

Stephenson County Fire Chief's Association Inc.

MABAS Division 17

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Minutes from September 4, 2019

The monthly meeting of MABAS Division 17 was called to order by President Bruning at 1932hrs at the Winslow Community Building.

A motion to accept the Minutes from the August meeting was approved. The August Treasurer's report was approved.

Committees

- **Training:**

- Local classes were listed

- **Communications/Dispatch:**

- Mutual aid call report for August, 18 total calls.
 - 7 EMS & 1 Fire requests from within the County and 7 EMS & 3 Fire requests from outside the County.
- Lt. Ken Nesemeier from the Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Snyder & 911 Coordinator June Dillman were on hand to answer concerns about some dispatching issues that seem to be happening more frequently. Some of the issues are data/software related and others have been human error. Most of the human error issues have already been addressed and the some will be handled through additional training. One of the issues is personnel numbers, emergency/non-emergency call volume and other associated duties. Freeport Fire has a call volume of over 400 actual calls per month. The data/software issue is not as easy to solve. The dispatching software has the ability to provide data but not always in a user friendly manner. At this time over 80% of the calls to dispatch are wireless. Many of those callers are unable to give the exact location of their needs. This can add to confusion and extended dispatch times. Both 911 Centers are working to reduce errors and increase accuracy. Software changes were discussed but will need a lot of further investigation.

Represented Departments

Cedarville Fire
Dakota Fire
Davis Fire
Freeport Fire

Freeport Rural Fire
German Valley Fire
Lena Fire

Orangeville Fire
Pearl City Fire
Rock City Fire
Winslow Fire

- **TRT:**
 - Personnel are attending 3 classes this fall.
 - The next training is scheduled for Sept 21 @ Krape Park. They are planning to construct a Highline System across Yellow Creek in the park.
 - The TRT trailer is in need a home this winter. For the past few years, German Valley has allowed us to store the trailer in their station over the winter. They are in the process of purchasing a couple new vehicles that will utilize that space this winter. Anyone with ideas of suitable locations contact Coordinator Korte ASAP.
- **Equipment Replacement:**
 - Nothing new. Dan Last will review our Replacement plan and give a status update next month.
- **Maintenance:**
 - Both Tow Vehicles are due for regular service this fall including a DOT inspection.

Old Business

- The MABAS-IL Contact Information Management System (CIMS) “rebuild” is complete and will be opened up to all members in a few days. Any Chief’s that have not yet updated their profile should do so this week. If you didn’t get a renewal email let Secretary Korte know and he will check the issue at MABAS.
- The invoices for the MABAS-IL & Div 17 dues have been sent out in the spring. Treasurer Strong stated that 3 Departments are still outstanding by he has sent the check to MABAS for their portion.
- The Sheriff’s Department is handling the reporting of MABAS calls into the new system at MABAS. Thanks
- All Departments were reminded to schedule their Smokehouse usage for this fall through Deputy Chief Blair Senneff @ 235-8217

New Business

- Departments were reminded that the MABAS CBRN canisters are expiring this year and to dispose of them. The Hazmat & TRT teams will each receive a cache of 30 for their use.
- MABAS-IL has once again initiated an Exercise Grant program to help fund large scale exercises. This same grant program was used by Lena Fire last year to fund the exercise at Adkins Energy. If a Department wants to host another exercise we will be able to help out on the paperwork.
- New Box Cards have been received for review from Blackhawk, Loves Park & North Park. If your Department has an issue with an asset that is listed, contact the appropriate Fire Chief. If no issues are noted the cards will become active in about 10 days.
- The Division Credit Card has been renewed and placed in the FFD lockbox with the fuel cards.
- Chief Liggett gave an update on the Salvation Army canteen truck and support trailer. The truck is being built and not expected until next year. The trailer has been delivered to FFD Central and should be getting lettered soon. The truck will be a state asset and the trailer will be used within the Division. The trailer is capable of hauling a UTV inside the rear portion and the front can be used for rehab or a Command Post. The Salvation Army is asking if the Division could contribute to the cost of the AC unit, about \$1500. No action was taken.
- The topic of Auto Aid was brought up to be discussed with Lt. Nesemeier since he was in attendance. A lengthy discussion was held with Rock City & German Valley taking the lead. Many of the volunteer Departments are short of manpower during the day (sometimes all the

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time) and would like to benefit from this type of dispatching. One of the big questions was: Who, When, Where and Why Auto Aid would be used and is the current dispatch software capable of defining those parameters for the dispatchers. Lt. Nesemeier stated that he was not comfortable and neither were the dispatcher in making judgement calls not outlined in the software. There would have to be dispatching keys to trigger the Auto Aid such as a Confirmed Structure fire. There would also have to be parameters set for whom to call in what sections of a district. June stated that Ogle County uses the same software and she would check with them to see how they handle Auto Aid. Chief Liggett stated that this is handled separate from MABAS Box Cards and would take a separate agreement between Departments. This discussion will continue.

Announcements

- Illinois VCOC Conference, Sept 13-14 @ Bloomington Normal Marriott
- Cedarville Fire Feather Party, Sept 14
- Rock City Fish Boil, Sept 14

The meeting was adjourned at 2040 hrs.

The next meeting is October 2 at Dakota Fire.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Korte, Secretary

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