

LANCASTER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION, INC.
DECEMBER 14, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

President Scott Little called the quarterly meeting of the Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. to order at 19:00 hours on December 14, 2022.

Guests – Prior to the start of the meeting, those in attendance watched the pre-recorded videos made by the Radio Advisory Committee about upcoming changes in radio communications and policies. Links to these videos can be found on our website, www.lancofirechiefs.org, or by searching for them on YouTube.

After the videos, Dre Mihaylo from First Due (Fire and EMS records management software company), met with our membership virtually to review the upcoming change being made by the PA State Fire Commissioner's Office. A switch from Emergency Reporting for NFIRS to First Due is being reviewed to be the chosen replacement. Dre asked each fire company to take time to answer a brief questionnaire online at www.firstdue.com/pa. Dre advised that First Due is now working with fire companies who are being pro-active to make the change early. The Emergency Reporting contract with the State ends on June 30, 2023. It is not a requirement to stop using Emergency Reporting though, which is converting to the ESO format, but users will start paying for the service after 6/30/23. First Due will offer NFIRS to all fire companies for free under the state contract and fire companies can add any of their additional modules for a cost. Previous records with Emergency Reporting will be migrated over, but it takes an average of 6-12 weeks for the transition to occur. First Due is also working to create CAD links, just as Emergency Reporting currently offers.

First Due will be offering a virtual demonstration on December 29th at 6pm. A link to participate will be sent to the membership. A virtual training will be offered in January and an in-person training will be offered in February.

After the start of the meeting, Dr. Michael Reihart from Penn State Health Lancaster Medical Center was present to speak about their program in which they will be sending physicians to incidents. This will be a way to provide education for EMS providers as an additional resource in the field. The program will begin in the Life Lion EMS district (EMS Station 77). There will not be a charge for their services, and it will be provided 24/7. This also provides their physicians with pre-hospital care experience.

Lastly, Todd Roy, President and Founder of the Conestoga River Club was present to speak about his non-profit watershed group. They are working to identify the 14 access points by increasing signs along the waterway for boaters and first responders. They want to increase boater safety by providing more education and are looking to create training opportunities for swift water rescues. Todd can be reached at president@conestogariverclub.org.

Previous Meeting Minutes – Ben Herskowitz made a motion to accept the September 2022 Meeting Minutes as presented; seconded by Brett Fassnacht and approved.

Secretary Report – The Secretary reported that our next dues cycle is 2023-2024 and the dues notices will be emailed to the membership after the start of the year. The meeting schedule for 2023 is March 8th, June 14th, September 13th, and December 13th.

Law / Legislative – No report.

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PSP Fire Marshal – President Little reminded the chiefs to call the PSP Lancaster barracks directly at 717-299-7650 when you need to speak to a fire marshal. Secretary Ober advised there is discussion among the fire marshal division about responding to all incidents that are reported to them, not just recording a “notification”.

LCWC / Communications – Matt Shenk requested all fire chiefs provide an updated chief officer list to LCWC after this year’s fire company elections. He also requested that any changes to box alarms or additional requests for assistance relating to the fire service be sent to firesupport@lcwc911.us.

Lancaster County Emergency Management – Brett Fassnacht reported that the Training Center and LEMA are now functioning as one department. A new LEMA Duty Officer cell phone number will be provided to the chiefs soon. LEMA is working with the Foam Task Force to replace foam supplies. LEMA is working with the Haz Mat 2 to re-establish the Decon Strike Team. LEMA will be requesting information from the county’s water rescue teams to update the resource list.

Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center – Ken Weber thanked the Chiefs Association for their continued support of the training center, most recently with the purchase of a new thermal imaging camera. Ken reviewed the need for each student to have their own email address when registering for training classes. Ken spoke about the issues with providing training classes due to the limited number of instructors available. The State Fire Academy has approved off-site certification locations for specific classes, most of which are classroom based. New legislation now allows 17-year-old firefighters to do live fire training, but it has not yet been implemented at the Training Center due to the need to verifying requirements. A recent EMS training survey showed that the fire service is viewing Emergency Medical Responder as the most sought-after medical training, with a blended format of instruction.

Todd Kirkpatrick thanked the LCFA for the support of the Training Center by funding the purchase of a new Pierce pumper.

Lancaster County Fireman’s Association – Larry Miller gave an update on Fire Expo 2023, which will take place on May 19 & 20. There are many changes planned, including live demonstrations of equipment, speaking programs by utility companies, vendors, etc., and a daily afternoon program by nationally known fire service leaders. More volunteers will be needed to help at Expo. An online sign-up and meeting ahead of the Expo will be planned. Parking for Expo will remain at \$10 per vehicle.

