

LANCASTER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION, INC.
MARCH 13, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

1st Vice-President Mason Brandt called the quarterly meeting of the Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. to order at 19:00 hours on March 13, 2024.

Guests – There were no guests at this meeting.

Previous Meeting Minutes – Bill Hall made a motion to accept the December 2023 Meeting Minutes as presented; seconded by Rick Harrison and approved.

Secretary Report – No report.

Treasurer's Report – Treasurer Harrison read the Treasurer's Report – Checking Account balance is \$7,125.78 and the Money Market has a balance of \$98,827.00, for a total of \$105,952.78. Recent payments since the December meeting include \$1,359 to the Lancaster County CTC Foundation for 10 tech rescue helmets; \$405 to Charis Insurance for Treasurer bonding; \$460 to LCPSTC for food at the December meeting; and \$4,611.40 to Five Alarm Leadership LLC for the Rick Lasky Training.

Law / Legislative – Mason Brandt reminded everyone to watch for emails passed on from PFESI about important bills being discussed at the state level.

PSP Fire Marshal – No report.

LCWC / Communications – Ann Weller reported that they continue to have WebCAD mapping issues, and they are working with the vendor to resolve the problem.

Ann spoke about the form to use for adding WebCAD users, which is located on their website. Ann also shared that there will be an annual form that the fire chiefs must sign to authorize anyone from their agency who has access to the WebCAD. This is for cyber-security reasons, as well as accountability to remove non-active users.

Ann shared that with the promotion of Sara Sloat to Operations Manager, that Andrew Lavin has been promoted to Assistant Operations Manager, and J.C. Woerth has replaced Julia Snavelly as the Fire Support Technician.

Matt Shenk gave an update on the use of ProQA and the changes that LCWC have made to write their own Fire and EMS protocols, which still needs PEMA approval. For fire units, the dispatcher will just list comments, as they used to, unless it is a medical call, which will show the additional notes.

Matt also spoke about the Active Shooter Communications Plan that LCWC has drafted with the cooperation of the Radio Advisory Committee. The purpose is geared towards Unified Command and the initial communications at such an incident. This plan has been approved by the Fire, Police, and EMS groups. Matt will send an email soon with the information, including an approximate 8-minute video. At the June 2024 Chiefs Association meeting, Matt will be presenting the video and open discussion about this topic from 6pm-7pm (prior to the start of the scheduled meeting time).

Matt advised that the Northeast radio refresh of the Tait radio system is done. They are keeping an eye on it and will be starting other regions soon.

Matt reminded all chiefs to send changes to box alarms or resource lists to FireSupport@lcwc911.us, not the individual employees.

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Lancaster County Emergency Management – Brooke Bowman, the Community Resiliency Coordinator for LEMA, spoke about the use of Regroup and how to better reach the Plain community. This would be used for weather alerts, allowing anyone to opt-in to receive severe weather notifications, including the threat of tornados and floods. She will send flyers to the membership to help spread awareness in their communities.

Ben Herskowitz advised that Joyce Fernandez is the new Technical Hazards and Radiological Preparedness Planner. She replaced Jon Beuerle, who was hired at PEMA.

Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center – Todd Kirkpatrick reported that if any fire company is using the Training Center with a third-party training company, that training company must also provide a certificate of insurance to use the facility. He also reminded everyone that the LCFA reimburses fire companies for their consumables at company-level training only.

Ken Weber reported that they are continuing to deal with the shortage of instructors. The State Fire Academy is trying to make changes to meet the training demands. The certificates that the firefighters receive for completing training classes come from the colleges, not the Training Center; he has no control over when you receive them. They are attempting to offer more online training courses whenever possible. The burn building prop upgrades will be finished soon.

Lancaster County Fireman’s Association – Steve Roy reviewed the benefits of being an LCFA member and shared a flyer with the details.

Randy Gockley reported that Fire Expo will be May 17th-18th. There will be over 230 vendors, as well as additional training opportunities and outdoor demonstrations. Randy asked if anyone is available to help to contact Tammy at the LCFA office.

