

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

President Scott Little called the quarterly meeting of the Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Association, Inc. to order at 19:10 hours on September 14, 2022.

Guests – Prior to the start of the meeting, Tracie Young-Brungard, from the Office of the State Fire Commissioner, gave a presentation. She gave updates on the office, including announcing the new State Fire Commissioner, Chas McGarvey. Per Title 35, the State Fire Commissioner is the primary representative for the fire service in PA and has a multitude of duties and responsibilities under this legislation. The OSFC has two offices, the Administrative Office in Harrisburg, and the Training Division, in Lewistown. The Harrisburg Office will be adding three additional employees to assist with Recruitment and Retention of volunteer firefighters in the state. Tracie also gave an update on the projects that are taking place right now. More information about the Office of the State Fire Commissioner can be found at www.osfc.pa.gov.

Jerry Ozog was also present to thank the Chiefs Assn. for our support of the Pennsylvania Fire and Emergency Services Institute (PFESI). He encouraged the chiefs to continue to engage with elected officials to keep them informed on current local and statewide issues. He gave updates on legislation for 17-year-old junior firefighters to take the Interior Firefighter module and the fireworks law, and how the taxes generated from the sale of fireworks are distributed in the state. He also spoke about tuition reimbursement programs and relief funding efforts. He concluded his presentation with a brief discussion on felonies and volunteer firefighters, including a quick survey that our members participated in.

Previous Meeting Minutes – Phil Colvin made a motion to accept the June 2022 Meeting Minutes as written; seconded by Mason Brandt and approved.

Secretary Report – The Secretary reported that our next dues cycle is 2023-2024 and the dues notices will not be sent until after the December meeting, to better align with fire company elections.

Law / Legislative – Mason Brandt praised the chiefs who have engaged with Senators Martin and Aument recently and encouraged everyone to create positive relationships with their elected officials. He reported that there hasn't been too much progress on the school district tax credit due to the amount of work it would take and the difficulty in managing it. He also commented on a survey that was completed in early 2022 about the number of volunteer fire service members in the county. Thirty-one (48%) fire companies responded to the survey, in which the reporting fire companies showed about 1,700 volunteers, including approximately 800 interior firefighters.

PSP Fire Marshal – President Little shared an update from the Fire Marshal division about the four fire marshals who serve Lancaster County: Trooper Gehman lives in Lancaster County, Troopers Pray and Shesko live in Chester County, and Trooper Simmers lives in York County.

LCWC / Communications – Matt Shenk reported that LCWC is recruiting dispatchers and encouraged the fire chiefs to direct anyone interested in a position to go to www.lcwc911.us for more information and to apply online.

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Lancaster County Emergency Management – Brett Fassnacht reported that LEMA will begin the County’s Hazard Mitigation Planning cycle in 2023. He also reported on new employees in LEMA: Brooke Bowman is the new Community Resilience Coordinator; Jonathan Beurle has replaced Ben Herskowitz as the Technological Hazards Specialist; Ben Herskowitz is now the Deputy Coordinator; and Zach Gibbons is the new Haz Mat Administrator, replacing Eric Bachman, who has retired.

Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center – Todd Kirkpatrick reported that the Training Center Foundation’s treasurer has moved to New Jersey, and they are looking for someone to replace him. They meet four times per year, during the day, and use online Quickbooks. If you know someone who may be interested, have them reach out to Todd.

Todd also reported that the memorial stones are back in place in front of the Training Center, with the errors corrected and updates completed. He thanked Eric Bachman for his tireless effort to see this project get completed.

The Foundation’s annual training event is December 3rd and will feature Phil Colvin speaking about his response to the collapse of the Surfside Condos in Florida, and Bill Adams from Adams County will speak about his personal experience with a fire truck roll-over accident.

Lancaster County Fireman’s Association – Randy Gockley gave a report on this year’s Fire Expo, in which attendance was around 8,000 people, down from previous years. Profit from this year’s Expo was \$348,000. Larry Miller, Chairman of the Executive Board, will be the new Fire Expo Chairman. Helix Strategies will manage Fire Expo in 2023. The LCFA is always looking for additional help with the Fire Expo Committee, as well as the other LCFA committees.

The LCFA has hired a full-time office manager, Tammy Rogers. Stephanie and Terry from the PA Fireman are also now LCFA employees. John Sweigart is the new LCFA Treasurer and Greg Leaman is the new Secretary. Randy thanked Roger and Audrey Noll and John Alexander for their many years of dedicated service to the LCFA. Randy said a letter with the announcement of the current list of officers and changes will be sent to the member companies soon.

