

Stephenson County Fire Chiefs Association Inc.

MABAS Division 17

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Minutes from March 1, 2023

The monthly meeting of MABAS Division 17 was called to order by President Ludeking at 1930hrs @ the Orangeville Fire Station.

Guest:

- Steve Isley, Juda Fire Chief & Div. 105 President
 - Introduced himself and explained there were a few of our Box Cards that needed more information. He also expressed that like us, everyone in Div. 105 is having staffing issues and to only expect 1 apparatus per Department if requested.

A motion to accept the Minutes from the February meeting was approved. The Treasurer report for February was also approved.

Committees

- **Training:**
 - Local classes were listed
 - Storm Spotter Class, March 20 @ HCC, 1830-2030hr, FREE
 - LP Firefighting, April 1 @ Cedarville Fire, 0800-1200hr, FREE, Register through IFSI
 - Alternate Fuel Vehicle class, April 29 @ Lena Fire, 0800-1200 or 1300-1700, FREE, Register through IFSI
- **Communications/Dispatch:**
 - Mutual Aid call numbers for February.
 - 20 total calls, 12 EMS & 4 Fire from within the Division and 3 EMS & 1 Fire from outside the Division.
 - Discussion continued about the closing of LifeFlight in Rockford. It was reported that they are planning to re-open in Sterling.

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:**
 - New TRT Coordinator Tim Randecker was introduced.
 - 3 students are scheduled to attend classes during the next 2 weeks.
- **Hazmat:**
 - No response from our Lawyer’s letter to Carroll FS, but we did receive a bill from the Lawyer for \$376, which was forwarded to Treasurer Strong for payment.
- **Equipment Replacement:**
 - We received notice from Air One that our Hazmat & TRT SCBA’s should be delivered late in April.
 - Additional funding for the new Fit Test machine is still pending.
- **Sheriff:**
 - Sheriff Stovall introduced Andy Schroeder as the new Chief Deputy. He comes with a lot of experience from Freeport PD.
 - A DEA “Drug Take Back” program is still being planned. The Sheriff is expecting the dates to be Spring and Fall, about 2hrs each time. German Valley is planning to assist.

Old Business

- EMS – German Valley First Responder class, final class was March 1. There may be another class scheduled for Pearl City in the Fall.
- Departments were advised that some of our Box Cards included Monroe but did not specify the City or Rural Dept. Those Departments will be contacted by Secretary Korte and the cards will be updated. Everyone will be alerted when the corrected cards are published on the website.
- Last month Departments were asked to inquire from their Boards to see if a Dues increase would be feasible. Treasurer Strong stated that with the proposed Equipment Replacement schedule, we would be out of money in 7 years. After more discussion, a motion was made to increase our Division dues \$500 this year and evaluate any further increases over the next couple years. Motion passed.

New Business

- Departments have been sent documents to assist in the approval of the new MABAS-IL Master Agreement. Each Department must have their District or Board approve and sign the new Agreement by December 31, 2023 if they want to continue being a member of MABAS. Blank copies of the Ordinance and Resolution were included. Departments can request assistance or clarification from Secretary Korte or Branch Chief Klinefelter.
- A review of the MABAS-IL Summit and Executive Board meeting was given by Secretary Korte.
- New Division 105 Box Cards have been distributed.
- A discussion was held on the State level status of our Hazmat & TRT teams.

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- The current MABAS standard for Deployable teams is 20 trained Technicians and must be able to deploy 10 of those members for at least 3 days to any State request.
 - Hazmat currently has 19 trained personnel and 2 on the training roster, TRT has 12 trained personnel and 7 on the training roster. At the MABAS Summit we learned that MABAS has removed our TRT team from the program due to low numbers.
- There are currently a couple other teams in our area. Div. 8 has a Hazmat & TRT team and Div. 18 has a TRT team. Both of those TRT teams also have a low number of trained members. The Div. 8 Hazmat currently has sufficient personnel.
- MABAS will allow/encourage teams with low membership to merge if possible. This allows for Division teams to continue operating and training independently plus the ability to merge personnel for a State Wide event. Previous talks between Div. 17 TRT & Div. 18 TRT did not result in an agreement but recent discussions between Div. 8 & Div. 17 look hopeful. The teams can always request each other for additional assistance during an incident regardless of a merge status. This merger would allow the Div. 17 members to continue receiving the “Overtime/Backfill” and lodging reimbursement during classes. That being said, the teams would be required to have some joint training and organization. Discussion was favorable and we are awaiting further discussion from Div. 8 before going further.
- Additional information will be shared as needed.
- This month is our semi-annual Board Election. All current members agreed to continue for another term if there was no other interest. There was no nominations or recommendations. The Division Board for the next 2 years will be: President Eric Bruning/German Valley, Vice President Loren Ludeking/Rock City, Treasurer Brad Strong/Lena and Secretary Tom Korte/Freeport City.

Announcements:

- Winslow Chief Ron Pina is currently hospitalized with a significant illness. A Benefit BBQ Dinner is planned for April 8, 1600-2000hr at the Winslow Community Center. Please Help, Donate, Contribute. More details will follow.
- German Valley Fire Soup Supper, March 18, 1630-1900hr, \$10
- Cedarville Fire Pancake Breakfast, March 25, 0700-1100hr @ the Fire Station
- Orangeville Fire Steak Fry & Feather Party, March 25, Dinner \$20, 1700-1900hr, Games 1900-0100hr.
- Rock City Fire Fish Boil, April 22, 1630-1930hr. \$15

The meeting adjourned @ 2040hr.

Our next meeting will be held April 5 @ Pearl City Fire. This will be a Dinner Meeting, Details TBA.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tom Korte, Secretary

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