



Clay County Fire Chief's Association

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 13th, 2016, 1900 hours, Barnesville Fire Department

1. Called to Order at 1903 Hours

2. Scene Safety/Traffic Control Discussion – Brian Cheney

Background – They had a discussion last month in Douglas County where a lively discussion at an incident scene between agencies prompted an open discussion about many issues that ended very positively. MSP is being dispatched from the Twin Cities now versus locally. The median cable barriers are providing access and safety issues at crash scenes. There can be some issues with EMS wanting fire and Troopers not or Troopers wanting fire to aid in traffic control until other resources are available. The biggest thing that will help is for cordial one-on-one conversations on the scene to clarify issues. We all agreed that most of us don't want to be on the interstate any longer that we have to for safety and similarly, we want to do our best to keep at least one lane of traffic moving for safety sake.

We discussed some past incidents and emphasized utilizing direct and in the future ARMER communications on-scene and discussing any issues after the incident if they arise. It also helps a lot to get a lead person from law and fire together for a face-to-face as early as possible in the incident to get a quick joint plan together.

Crash reports from the State Patrol are now bound by enough State Policies on data privacy that the reports they issue are masked and may not include all of the information necessary for billing. Please try and get all the information you need on the scene.

Please contact him if you have any issues

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3. Pipeline Drill – David Gunderson Tabled – David unable to attend

3a. Elections

PRESIDENT – Motion by Mike Stetz, Second by Dave Grommesh for Mark Empting, passed unanimously.

VICE PRESIDENT - Motion by Mike Stetz, Second by Dave Grommesh for Carlie Johnson, passed unanimously.

SECRETARY - Motion by Mike Stetz, Second by Dave Grommesh for Jeff Wallin, passed unanimously.

4. Viking Pipeline Presentation – Oneok Partners Tabled – Oneok unable to attend

5. AFG Update – Bryan Green

Completed and submitted on 1/1/2016. We had to bring the model of the radio down to something that will be more cost effective. If agencies want more expensive radios they can pay the difference. The total request is about \$857,000. The grant writer is pretty confident that we will get the grant. We should have word back by September.

We will be switching over to alpha-numeric pagers of the F-M Ambulance network that will be built out in Clay County this year. The system is operational in Cass County and works pretty well in Clay County, but more sites will be added in Clay County with the ARMER upgrades. Dilworth Fire has 10 Motorola Advisor II pagers that they are experimenting and they've been working well. They cost about \$250.

Brian Cheney said that West Central EMS may also be able to provide some matching funds to assist with equipment purchasing which may be good news for the rescue squads that can't use the AFG grant.

We will need to do some user training for everyone in the County. Some classes are available on-line on the ARMER Web Site. A few guys from CCSO and Moorhead Fire, and Charlie Johnson attended train-the-trainers so when equipment arrives we can plan end-user training in local departments.

RRRDC is working on some equipment purchasing now, and they are hoping for an additional grant in June to install new dispatch consoles this fall. Late fall we should be ordering radio equipment for local agencies.

If the grant is unsuccessful, we will try again next year.

Cass County is exploring the possibility of joining the ARMER System and building more towers. It will take some time for them to research and complete the studies.

More information will come out in a separate e-mail requesting participation on a local radio committee to address ARMER programming issues.

6. Emergency Manager Update – Bryan Green

We decided that we would like to continue to pursue the pipeline training and do some natural gas emergency training with the Moorhead Haz-Mat Team at the next meeting. A reminder to use the State Duty Officer to request the hazz-mat team.

CAER will be doing training and a dinner in Detroit Lakes later this year.

Jeff discussed how well the joint training we did in Hawley went and we discussed doing another joint training session on using NIMS and unified command at larger incidents. Bryan added that this training would be ideal when the new radios come in. We also realized that with larger incidents, having mutual aid fire officers come in and assist with command has been very helpful at some recent incident. The

primary fire agency ends up getting so involved with mitigating the initial hazard that the support functions like evacuation, logistics, rehab and other issues are overwhelming. We agreed that we can and should help each other out during larger incident, but not self-dispatch. Bryan Green has the chief officers on a Code Red so we can ask for command support without paging out whole departments.

7. Mutual Aid Agreement Amendment – Mark Empting Tabled – Rich Duysen was unavailable.

8. Chief’s Roundtable

RED CROSS – They mentioned that the smoke detector program is still available. They have had documented cases of fires that have occurred after the smoke detector program and the newly installed detector saved lives.

The American Red Cross has a nationwide initiative to partner with local fire departments to install smoke detectors in the area. Red Cross provides staff to assist, the detectors to install, all tools, and a meal at the end of the installs for the department. If interested, contact Nancy Young, Disaster Program Manager for NW MN and E ND nancy.young3@redcross.org (701) 364-1800 x2018. They will also assist with community notification ahead of time, visit with the homeowners during the install, leave fire prevention documentation and leave door hangers if people are not home to offer a scheduled install at a later date. They will also replace batteries in existing detectors.

They have also hired a new Disaster Program Manager, Jessica Kulzer.

DILWORTH – 91 Dodge grass rig for sale soon and Amanda from RRRDC will be attending the next meeting if we have radio issues.

ULEN – Nick Theis is the new Chief, and Joe Mozley is the new Asst Chief.

Meeting Adjourned at 2039 Hours - Next Meeting in Dilworth, April 13th

People in Attendance

American Red Cross – Terry Askin

Barnesville – Dave Grommesh, Michael Stetz

Clay County – Bryan Green

Dilworth – Mark Empting

Hawley – Brad Eldred, Justin Martin

MN State Patrol – Brian Cheney

Moorhead – Jeff Wallin

Sabin – Chad Byram

Ulen – Joe Mozley, Lyle Steichen, Nick Theis

Future Meeting Dates & Locations:

4/13/16 Dilworth

7/13/16 Felton

10/12/16 Glyndon

1/11/17 Hawley

4/12/17 Hitterdal

7/12/17 Moorhead

10/11/17 Sabin

1/10/18 Ulen

4/11/18 Barnesville