Randy mentioned that the LCFA paid for \$18,000 worth of consumables at the Training Center in 2023. A vendor has been secured to inspect the burn building at Pequea Lane. HELIX has been hired to evaluate the organizational chart of the LCFA. Lastly, Randy advised that the LCFA is looking for more drivers to help tow the smoke trailer to events. This role receives payment for helping.

Randy shared that they are moving forward to renovate the office building. Some fire companies have not paid their dues yet. At this year’s election, four Board of Director spots are up for election. The next meeting is April 3rd. Randy encouraged everyone to nominate candidates for the annual awards ceremony.

Randy informed everyone that he is stepping down as the President after the election this year. He will continue to serve on the Board. The net worth of the LCFA is \$16.4 million. Lastly, Randy encouraged all fire companies to consider partnering with the LCFA if their fire company is hosting a training class.

EAST Committee – No report.

Golf Tournament – Secretary Ober read an update from Kurt Gehman that the 2024 Golf Tournament will be held at Foxchase Golf Course on Friday, July 19th. Registrations and flyers will be mailed in mid-April. ServPro has agreed to be the Commissioner sponsor again this year.

Leadership Development (Training) Committee – Secretary Ober read a note from committee member Eric Bachman: “Thank you to Jason Topper for his time coordinating transportation logistics, getting Chief Lasky to and

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from the airport. Thank you to Todd Kirkpatrick and Brian Rhodes from the Training Center for their hospitality and acquiring the food for the event. Thank you to Ben Herskowitz for completing the training certificates.” There were approximately 75 people in attendance for Chief Lasky’s presentation.

Radio Advisory Committee – Dean Gantz Jr. reported that the committee is continuing to have discussion about the drone resource. To provide clarification, “Hold in quarters” is not the same as “Recall the units”. They continue to discuss the WebCAD mapping issue with LCWC.

Standards Committee – Josh Pfeiffer reported that the new Rescue 905 was reviewed, and Engine 12-1 was reviewed and approved to change to Rescue 12.

Josh explained a draft of apparatus staffing standard will be emailed to the members soon. The committee is asking for feedback during the process, not afterwards.

Josh said there has been discussion about the need for Squad inspections. Also, Traffic Units continue to get inspected by the Lancaster County Fire Police Association, not the Chiefs Association.

Sustainment Committee – Secretary Ober reminded everyone that the Lancaster County Real Estate Tax Credit applications are due by March 31st.

Unfinished Business – The ten rescue tech helmets for the CTC program have been purchased and placed into service with the students.

New Business – Ben Herskowitz made a motion to purchase (50) \$25 gift cards to be presented to LCWC dispatchers during Telecommunicators Week in April; seconded by Josh Pfeiffer and approved.

Ben Herskowitz made a motion for the Chiefs Association to sponsor (2) \$500 scholarships for the CTC Protective Services Program; seconded by Josh Pfeiffer and approved.

Open Discussion – Keith Eshleman from Blue Rock Fire Rescue gave a presentation on the Rescue Task Force team, made up mostly of personnel from Stations 90, 64, and 20, with a few members at large. He showed photos of previous incidents and tools carried, while explaining the capabilities of the team. The team has approximately 45 members on the roster.

Rick Harrison reminded everyone about the AskRail app, available to first responders for use during emergencies involving railroads.

Good of the Order – Reminder that prior to the June meeting, beginning at 6pm will be a presentation on the Active Shooter Communication Plan. A local restoration company will be sponsoring the meal for that evening.

Roll Call – Roll call showed 52 in attendance with (21) Fire Chiefs, (6) Deputy Chiefs, (8) Assistant Chiefs, (9) Past Chiefs and (8) Guests, representing 32 fire companies.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 12, 2024, at 7pm, at the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center.

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

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Respectfully submitted,

Duane Ober, Secretary
Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Assn. Inc.
March 24, 2024