

Eaton County Emergency Communications

Fire/EMS Subcommittee Meeting

Thursday, August 13, 2020 at 8:36 p.m.

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Tom Owen, OFD
Rodney VanDeCastele, GLFD
William Fabijancic, WTES
Phillip Miller, WTES
James Ivy, ERTFD
Tim James, BTFD & SFD
Jason Freer, ERFD
Roger McNutt, ERFD
Mark Jordan, BFD
Tyger Fullerton, CFD
Jeff Wetzal, VFD

Michael Armitage, ECCD
Ryan Wilkinson, ECEM

Call to Order and Roll Call – Chairman McNutt called the meeting to order at 8:36 p.m.

Introduction of New Members and Guests – None

Reading and Approval of Minutes of the May 2020 Meeting - Motion to approve the minutes was made by Phillip Miller and seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business

Report from Emergency Communications Subcommittee (Miller) – Chief Miller reviewed the minutes of the June meeting.

Central Dispatch Operational Report (Michael)

- Dispatch is short-staffed due to three out on FMLA and one out for public health monitoring, COVID-19 related. However, everyone should be back by the first part of September.

- One trainee quit. There are two currently in training and one is in the process of being hired soon.
- A new QA program is being implemented. This rigorous program requires a percentage of calls. Certain calls will require an immediate and thorough review within a certain amount of days. Michael feels this will alleviate inconsistencies and improvement, not discipline. The only discipline will happen when someone does something egregious.

Central Dispatch Project Updates (Michael)

- The good and bad part of the new radio system is that whenever dispatch is dispatching something and someone keys up, it will not go over the air but dispatch will hear it in their ear. This is especially important for Maydays.
- Priority 5 screening questions continue to be reviewed and updated. Dispatch has strictly followed the TCEMCA and the State's protocol with the information going in the notes and over the air. Michael is envisioning still asking the questions, everything goes in the notes automatically still, and then only important information would be put out over the radio to shorten the transmission. There was discussion. The consensus seemed to be to shorten the verbiage over the radio. Michael will write the verbiage and send it to the Tri County Medical Control Authority to review.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Refer to the 8/13/20 Eaton County Fire Chief Association meeting minutes for the motions and approvals of:

- Final direction on tone test results
- Dispatching on all roll-overs
- Dispatching FD on accident patient evals
- Dispatching FD/EMS on all school bus accidents
- Radio procedures/communication policy update

ROUND TABLE

CFD – Tyger mentioned that the fire departments are slow to be dispatched. He said that sometimes for accidents police have been dispatched a lot quicker than fire. Michael explained the possibly the problem is that the fire dispatcher could be on the

phone and the police dispatcher rarely answers the phone. Michael also noted that the new QA program would help with this. Tyger also mentioned that when dispatching, knowing what the call is and the location is the most important and then give the rest of the information. He stated that sometimes the dispatcher forgets to give the location or it's 30 seconds into the dispatch.

Motion to adjourn was made at 2100 hrs. by William Fabijancic and Rodney VanDeCastele. Motion carried.

The next meeting is Thursday, November 12, 2020 after the ECFCA meeting, which begins at 1900 hrs.

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