

St. Clair County Fire Chiefs Association
Meeting Minutes 3/27/03

President Feller called the meeting to order at 7:30pm and asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Chief Juenger made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Chief Little. The minutes were approved.

Secretary/Treasurer Rutherford gave the treasurer's report which showed a balance on hand of \$26,786.39. Chief Juenger moved to approve the treasurer's report and was seconded by Chief Kirkman. The motion passed.

Chief Render reported on MABAS activities. He mentioned that the MABAS Executive Committee would be looking into a state wide ID badge. Chief Feher will be the cochairman of a committee to make a recommendation. He further stated that firefighters and police were to be in the first round of smallpox vaccinations but now firefighters were to be in the third round. He suggested that all departments review whether or not they want department members to receive the vaccines.

Chief Render also mentioned that he and Chief Feher were getting terrorism security notices on a daily basis and that they were going through these to see what may be of importance to St. Clair County. If something were of importance to the County they would put out an e-mail notice regarding it. The notice would be from SHFD117@aol.com.

Chief Render also stated that a task force move-up exercise still had to be done. He also reported that SCSESA members responded to the train derailment at Tamaroa. The Chief's manpower pool was close to being activated for this incident. In regard to this incident Chief Feher also reported that Hulcher was utilized by the railroad to clean up the incident and, in his opinion, the safety of the community was not high on their priority list.

Chief Feher reported that the ETSB committee on a proposed new radio system for the County would be meeting with Board Chairman Baricevic to see what direction to take. He mentioned that if any department had issues with a trunking system that they should meet with him so the concerns could be brought before the committee.

Chief Feher stated that the County had received eight proposals on a CAD system and, that a number of the County's requirements could not be met and that all of the proposals had been discarded. The County has now hired a consultant to develop new specifications. Some of the previous specifications were not technically feasible. He also reported that the County has retained an attorney to develop a structure for a central dispatching agency. The County has no interest in running this agency.

Chief Smith reported that Bill Clossen is setting up a technical rescue team under SCSESA and that each department should have received a flier regarding this. Bill is MABAS Division 32's representative on the State technical rescue committee, which is headed by MABAS.

Chief Smith reported that SWIC has confined space rescue awareness training for the first three weekends in May and that a new curriculum is being developed for roadway rescue. He also mentioned the SWIC has a burn building and will have training in May utilizing this building. He also reported that SWIC is in the process of securing their matching funds for the grant to build the training facility and that a new architectural/engineering firm has been hired to develop the training grounds.

Chief Juenger mentioned that there is bill that would require IDOT to reimburse depts for responses to rest areas. The bill has not yet passed.

John Bertram gave an update report on ISO. He indicated that the 10-mile rule (property must be within 10 miles of the nearest engine house to receive an ISO class 9) has been reduced to 5 miles. Anything over 10 miles would be reclassified to an ISO class 10. The State has already approved the change. He further indicated that departments could provide a satellite station to comply with the new rule. If interested, he could provide information on the equipment necessary for this satellite station. Automatic aid (not ordinary mutual aid) could be used to circumvent the new rule also. Along with this change ISO is developing 'A new class (Class 8B). This class could be assigned if a department had at least 4,000 gallons of water available on rolling stock and if 85% of the district was within 5 miles of an engine house, Class 8B could be applied to the entire district. To get an 8B classification a department must have at least 6 responders on a structural call and all department members must have at least 24 hours of structural fire training annually.

Ben Belvin (sic), radio consultant, gave an update on FCC regulations and trunking radio systems. He indicated that on January 1, 2018 the 12.5 kHz bandwidth per frequency goes into effect and recommended that if you are buying new radios now to purchase radios that can utilize both 25 kHz, and 12.5 kHz frequencies. After August licenses for 25 kHz frequencies will not be available anymore. In regards to concerns about trunking systems, he indicated that Arkansas has been using a trunking system since 1986 without problems. He offered to provide references to anyone who wished to talk to trunking system users. He also stated that past problems with trunking systems were not due to the system itself, but flaws in the logic used to establish the systems.

Chief Morgan reported that he would be retiring on 5/30/03 with 44 years of service.

The next meeting will be held at Scott Air Force Base on 5/29/03. Chief Morgan invited everyone to come early and tour the new bum structure.

Chief Smith motioned to adjourn the meeting and Chief Juenger made a second.