

# Stephenson County Fire Chiefs Association Inc.

## MABAS Division 17

**Loren Ludeking**  
Rock City Fire  
President  
815-541-3585  
rcfd3581@yahoo.com

**Brad Strong**  
Lena Fire  
Treasurer  
815-275-5933  
lenafire@hotmail.com



**Eric Bruning**  
German Valley Fire  
Vice President  
815-238-7596  
ebruning@gvfpd.com

**Tom Korte**  
Freeport Fire  
Secretary  
815-541-8667  
tmkjljk@comcast.net

### Minutes from February 2, 2022

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

A motion to accept the Minutes from the January meeting was approved. The Treasurers report from January was also approved.

#### Committees

- **Training:**
  - Local classes were listed
- **Communications/Dispatch:**
  - Mutual Aid call numbers for January.
    - 18 total calls, 12 EMS and 0 Fire from within the Division, 4 EMS and 2 Fire from outside the Division.
- **TRT:**
  - The invoice from the Freeport Masonic Temple Elevator rescue has been paid. Because of perceived political considerations, the City of Freeport decided not to charge for the extra FFD personnel that responded. The City was advised that the equipment belonged to the Division and that team members from outside the Department needed to be reimbursed. They agreed to only charge for those items.
- **HazMat:**
  - The Level A Suits passed their recent annual test. Both the Hazmat & TRT SCBA units passed their annual Flow Testing.
  - By May 1, the team should have 19 certified Techs.
- **Equipment Replacement:**
  - During the Flow Testing we were advised that a Telemetry unit within the Hazmat & TRT air packs will no longer be supported after 2026. We are checking to see how much that will impact our use and replacement costs. We have been budgeting money for replacement units in our Dues but are not to the point of being able to replace all units at once.

#### **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

- **Maintenance:**

- Recently we have noticed that our storage location has not been keeping the snow plowed to allow us access. There seems to be issues between the facility and the plowing contractor(s). We obtained a bid from one of the current contractors; with a min charge of \$50 each plowing. This could add up fast. It is also kind of hard to push the facility to cover the plowing because we are not paying any rent. A couple of options were discussed, for now FFD will try to keep it plowed with their pickup.

- **Sheriff:**

- Steve Stovall, Chief Deputy thanked everyone for their commitment and dedication. He has personally needed local EMS services and was thankful for what they do.

### **Old Business**

- Hazmat Coordinator Book updated and combined the 2 previous Division Hazmat cards into one and made some updates to the FFD card. These will be posted to the website soon.
- All Departments have turned in their old Ultra Radiac monitors and were issued new Polimaster monitors. If you have questions contact Hazmat Coord. Book.

### **New Business**

- Some Freeport Fire updates.
  - Everyone was thanked for their assistance during Chief Liggett's visitation & funeral with kind words and Change of Quarters personnel.
  - Also thanked everyone for being on standby with Tenders during our water crisis. The City has about 6 wells and 2 went down with pump issues. This didn't allow the other wells to keep the water towers filled thus reduced volume and pressure. Those pumps have now been repaired and the water towers have filled so everything is back to normal. Rural Departments are again allowed to use city hydrants with usual caution and Dispatch should be notified when they are used so they can notify the Water Department if needed.
  - Scott Stykel has been appointed interim Fire Chief. The City is starting to look for a permanent Chief. They are looking internally first.
  - The group was given a brief overview of the Home Rule issues facing Freeport and those impacts on FFD including layoffs, closing Stations & more incoming Mutual Aid requests. More details as the year progresses.
- Scott Townsend, EMA,
  - The Office had been contacted about providing address signs for the Rural Districts. The contact person was supposed to attend our meeting but didn't make it. No costs have been determined for the project yet. Liability & JULIE marking was discussed. German Valley currently does this as an annual fund raiser on a per request basis. Their cost is about \$45/sign plus post and Department personnel do the installation. The County 911 Board & County Board had also planned a similar project years ago but there was no funding.

#### **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

- The EMA Office is offering to sponsor some local classes including NIMS 300 & 400 on weekends, date & location TBA. Please contact the office with number of personnel interested.
- Local Storm Spotter class to be held March 15. Register @ <https://www.weather.gov/dvn/spotters>, open the training tab and select Stephenson County.
- More classes possible include: Rail Car classes, Pipeline Security & Active Shooters.
- A couple Departments have been approached by members of the Stephenson County Fair Board about having a “First Responder Day” on July 30 during the fair. They are looking for ideas, demos and topics to entertain and educate the public. Eric Bruning will be our contact person with the Fair Board.
- Winslow Fire was the latest Department to be visited by OSHA/Illinois Dept. of Labor. Chief Pina asked about the Respiratory questionnaire. The policy actually requires anyone that may wear an air pack to have an annual physical. There is an approved alternate policy which includes annually completing a Respiratory questionnaire and performing a Pulmonary Function test. Secretary Korte will send out the questionnaire. The Pulmonary test must be conducted by a local Medical Facility (FHN or Monroe Clinic).
- Ambulance contracts, fees and staffing were addressed. Everyone’s costs and call volumes are going up with reduced available staff. As we all know our Division is covered in a variety of ways. Lena, Cedarville, Orangeville & Winslow all contract with Leamon’s, Dakota, Davis & Rock City operate Tri-District with contracted personnel, German Valley, Freeport Rural & Pearl City use volunteer/pay per call personnel and FFD uses full time on-shift personnel. Star is the only other EMS provider in the County and not officially a part of MABAS. A time will come when Departments will not be able to provide enough trained personnel of funding to maintain our current EMS coverage. If you have any ideas please pass them along.

**Announcements:**

- MABAS-IL Training Summit, Feb 21-23 for Command and Feb 23-25 for Dispatchers @ Bloomington Marriott. Cost \$250
- Cedarville Fire is hosting a drive up Pulled Pork Dinner. Feb 12, 1100hr-until sold out, cost \$10

The meeting adjourned @ 2025hr.

Our next meeting will be held March 2 @ Davis Fire.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Tom Korte, Secretary

**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