The LCFA has increased the death benefit to \$1,000. The PA Fireman has a new format, and they hope to have it as an online publication by the start of 2023.

Randy also reported that they have formed an Engine Committee to purchase an engine for the Training Center, to replace the used apparatus. Randy is looking forward to working together with the Chiefs Association in a close and cooperative relationship. A Lancaster County Firefighters Education Foundation is being formed as a 501(c)3 entity.

EAST Committee – No report.

Golf Tournament – Chairman Kurt Gehman was not present but sent a report to be read at the meeting. He thanked everyone who was involved in recruiting players, playing, or helping at the tournament. This year’s tournament was sold-out, and made \$19,000, our best year ever.

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Leadership Development (Training) Committee – No report.

Radio Advisory Committee – Dean Gantz Jr. reported that the committee is working with LCWC to update radio procedures and guidelines. There will also be a video created by the committee and LCWC, reviewing these updates, that will be sent to the membership, as well as being shown at the December 2022 Chiefs Assn. meeting.

Readiness Committee – No report

Standards Committee – Brett Fassnacht advised that Rescue 70 was inspected and met the standards for Rescue and Engine. The new Truck 15 will be inspected soon.

Sustainment Committee – President Little reported that the Chiefs Assn. has purchased a table at the PFESI annual Conference and Dinner on Saturday, October 22nd. Secretary Ober is working to fill the eight spots.

Unfinished Business – Matt Shenk reported that Pulse Point is progressing through legal, but it was also pointed out by others that it is live now and can be downloaded as an app.

There has been no progress on the rural predetermined arrival instructions since the June meeting.

New Business – The final vote of the minimum training standard was read – 29 total votes, with 17 in favor, and 12 against. It did not receive the required 2/3 support. The topic will go back to the Standards Committee for evaluation.

LCPSTC Fire Training Coordinator Ken Weber requested the support of the Chiefs Association to purchase a new thermal imaging camera for use at the training center. He stated his goal is to buy a couple different brands and provided a cost of \$7,500 for a Flir K65 camera. Don Boyer made a motion to purchase this camera for the training center, seconded by Bryan Duquin and approved.

Instructor Bill Hall from the CTC Protective Services Program asked the Chiefs Association for support to purchase 50 pairs of firefighting gloves for his class, the largest class he has ever had. Total cost for the gloves is \$4,500. Josh Pfeiffer made a motion to purchase the gloves, seconded by Ken Barton, and approved.

President Little led the nominations for the 2023-2024 officers of the Association. The following names were the only members nominated for each office: President – Scott Little; 1st Vice-President – Mason Brandt; 2nd Vice-President – Dean Gantz Jr.; Treasurer – Rick Harrison; Secretary – Duane Ober; and two Directors – Craig Rhineer Jr. and Darryl Keiser. Ken Barton made a motion to close the nominations, seconded by Bryan Duquin and approved.

Treasurer's Report – Secretary Ober read the Treasurer's Report for Rick Harrison – Checking Account balance is \$35,015.97 and the Money Market has a balance of \$83,813.63, for a total of \$118,829.60. Recent payments included \$16,911.11 in golf tournament expenses, \$1,000 in CTC awards, \$75 for food at June meeting, \$1,200 for PFESI Dinner, and \$16.99 for website hosting. Deposits included \$13,360 from the golf tournament.

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Open Discussion – President Little stated a letter of support for upgrades at the Training Center and Radio System improvements was sent to the County Commissioners for consideration for use of the ARPA funds. A letter showing a request from 54 fire companies asking for \$25,000 each from the ARPA funds was also sent on July 7th. We are waiting to hear when it will be discussed by the County Commissioners.

Good of the Order – A brief discussion was held on the reporting of firefighter injuries to the Office of the State Fire Commissioner. Ms. Young-Brungard stated she will provide more information on the process for the fire chiefs.

President Little advised that we will have a meal prior to the December meeting while the Radio Advisory Committee shares the new training video that was discussed earlier in the meeting.

Roll Call – Roll call showed (43) in attendance with (21) Fire Chiefs, (3) Deputy Chiefs, (6) Assistant Chiefs, (9) Past Chiefs and (4) Guests, representing 24 fire companies.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, December 14, 2022, following the presentation by the Radio Advisory Committee at 6:30pm, at the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Duane Ober
Secretary
Lancaster County Fire Chiefs Assn. Inc.
September 25, 2022