed by LCWC right now.

Lastly, Brett asked for the wishes of the members concerning the unit call sign of "Hose". We currently do not have any units with this call sign and do not anticipate that we will have any in the future. Mason Brandt made a motion to remove the Hose unit call sign and standard; seconded by Stefan Kuenzli and approved.

President Gribble pointed out that the Standards Committee will meet to review each standard, looking at the minimum equipment required, so that new apparatus being placed in service can be reviewed and compared to the standards. New apparatus being placed in service will be shared with everyone, through the email group and/or the Chiefs Assn. website and Facebook page.

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Good of the Order – Duane Hagelgans advised that Millersville University will host an active shooter exercise in May 2020. They will be training on the use of the Rescue Task Force model. He invited everyone to participate in the training that will take place over the next 4-5 months, most which will occur during weekdays.

Randy Gockley spoke about the County's Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) program. He said they have 80 members, including 40 trained in mental health. The team is always looking for more peer volunteers, in which training will be provided. Randy also pointed out that the CISM team isn't just for major incidents; one-on-one counseling is also available. First responder suicide is a major concern nationwide and bringing an awareness training program in 2020 is being researched. Ann Weller is LCWC's point of contact for our County's CISM team.

Randy Gockley also asked Mike Weaver to confirm the Commissioners' decision to give pay raises to the staff at LCWC and thanked Mike and his employees for the great work that they do.

Roll Call - Roll call showed (53) in attendance with (14) Fire Chiefs, (8) Deputy Chiefs, (9) Assistant Chiefs, (12) Past Chiefs and (10) Guests, representing 23 fire departments.

The next meeting will be on March 11, 2020, beginning at 7:00pm, at the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:10.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane Ober
Secretary
Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Assn. Inc.
December 15, 2019