



## **Hamilton County Fire Chiefs Association Board Meeting**

**Virtual Meeting utilizing Microsoft Team**

**Date: October 9, 2020**

**Time: 09:00**

### **Call to Order**

Chief Leininger called the meeting to order at 09:00.

### **Roll Call**

- President Rob Leininger - Present
- Vice President Kevin Hardwick - Present
- Treasurer Todd Owens - Present
- Secretary Denny Meador - Present
- Chief Doug Campbell - Present
- Chief Mike Hauck - Present
- Chief Alfie Jones - Present
- Chief Roy Winston - Present
- Chief Rob Hursong - Present

### **Guests**

HCPH Director Greg Kesterman

### **Updates**

#### EMA (Crossley)

- Emailed Chief Leininger to report the move to the new warehouse in Blue Ash is underway. They should be ready to begin distributing PPE from the new location the week of September 14.

#### HCPH (Kesterman)

- HCPH had seen an increase in positive cases over the past several weeks, but it appears that trend is now moving in the opposite direction. Positive cases were notably in the 18-24-year-old age range.
- The reproductive value during the first week of September was 1.26, and dropped to 0.94 as of this meeting.
- Hospitalizations, ICU admissions, and deaths are continuing to decrease.
- It is anticipated that Hamilton county will remain at Level 2 (Yellow) this week.
- The county has a Test and Protect initiative in place which can provide 24-hour turnaround on COVID testing. This initiative can be used for first responders, businesses, and the community as a whole. Contact HCPH for more information.
- The county PODs may be utilized to distribute vaccines once they come to market. At this time, the priority for vaccinations will be high risk patients (nursing homes), health care workers, and first responders. Supplies for administering the vaccine will be provided to the PODs as needed.

#### HCCC

- No report. On behalf of the HCFCFA, Chief Leininger offered well wishes to Director Andy Knapp as he recovers from his heart attack.

#### President

Chief Leininger will draft a letter to the board up companies expressing the expectations of the HCFCFA on showing up unsolicited at emergency scenes. He will send it to the executive board for review.

Chief Leininger presented Chief Frank Cook his HCFCFA recognition plaque at the last Midwest Chiefs' meeting.

#### Vice President

Chief Hardwick reported the western side of the county utilized a move up during a major incident in Green Township. They are still working on a date for the Move Up committee to meet.

#### Secretary

Minutes for the general membership have been distributed. The current contact list for the chiefs will be distributed for review and updating.

#### Treasurer

Chief Owens presented the financial statement. All fire departments have paid their dues, and he is working with several associate members to settle their accounts. USAR has applied for the next round of state grants.

#### General Membership Meeting Agenda

Last month's Zoom meeting went well and without negative feedback. Chief Hauck will facilitate the upcoming Zoom meeting scheduled for September 16. Chief Meador will resend the meeting invitation to membership and highlight the passcode needed to enter the meeting.

The Nominating Committee has reported one nomination to date. We will work with Chief Paul Gallo to set up Google Docs for secure voting. The committee will have access to the document to tally votes, and will not be accessible to any of the chiefs running for office.

#### Open Discussion

Chief Jones reported that many businesses are storing large amounts of hand sanitizer on their premises, and the business owners may not be aware of the fire hazard this can pose. In one case a business had over 1,600 gallons of sanitizer on site. Please pass this information along to your inspectors.

Chief Winston will be meeting with the Metro Chiefs this afternoon. The focus of the meeting will be diversity in recruitment and hiring. He will report back on the discussion for incorporation into recruitment and hiring practices that can help HCFC departments increase diversity.

Chief Winston will provide information on purchasing pavers at the Firefighters' Memorial.

Chief Hursong asked that the Peer Support Team be added to the agenda of the September 16 meeting. Due to the pandemic, scheduling of training classes for peer support members has been challenging. The team has the opportunity to put on a hybrid class from the IAFF. There is an up-front cost of \$3,500 to schedule the class, and the team is asking membership to approve this expenditure. The HCFC would be reimbursed the funds through registration of the participants. Chief Hauck made a motion to take the request to membership. Second by Chief Meador. The motion carried unanimously.

Chief Hauck reported that nationally suicide rates have increased 30% during the pandemic, and it has hit first responders particularly hard. He suggested that in light of the challenges we are facing it would be wise to convene a meeting of the Health and Safety Committee. Chief Meador will schedule a Zoom or Microsoft Team meeting with the assistance of Chief Hauck.

Chief Meador asked if the new emergency button policy distributed to the membership needed to be approved by the HCFC. After discussion, it was determined that since this is an operational function at HCCC a vote by membership isn't required. The executive board recommends that all departments review and train on the policy as published by the Communications Committee and HCCC.

**Next Meeting**

The next Executive Board meeting will take place on October 14, 2020.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:49.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Chief Denny Meador, Secretary