

GOOD WILL
PUBLIC RELATION
COOPERATION



STANDARDIZATION
EDUCATION
FRATERNAL

Fire Chiefs' Meeting Minutes

Date: November 21, 2018

Location: Boy Scouts of America, Evendale

The meeting was called to order at 09:05 with Chief Leininger presiding.

Pledge/Invocation: Chief Leininger

Roll-Call of Officers

President Rob Leininger - Present

Vice President Kevin Hardwick - Present

Treasurer Todd Owens - Present

Secretary Denny Meador - Present

Chief Doug Campbell - Absent

Chief Mike Hauck - Present

Chief Alfie Jones - Present

Chief Roy Winston - Present

Chief Rob Hursong - Present

New Chiefs

Chris Theders was introduced as the new chief of Blue Ash Fire Department.

Associate Members

(859) Board Up

Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

1-800-Board-Up

Tom Camp provided information on an event at Top Golf in October 2019 to raise funds for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. If you would like a poster advertising the event please contact him.

Pete Bohrofen

Pete Bohrofen reported the current top three performing funds in Deferred Comp are:

1. Dodge and Cox Stock
2. Vanguard Small Cap
3. Fidelity Contra Fund

Regional Collaboration (Partners, Task Forces, Teams)

HCCC

- Director Knapp reported that the Active911 subgroup paging for hospital status notifications has been working well. If your department is not yet set up, please contact Scott Brown for instructions.
- All Locution equipment is in and is being put through a burn in period prior to installation. The target date for installation of the hardware is the second week of December followed by testing. The database of streets and units is being finalized as well. There is a training document under development that will be distributed to departments as the Locution system comes online.
- MDC software upgrades are being funded using money left over from the 2018 budget. The contract with Tritech is being reviewed by the prosecutor's office. Individual departments will be responsible to provide their own hardware to connect to the system, and will require cradle points or air cards to connect to the MDC system. The data radios will become obsolete with the transition to the new software.
- If you are relying on the old Alpha Page system to activate your hose bells or other types of in-station information systems, please contact HCCC for possible alerting issues that may result from the switch to the Locution system. There is a work around that will allow you to continue using the Alpha Paging going forward.
- The county commissioners have not yet set their 2019 budget, so we do not know if our user fees will be increased, though it is still anticipated that they will increase the detail rate by \$3.00 per detail.

SWOFCA

- Paul Wright reported that the OFCA is finalizing their 5-year plan, and anticipate adopting it in January 2019.
- OFE Class 19 students are being notified of their acceptance to the program.

CFD

- Chief Winston reported things are going well in the city.

USAR

- Chief Lakamp presented the monthly report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. He reminded everyone that if you are calling in USAR for a critical missing incident, please call the team early in the event to get the most benefit of USAR capabilities.

PHCOG

- Chief Owens reported the 2019 EMS protocols will be posted soon on the HCFCFA website for review by your departments.
- Drug license renewal is coming up in March 2019.
- Chief Owens has had extensive discussion with the Board of Pharmacy relating to their inspection practices which has included attempting to enter EMS supply rooms by picking locks or going through ceiling tiles. The Board of Pharmacy stated that these actions are being done by individual investigators and is not sanctioned by the Board. However, they did state that if an investigator comes across an unattended medic unit in a public area, such as a grocery store parking lot, they will check on the security of the drugs in the vehicle. Please remind your personnel to always secure their units when unattended.
- The Board of Pharmacy is working to develop and publish a checklist of inspection items so departments will know what to expect during a site visit. They are also working to establish rules that are EMS-specific, since the current rules we are trying to follow were designed for brick-and-mortar pharmacies.

HCFIU

- Chief Owens reported that the unit is averaging two (2) calls per week. Please call them early in an incident when possible.

Education Partners

- University of Cincinnati
 - Larry Bennet provided information on an upcoming Community Paramedicine course in March 2019. The flyer is attached to these minutes.
- Trihealth
 - Randy wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.
- Cincinnati State
 - Bob Cutajar reported that this year's PUCO grant was released on October 24, and they received more money than they expected.
 - The 40-hour Hazmat Tech is now funded and, the next class will be offered December 17-21. The Hazmat Tech and 8-hour refresher is also available to law enforcement personnel.
 - A portion of the 40-hour tech class is the 16-hour All Hazard Incident Command class. If you have someone that needs to complete just this portion of the class, there is an opportunity to enroll at no cost if seats are still available. Please contact Bob for details.

GCHMU

- Brooke Matzen reported that details of activities for GCHMU and Command 400 were sent to the secretary for inclusion in these minutes.
- If someone tries to turn in mercury to your station, please do not accept it. Once you take possession you are responsible for its disposal, and it is an extremely expensive process.

EMA, Homeland Security, and LEPC

- Please be sure your community adopts the hazard mitigation agreement recently adopted by the county commissioners. You will need to be a party to this agreement to receive funds in the event of a disaster in your area. The majority of jurisdictions in Hamilton County have not yet adopted the plan. Contact Ryan McEwan if you have any questions.
- If you still need to update your login information for the State WebEOC, please contact Irvin Jones and he will get you set up.

Elections

Secretary Meador conducted a roll call of member departments to receive their ballot from the Nominating Committee. Ballots were passed out, cast, and the results tabulated by the committee. The results were:

- President: Chief Leininger
- Secretary: Chief Meador
- Trustees: Chief Hauck and Chief Winston

Chief Owens made a motion to destroy the ballots; second by Chief Jones. Motion to destroy the ballots passed.

Chief Leininger thanked everyone that stepped up to run for office this year, and looks forward to the continued participation of the chiefs in the association.

Officer Reports

President

Chief Leininger referred the membership to the discussion that was documented in the November 14, 2018 Executive Board minutes for his report. In addition, he communicated to the commissioners and administrator that the HCFCA wants to be part of the long term solution to the funding issues facing HCCC.

In conversations with Director Knapp, he believes that there are services we can share with the city to reduce costs for both entities, but will not require us to merge the two communications centers. There is redundancy of technical personnel in the two systems, and personnel costs are the largest portion of the budgets of each entity. Director Knapp has explored the viability of a “virtual consolidation” with Jayson Dunn

in which technical experts could be shared moving forward. This would not displace current employees, but it would reduce the need to hire duplicated personnel to service nearly identical communication infrastructure.

Chief Steve Ashbrock reported that the Communications Advisory Committee is trying to engage the commissioners in making significant funding changes to public safety communications funding in the county. They have been in contact with several township trustees, the Municipal League, and the Board of Realtors to gauge support for adequate funding of the HCCC.

Chief Ashbrock believes that the issue is not necessarily that the county lacks the ability to raise funds, but that the commissioners are not recognizing that proper funding of emergency services is every bit as important to the quality of life as the renovation of Music Hall and Union Terminal. He pointed out that when people are living in or visiting the county to enjoy the amenities that are offered, they are not receiving the high level of public safety communications that helps protect them in case of emergency.

Chief Ashbrock also expects that the commissioners will point to the new Location system and CAD updates and claim that by supporting the cost of these initiatives they are fully supporting the operation of the HCCC and fire and EMS in the county, when in reality their financial support to emergency communications pales in comparison to other county projects.

Director Knapp agreed that the current funding system is broken because it is based on an outdated model that relies on law enforcement details to maintain the budget. However, law enforcement has found a way to work around the system by having residents call a seven digit number for non-emergency calls. While this may reduce a community's detail fees for law enforcement, the resulting loss in funding for not generating a police detail falls on the backs of the fire departments, where most every call comes through as an emergency 911 call.

In Northern Kentucky they are using a parcel fee to distribute the cost more equitably across their jurisdictions. In Ohio, ORC 128 is scheduled for a review and update. One change suggested is that if a county puts on a public safety levy for 911 services, and the levy fails, the county would then have an option to add a \$0.50 tax on each cell phone number billed in its jurisdiction to be used for emergency communications.

Chief Leininger has sent a letter to the commissioners expressing our opposition to the increase in detail rates and that we are willing to work with the commissioners to find a viable solution to funding the HCCC.

Vice President

Chief Hardwick reported that planning for the MCI drill on September 19, 2019 at Great American Ballpark is going well.

The EOC class list is being evaluated to determine what classes will benefit current members involved with the EOC as well as promote additional involvement from the HCFCA membership.

Treasurer

Chief Owens presented the financial report and provided copies for the membership. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes. Chief Leininger moved to accept the financial report; second by Chief Hauck. Motion was approved.

Secretary

Chief Meador reported that the October minutes were distributed electronically with the agenda for today's meeting. Chief Ashbrock moved to accept the minutes; second by Chief Souders. Motion was approved.

Committee Reports

Communications

Chief Souders clarified that there are still parts for the XTS/XTL radios, however once they are gone there is no ability for Mobilcomm to reorder. He advised that departments start making budgetary plans to upgrade their radios over the next several years.

Health and Safety

Ed Von Lehmden reported that there have been four (4) referrals for service to date as a result of our mental health programming. The IAFF class scheduled for December is sold out, and he is looking into organizing another session in 2019.

Chief Meador reported that an email requesting dates to reconvene the committee has gone out and he is awaiting replies from the members.

Other Business

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:49.

Next Meeting December 19, 2018

Respectfully submitted,
Chief Denny Meador, Secretary