



**of Palm Beach County, Florida
Incorporated**

SEPTEMBER 27, 2006, 12:00
MEETING MINUTES

Hosted by: Riviera Beach Fire Rescue

Location: Crown Plaza Hotel located at 3200 N. Ocean Drive, Riviera Beach, FL

I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER (Bingham)

- A. 31 members in attendance
- B. Pledge of Allegiance

II. INTRODUCTIONS

- A. Patrick Morris, Division Chief, West Palm Beach Fire Rescue – Provided overview of response to Africanized Honey Bee incidents along with handout of CD including PowerPoint from University of Florida.
- B. Matthew A. Cronin, Special Projects Coordinator, Palm Beach County Division of Emergency Management – Provided overview of new Emergency Management Emergency Operation Areas (EOA). Emergency Management has established EOAs to coordinate the delivery of resources and services throughout Palm Beach County. Each EOA is staffed with senior level County employees to coordinate: points of distribution; recovery teams; CERT teams; community outreach teams; and, other services within their region.

III. SECRETARY'S REPORT (Donatto)

August's Minutes (previously distributed by email) approved (Ridgeway/Fauci)

IV. TREASURER'S REPORT (Blockson)

Account Transactions and Balances

Checking \$14.38 / Savings \$8,396.86 / Total \$8,411.24

V. COMMUNICATIONS READ AND DISPOSED OF (Bingham)

None

VI. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT (Bingham)

- A. 9/11 Memorial Service – Chief Bingham thanked Chief Ridgeway, Chief Carter, and Chief Vicki Sheppard for all of their work on the Fire Chiefs Association 5th Anniversary 9/11 Memorial Service. The program was well attended and a tremendous success.

- B. PBCC Point System Information – Chief Bingham explained that the information distributed on the PBCC Point System was sent out prematurely and that the committee intended to do more work on the issue before it was distributed. In any case, the issue will be discussed further under the Unfinished Business section of the agenda and the input of the membership will be incorporated into the Committee’s recommendations.

VII. ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

- A. Training Officer's Association of Palm Beach County – (Capt. Houston Park)
The Training Officers Association met on September 19, 2006 at Delray Beach Fire Rescue. There was a presentation by Grand Canyon University. Representatives from Grand Canyon University are interested in visiting each department within Palm Beach County to provide an overview of their online degree program. The Training Officer's Association discussed the ongoing effort to develop countywide Incident Command Standard Operating Procedures. Captain Park advised that the biggest obstacle to date is the adoption of a single countywide “Accountability System.” The Training Officers Association is seeking assistance and input from the Fire Chiefs Association on the issue. Capt. Park reported that the Regional USAR Technical Rescue Teams have just completed multi-agency training and that they will be conducting more multi-agency training in November on Collapse Rescue.
- B. Palm Beach Community College (Val Williams / Shari Turner) Shari Turner introduced Bruce Arbeit, Clinical Coordinator for EMS Programs at PBCC. The College’s EMS Program is undergoing CAAHEP Re- Accreditation. The College will be holding a graduation ceremony for its Paramedic Program participants on October 17th. Val Williams provided a handout “**First Responders: Community Colleges on the Front Line of Security**”. According to the report, community colleges currently credential close to 80% of first responders and 60% of health-care professionals. The report outlines colleges' expanding leadership role in homeland security through new programs, unique facilities, and working alliances. Val also provided a handout titled “**DoD Fire & Emergency Services Certification Program**” that establishes professional qualification standards, standardized training and certification procedures for fire and emergency services personnel. Val reported that PBCC will be hosting a State Fire Marshal’s FDICE training program on 9/28. Dave Collado of Palm Beach County Fire Rescue is the area expert on the FDICE program and can be contacted for any further information. PBCC has posted 2 announcements for minimum standards courses: January 07 Day Class and January 07 Night Class. Another Day Class will begin in March 07. PBCC is no longer using the TABE test as an entry level criterion. Val advised the Chiefs Association that PBCC certainly listens and considers the opinions and actions of the Chiefs Association, but the Partnership Council is the venue for discussing and bringing about any changes to the College’s programs.
- C. State and County EMS – (Div. Chief Rob Moreland) Chief Moreland reported that the State has selected John C. Bixler, Paramedic, RN, BSN, as the new Bureau Chief for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) for the Florida Department of Health (DOH). Chief Moreland reported on the State’s new decision to make EMS Data Collection “mandatory” instead of voluntary. Effective July 1, 2008 – all Florida EMS Providers will be required to submit over 100 data points to the

