

# Stephenson County Fire Chiefs Association Inc.

## MABAS Division 17

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### Minutes from January 4, 2023

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

A motion to accept the Minutes from the December meeting was approved. There was no Treasurer report this month.

#### Committees

##### • **Training:**

- Local classes were listed
- Cedarville Fire is hosting Grain Bin Rescue training on Feb 4 at their Station. Cost \$170, register through them. They also have a training grant that may lower the cost, TBD.

##### • **Communications/Dispatch:**

- Mutual Aid call numbers for December.
  - 22 total calls, 13 EMS from within the Division and 9 EMS from outside the Division. There were no Mutual Aid Fire calls in December.
- The Texting portion of the Next Gen911 program will be active soon. The policy is that the Dispatcher will try to get the caller to call back on a voice line if possible. This allows direct contact and allows Dispatchers to here the tone of the call and any background activity. The Text call currently has very poor GPS locating capabilities.
- The City Dispatch currently has limited personnel and will normally only have 2 Dispatchers on at a time. So be patient.

##### • **TRT:**

- TRT Coordinator Chris Lowery has resigned from the position and applications are being accepted.

#### **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

- **Hazmat:**

- The Hazmat suits were tested recently and 1 suit failed. The radio bank charger has also quit working. Curt Dehaven is looking for a replacement.
- In December, a joint Hazmat Meeting was held in Darlington with Div 17, 49, 108 (Lancaster Co.) & 125 (Lafayette Co.). Capabilities and interoperability were discussed.
- Secretary Korte has been in contact with the OSFM and the Ottosen Law Office regarding the Carroll FS call. Both agencies feel that the quoted legal statement should not apply to our incident as our Hazmat team has no ties to Lanark. Further discussion and plans are pending.
- Both the Hazmat & TRT teams received an audit from MABAS. It was looking for roster numbers and training schedules. The main objective was to see who is active. They wanted to know if the team(s) were supported by their Divisions. The group voted to allow Secretary Korte to submit a letter to MABAS stating the groups support of our teams.

- **Equipment Replacement:**

- Some updates to the Equipment Replacement list have been made. Some items were removed/edited and prices updated. A few items were also added regarding vehicle service/maintenance and radios. Discussion followed about starting to replace the 16+ year old air packs with simpler, less expensive units. This was tabled until the Treasurer was available.

- **Maintenance:**

- Both F550's had for annual service completed last month at Heavy.
- There are 6 Hazmat/TRT SCBA cylinders due for Hydro Test in 2023.

- **Sheriff:**

- Sheriff Stoval thanked everyone involved for their response to accident on Dec 30.
- The County now has 8 full-time Dispatchers allowing for 2 on-duty most of the time.

## **Old Business**

- Departments were reminded that Box Card changes were due. City Fire had made a few minor changes. Dakota & Orangeville turned in updates at the meeting. These will be posted to the website soon. Kerry Dinges advised that OSF, Rockford has shut down their Life Flight/LifeLine helicopter service. Everyone needs to change their Box Cards if Life Flight/LifeLine was on them. Helicopters are still available through REACT, UW Med Flight, Air Care in DBQ.

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### **New Business**

- June found an article about Pipeline Responses. Seems a law went into effect Oct 2022 that required pipeline operators to contact a Dispatch Center if they notice a fluctuation of pressure in their lines. The pressure change could represent a leak. Dispatch Centers & Fire Departments are supposed to have a response plan incase this happens. There was not much more direction in the article. June is checking for other policies. She is inquiring how we want to handle the situation. Currently she is planning to tone the AHJ and then putting out an IAR like a MABAS call so everyone else knows something big may be happening. More to follow.
- Along the same line, some members have received notice of the Annual Pipeline Safety class/dinner. Date Feb 15, more details to follow.
- The Fit Test machine is back from the annual calibration and delivered to Cedarville.

### **Announcements:**

- The Rock City mobile cascade is still OOS. They hope to have it back soon.
- The annual MABAS Conference is scheduled for Feb 20-24 in Bloomington.

The meeting adjourned @ 2025hr.

Our next meeting will be held February 1 @ Davis Fire.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Tom Korte, Secretary

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