Randy Gockley stated that the Expo committee is also looking for additional vendors for the show. Randy spoke about the new Pierce pumper that was purchased for the Training Center at a cost of \$585,000. The new pumper will be at Expo, and from Expo until September, Glick will use it as a demo unit. It should be ready for the Training Center in September. Randy also advised that they are working to make the Pequea Lane training facility more user-friendly. Several firefighters have been working with the LCFA to accomplish this goal. The LCFA will be using part-time employees to manage the facility. Randy stated that the LCFA is looking at partnering with local fire companies which are hosting cadet programs at their fire stations, such as Lafayette, Christiana, and Garden Spot. They are also considering opportunities to support the CTC program at the Training Center.

EAST Committee – No report.

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Golf Tournament – Chairman Kurt Gehman stated that some additional funds were owed to Foxchase Golf Course, due to an error with the original bill. The 2023 tournament will be July 21st, and the committee is evaluating other golf courses as options, in addition to Foxchase.

Leadership Development (Training) Committee – No report.

Radio Advisory Committee – Dean Gantz Jr. reported on the videos that were shown earlier. He also stated there have been concerns with fire police that need to be discussed within the committee. He shared the committee is working with LCWC leaders to address items related to the CAD. Another topic that was brought up was about Command Staff resources; they are working on the criteria and method for dispatching, such as text only, no tone. The committee is also reviewing the Mayday Task Force for updates.

Readiness Committee – Secretary Ober stated that the committee reviewed the former Chiefs Handbook and have decided to discontinue its use and reference, since most items in it are accounted for in the new Communications Manual, or in other documents that will eventually be posted to the Chiefs Association website.

Standards Committee – Brett Fassnacht stated there was no report to give and he announced he is stepping down from the committee in 2023.

Sustainment Committee – President Little reported that representatives from the Chiefs Assn. attended the PFESI dinner in October.

Unfinished Business – Darrell Fisher gave an update on the progress of Pulse Point. The working group has approved their testing and are currently breaking apart all agencies in the coming weeks, so you can follow only the fire companies and EMS agencies that you want to. Agencies should see communications by the new year. Darrell is the main point of contact and can be reached at chief37@newhollandambulance.com.

New Business – The elections for the 2023-2024 Chiefs Association Officers took place with Secretary Ober casting a ballot in support of the uncontested candidates. The officers for 2023-2024 will be: President – Scott Little; First Vice-President – Mason Brandt; Second Vice-President – Dean Gantz Jr.; Secretary – Duane Ober; Treasurer – Rick Harrison; and Directors – Craig Rhineer Jr. and Darryl Keiser. Phil Colvin assisted with swearing in of the new officers.

Secretary Ober informed the membership that the Chiefs Association has finally received its Sales Tax Exemption certificate.

President Little appointed Duane Hagelgans and Phil Colvin to serve as the Chiefs Association representatives to the Training Center Foundation Board. He also appointed Mason Brandt as the Chiefs Association's delegate to the Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute, with Duane Ober as the alternate.

President Little requested anyone who would like to serve on a committee to please contact him.

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Treasurer's Report – Rick Harrison read the Treasurer's Report – Checking Account balance is \$23,960.34 and the Money Market has a balance of \$83,815.77, for a total of \$107,776.11. Recent payments included \$1,168 to Foxchase Golf Course, \$405 to Charis Insurance for Treasurer bonding, \$7,198 to the Training Center Foundation for the thermal imaging camera, \$600 to the Training Center for the food for the September Chiefs Association meeting, and \$725 to Insite CPAs for 2021 tax preparation. Income included \$40.37 from Amazon Smile, and \$2.14 in Money Market interest. Josh Pfeiffer made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report; seconded by Ben Herskowitz and approved.

Open Discussion – An open discussion was held about the Radio Advisory Committee videos that were shown earlier in the evening. The committee pointed out that they are working to create an open process, with Questions and Answers being shown on the Chiefs Assn. website (lancofirechiefs.org). To accomplish some of the goals, CAD updates are needed, and requests to the CAD vendor have been submitted. Other discussions included the ability to add units to incidents, specifically chief officers or duty officers; updates to notifying utility companies; 20-minute timers; handling of transfers during working incidents; emergency procedures and emergency alerts; and the Communication Manual, which is located on the Chiefs website, and still in draft form.

Good of the Order – President Little asked for input about providing meals prior to the Chiefs Association meetings. The consensus supported it; an RSVP survey will continue to be used to order enough meals.

Secretary Ober gave an example of costs for fire companies wishing to convert to ESO from Emergency Reporting.

Roll Call – Roll call showed (76) in attendance with (23) Fire Chiefs, (13) Deputy Chiefs, (12) Assistant Chiefs, (18) Past Chiefs and (10) Guests, representing 46 fire companies.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at 7pm, at the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane Ober
Secretary
Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Assn. Inc.
December 26, 2022