Bureau of EMS in a digital format. Chief Bingham commented that a significant number of fire departments cannot currently comply and will be forced to expend large sums of money to comply with this unfunded mandate. Chief Bingham reported that there will be a State EMS Advisory Council meeting October 8, 2006 and that this issue will likely be very contentious. Chief Bingham would like to assess the financial impact of this mandate on EMS providers in Palm Beach County and to present this data to the State. Chief Moreland reported that departments are beginning to receive MCI Kits from the State. Several Palm Beach County agencies are participating in an Adult Immunization Program including Delray Beach, Boynton Beach, West Palm Beach, Greenacres, Lake Worth, Riviera Beach, and Palm Beach County. These agencies will be providing flu shots to underserved seniors. Chief Moreland reported that the issue of County EMS Grant's discussed at the previous meeting had been resolved by Chuck Tear and that all agencies were going to receive EMS Grant Funds. He also reported that this was in part due to Palm Beach County Fire Rescue's effort to ensure a wider distribution of the grant funds by withdrawing requests for funds for South Bay, Belle Glade and Pahokee. Darrel Donatto discussed the recent County EMS Ordinance and EMS Rule changes being discussed by a subcommittee of the EMS Council. Proposed changes include: a move to fractile based response time requirements of 9 min/90% received to arrival; 2 min/90% received to enroute; required Emergency Medical Dispatch for primary providers; Mixed Fleet / BLS COCPNs; new Aeromedical Safety Requirements; elimination of requirements for common medical protocols; elimination of medical director's standing subcommittee; regulation of stretcher based paratransport; enforcement for regulation of hospital diversion. **All members were encouraged to have their EMS Chiefs attend and participate in these proceedings.** Chief Ridgeway discussed the importance of fractile response times as a standard when looking at system performance and relayed that this is the format found within the Fire Service Accreditation standards.

- D. Emergency Management – (Bob Rehr) Chief Rehr discussed several upcoming educational opportunities through EM including a class on Counterterrorism, I300/ and I400. Chief Rehr also reviewed the County EMS Grant process and EM's future efforts to expand funding available through that process.
- E. American Red Cross – (Mary Blakeney) Mary Blakeney introduced Joshua Glanzer who is the Marketing and Communications Director for the local Red Cross. Joshua discussed the Red Cross' campaign to raise awareness of fire safety and prevention issues during the months of October, November, & December. The Red Cross conducted a national survey of community members and the results showed that 80% felt that a disaster was not a fire. The Red Cross is aiming its message at low income housing groups and African Americans and they **are seeking to partner with local fire departments throughout PBC to assist with the delivery of this message.** The Palm Beach County Chapter of the Red Cross assists a family who is a victim of fire every 48 hrs in PBC. **Departments interested in working with the Red Cross on this issue can call Joshua at 561-650-9105.**
- F. RDSTF Region 7 – (Dep. Chief Carter) Captain Houston Park reported for Chief Carter. At the RDSTF meeting there was discussion of the use of UASI funding for Hazardous Materials Technician Level certification. Since Chief Bryson

resigned as the chair of the Fire Service working group, Patricia McAllister of the Broward County Sheriff's Office Fire Department is chairing the meetings. Chief Rehr discussed the upcoming super bowl RDSTF preparations and he is attending those meetings.

- G. Hazardous Materials Oversight – (Dep. Chief Carter) No Report
- H. Local Emergency Planning Committee – (Asst. Chief John Johnson) No Report
- I. Fire Marshal's Association of Palm Beach County (Susan Hall) The Fire Marshals Association is sponsoring a training class in October. Susan reported on proposed changes to school district inspections. While in Palm Beach County, we enjoy an unprecedented level of cooperation with our local school district fire inspectors, other areas of the state are not as fortunate. Fire Marshals throughout the State are seeking support of legislative changes to ensure that local fire rescue agencies have a role in ensuring their schools are safe for both the children attending them and the firefighters protecting them. **The Fire Marshals Association has asked that the Fire Chiefs Association contact our State Fire Chiefs Association for assistance in the legislative matter. Chief Bingham agreed to contact our regional representative Kingman Shuldt.**
- J. State Fire Marshal's Office – (Lt. Richard Skeeter Shuler) No Report
- K. Level of Service Committee – (Chief Kerry Koen) At the most recent meeting it was decided that Lake Worth, Greenacres and Riviera Beach will all come back in March of 2007 to report their progress on LOS compliance. Palm Beach Shores will be receiving a letter from the LOS committee regarding their non-compliance.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS / REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

