

Galveston County Firefighters Association

Chief's Retreat
January 19, 2019

Santa Fe Fire & Rescue Station #1

Meeting began around 8:30 am with all Board Members present except two, Commissioner Cones and Training Commissioner Kozsloski. All Departments were represented except for two, LaMarque and Tiki Island.

Chaplain Pollard started with a prayer and President Wistinghausen led all in the pledge. Each member present introduced themselves and gave a brief history of their past fire service. We then discussed last year's topics briefly and went around the room gathering topics to discuss at this meeting.

Topics mentioned were as follows, but were not covered in any particular order:

- ESD #2 – Gilchrist – sub station for Crystal Beach FD
- Automatic Aid / Mutual Aid
- Specialized Training
- College of the Mainland Updates
- GC OEM - & Training
- Body Cameras
- Incident Reporting Software / CAD Software / Firehouse Software
- Budget
- Dispatch
- Water Rescue
- Appreciation Dinner Date

There was a brief discussion about the court dates for the couple of problems recently with a couple of Departments.

The ESD #2 on the Peninsula set aside a budget of \$100,000.00 to make the old Gilchrist station a substation for the Crystal Beach Fire Department. They don't want to have to deal with any more contracts and paperwork.

Orbin mentioned that Bolivar just got a boat and Crystal Beach has one. They may be doing some water rescue training. League city also has one.

James started off with discussion about who uses Firehouse Software. Firehouse is going away. Some Departments use ESO He asked who gets their program paid for by the Association. After a brief discussion, **C Anderson made a motion and T Anderson seconded that we give the Departments till December to find themselves a reporting software. Motion passed.** This will be the last year that our Association will pay for it. Orbin presented a flyer from the Texas Forest Service about Texas Fire Connect. This is free reporting software.

Jeff Pittman then started a conversation about Mutual Aid / Auto Aid. Just wondering what others had in mind. Discussions were had about what it would take to have a group of Firefighters that could respond throughout the County and help out Departments with calls. This may be something we could propose to the County as a budget item.

C Anderson mentioned that he put together some costs to have Firefighters paid during the daytime for 4 guys. At 8 hours a day and 5 days a week would roughly be \$124,000.00 a year. No benefits included. The Peninsula would be something else we would need to think about. CAD and Dispatch was briefly covered also.

A CAD and Dispatch **committee was formed to look into this. Chair is President James Wistinghausen with Orbin Thompson, Gary Warren and Chris Boyce from GCOEM on the Committee.** Texas City Chief Zacherl mentioned that they will be building a station out near the Tanger Outlet mall.

The next topic covered was on body cameras. There is a possible need for them on Medics and Firefighters now, not just the Police anymore. It's a 2-edged sword. It could help you or hurt you. He also mentioned that they would be wearing them come February.

College of the Mainland's Captain Obert spoke about the training programs at the College, and passed out a Coordinators update about the training program. He mentioned that they are an approved testing site for the TCFP. There are thoughts about combining the TCFP and SFFMA classes together. The traffic incident management class is now built into the program since it is now required for certification. Costs went up to \$995.00 per student.

The college is now set up for CE hours. Contact Chief McLaren at the college and he can give you all the information that you may need.

If anyone is interested in the Rescue Apprentice, they are looking into that class. There are various industrial classes offered too.

As far as budget concerns, we really didn't have a lot that we could talk about, but we can get Rusty to attend a meeting and give us a rundown on where we stand. **K Baden will still head up the budgeting committee.** Garrett Foskitt mentioned that if we want anything from the County Commissioners, we need to show them how, why etc... We can't just go in and tell them we need something without showing them.

Chief Anderson made mention that there would be a natural gas power plant being built on 646 N just North of 1764 on the West side of the highway. This would be a peak plant.

Chris Boyce from the OEM spoke about the Terrorist Attack Grant that Shari Forward is working on. He also mentioned that they would be offering classes on NIMS. Garrett mentioned that the FEMA forms would need to be filled out by all Departments and that would be a part of the Terrorist Attack Grant. He also mentioned that he has gone back to his old job with the county as the Nuisance Abatement Officer. If anyone needs him, he is

still available for your assistance. Billy Kilburn is now helping with the fire investigations in the County.

Specialized training was talked about, and a few topics for discussion was Auto Extrication, Pipeline training, Rope Rescue and ARF. C Anderson mentioned that Texas City's flashover chamber would be in Santa Fe, and that it would be open to all Departments in the County. Call Kim at Santa Fe to register for a class. There will be 2 classes.

Moody Gardens has been reserved on March 23rd. for our annual Appreciation Dinner for the County Departments. James asked whom we would want as a guest speaker. There were discussions as to where else we could hold the dinner. A special presentation will be made at the dinner that night.

A motion was taken from **C Anderson and seconded by J Sumrall to have it at Moody Gardens on the above-mentioned date. Motion Passed.**

The social hour would begin at 6:30 until 7:30.

Thank you Santa Fe Fire and rescue for hosting the Chief's Retreat.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm.