

LANCASTER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION, INC.
SEPTEMBER 2015 MEETING MINUTES

President Scott Ryno called the quarterly meeting of the Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. to order at 19:30 hours on September 9, 2015, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests / Presentations

The only guest for the evening was Mike Delpazzo from the Lancaster County Fire Police Task Force. Mike highlighted the point that local fire police numbers are down and that the municipalities must become aware of this. He also explained that the fire police are in need of training, equipment and support by their fire companies. Mike also shared that there will be a new Basic Fire Police class that debuts next month. Mike ended by saying that he is working hard to revitalize the number of fire police in the county.

Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the June 2015 meeting were approved as presented.

Secretary Report

No report.

Law / Legislative

Ernie Rojahn spoke reminded everyone that the requirements for fire training is established at the local level. Ernie reminded everyone that the state grant program is open from Sept. 8th through October 22nd. Lastly, Ernie spoke about the \$5,000 grants that are available from the state for recruitment and retention.

Fire Marshal

No report; none present.

LCWC / Communications

Rick Harrison spoke about the differences between Emergency Reporting and Firehouse and how it affects LCWC. At this point, LCWC cannot collect data from local companies who are using Emergency Reporting.

Mike Weaver stated that Kenwood radios are being tested and pricing options being determined.

They are working to upgrade the radio system software with Arinc. We are currently not using the current edition; we are one version behind.

As far as the interference issue, there is a written plan to fix it. We will be changing the receiving frequencies. Every radio on the system must be touched to be reprogrammed; the cost will be paid by the County. All of the towers will also need to be reprogrammed. This is scheduled to be completed by December 11th. At the beginning of the year, there will be another touch of the radios to clean it up again. The radio interference problem must be resolved before they will begin dealing with any other issue. Then, they will deal with coverage issues, including a power boost and antenna positions.

In the event of interference, the fallback position is to use the Simplex channel on the fireground. The interference mostly involves the portables, so use your mobiles as much as possible. LCWC is also trying to increase the usability of UTAC. UCall 40 is a monitored channel by LCWC.

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Mike explained that they are working to get our system onto the York County system. They are waiting on Tait to get connected with Dauphin County. A direct interface will be used with Chester County once they get up and running. There is no progress with Lebanon County yet.

Training is still be offered to any fire department on the new radios – contact Matt Shenk at LCWC to set up the training.

They are aware of concerns about the some speaker mic problems with Relm portables.

More concerns were expressed about alpha-paging, including safety issues. Mike stated he would like to stay with voice paging. They have a design for VHF paging, but it will include an additional cost. Right now, the low band paging is working as well as it can due to recent repairs. Chief Larry Martin asked if LCWC could produce an Action Plan for a phase-in timeline for VHF paging.

Rick Harrison stated he will send out a sample ordinance for signal boosters to be used in buildings.

Rick also shared that they are still trying to find ways to improve the speed of text paging.

Rick advised that unit announcements on Dispatch channels will begin within the next few days.

Lancaster County Emergency Management

Randy Gockley reported that so far, no requests have been made for fire department assistance during the Pope's visit to Philadelphia. There have been requests made for EMS / law enforcement help.

Randy reminded everyone that Eric Bachman has training available for crude oil response plans. Please contact Eric for more information.

Lastly, Randy advised that he does not have any additional information relating to the avian flu briefing. When he gets additional info, he will pass it on to us.

Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center

Craig Elmer reported that Dave Gribble is leaving as the fire services training coordinator. Dave will continue to work at LCPSTC until his replacement is found. They are currently taking applications and will begin the interviews in late October.

The 9-11 ceremony will begin at 9:30 at the Training Center.

There is a Haz Mat Technician program coming up soon, that includes certification.

Lancaster County Fireman's Association

No report.

South Central Terrorism Task Force

No Report

Apparatus Reviews

Engine 51-2 was reviewed.

Standards Committee

No Report

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Golf Committee

The 2015 golf tournament was held July 24th and was very successful. We have a profit of just under \$10,000. There was a total of \$24,000 in income, with expenses of \$14,723. Next year's tournament will be Friday, July 22, 2016.

EAST Committee

Additional badge covers and white gloves have been purchased. The large flags were also cleaned by Classic Drycleaners in Harrisburg.

Unfinished Business

Bill Hall spoke about the recruitment and retention campaign committee that we formed at the June meeting. We met with the LCFA to request support of the project with funding and there has not been any decision made by them yet. The goal is to hold a county-wide recruitment day on Jan. 23, 2016.

New Business

No new business.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Rick Harrison reported \$48,358.26 in the savings account and \$30,857.97 in the checking account, for a total of \$79,216.23. Rick will be transferring \$15,000 to the savings account after the meeting.

Good of the Order

No Report.

Roll Call

Roll call showed (52) in attendance with (21) Fire Chiefs, (11) Deputy Chiefs, (9) Assistant Chiefs, (6) Past Chiefs and (5) Guests, representing 32 fire departments.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 9, 2015 at 19:30 hours at the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center.

With no other business, Bill Hall made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ron Oettel and passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Duane Ober
Secretary
Lancaster County Fire Chief's Association, Inc.

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