- A. Countywide Accountability - Chief Tomaszewski asked that the Chiefs Association appoint a committee to work with the Training Officers in an effort to reach consensus on a single countywide accountability system. Chief Bingham concurred and appointed a Committee to work with the Training Officers Association and to bring back an initial report on efforts to adopt a single countywide accountability system at the next meeting. The Committee will be made of Chief Bergel, Div. Chief Pat Morris, Dep. Chief Glen Joseph.
- B. Palm Beach Community College Point System – Chief Bingham reported on the committee's (Bingham, Bergel, Blockson, Koen, Perry) efforts to seek changes in the Point System used by Palm Beach Community College for selecting candidates to the Fire Minimum Standards course. The Fire Chiefs Association Committee feels that the current point system is having a disparate impact on the recruitment of minority candidates and they are proposing a number of changes to correct this disparity. Val Williams commented that the College is no longer able to give veterans preference points based on direction from College administration. This was discussed at length and opposed by the Chiefs Association members. Chief Bingham will discuss the issue further with the College. It was discussed that both Paramedic and EMT certification should garner an equal number of points. The Fire Chiefs Association Committee will continue to work on this issue. Val reminded the membership that the venue for this issue would be the Partnership Council which meets again in October.

- C. 9/11 Memorial Service – Chief Ridgeway thanked the association for the opportunity work with Chief Carter and Chief Vicki Sheppard in organizing and coordinating the Memorial event. Chief Ridgeway thanked Chief Carter and Chief Sheppard for all of their efforts including organizing the honor guards and media. He also recognized Chief Bingham for acting as the Master of Ceremonies, Capt. Mike Pait of West Palm Beach, the American Red Cross, and West Palm Beach’s special events department.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Sharing SOP's/SOG's – Chief Andrew Cox discussed an effort being undertaken by the Training Officers Assoc to collect an electronic version of each agencies procedures which will be placed on to a CD by Chief Vicki Sheppard and distributed to each department. He encouraged all departments to cooperate with this effort.
- B. Power Assisted Stretchers – Chief Tom Wood asked if any members were aware of or had experienced any problems with power assisted stretchers. There was a report that Deerfield Beach had a member injured from a failure of one of these devices and Boca Raton was exploring any problems with them before making a decision to purchase.
- C. Elections Committee – Chief Bingham appointed an elections committee to bring forth a slate of candidates at the next meeting. Up for election are the Treasurer and Secretary positions. Chief Wood, Chief Ridgeway and Chief Koen were appointed.
- D. Installation Meeting Date / Location – Chief Bingham will work with the Fire Marshals and Training Officers Association to secure a location and meeting date/time for the Joint Installation Meeting in December.
- E. Sponsorship of a class on fire service accreditation during January - February 2007 – Chief Ridgeway is seeking the sponsorship of the Association in holding a 4 day class in the 1st or 2nd week of January on the new Commission on Fire Service Accreditation standards as well as peer reviewer requirements. The cost is approximately \$250/pp and West Palm Beach will provide the meeting space. Agreed and approved by the membership.

X. GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION / MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Chief Wood reported that he has appointed two new Deputy Chiefs for Boca Fire Rescue. Chief Glenn Joseph will be the new Deputy Chief of Operations and Chief John Johnson is the new Deputy Chief of Administration.

XI. DESIGNATION OF THE NEXT MEETING PLACE AND DATE

October 25, 2006 Boca Raton Fire Rescue
November 15, 2006 Palm Beach County EOC (Alternate is PBG)
December To Be Announced
Note: Thanksgiving is November 23, 2006

XII. ADJOURNEMENT OF GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING