

# **PINELLAS COUNTY FIRE CHIEF'S ASSOCIATION**

## **March 1, 2007, Regular Meeting Minutes**

The meeting was called to order by President Angle at 12:36 P.M. Ret. Chief Ken Cramer provided the invocation. Roll call was taken with 25 in attendance including 2 guest presenters from LEPC Region 8.

**Motion Chief Naylor, second Chief Bullock to accept the January and February 2007 minutes as distributed. Motion passed unanimous by voice vote.**

Treasurer's Report as of February 28, 2007:

PCFCA Checking	\$8,433.09
PCFCA Extrication	\$1,094.37
PCFCA Training/Ed.	\$4,300.00
SCFSK Checking	\$1,686.74
<u>SCFSK CD</u>	<u>\$5,001.70</u>
TOTAL	\$20,515.90

**Motion Chief Graves, second Chief Lewis to accept the Treasure's Report. Motion passed unanimous by voice vote.**

### **Guest Presentation**

Chet Klinger of the Local Emergency Planning Committee Region 8 advised the Pinellas Fire Chiefs that they have a concern that many Pinellas County businesses and industries have quantities of hazardous materials and have no plans in the event of hurricane or other disaster to deal with them. As is evidence by Hurricane Katrina, many businesses/industries closed their doors following the storm and went out of business creating a huge burden on the local jurisdictions in handling and disposing of the hazardous materials that were on site. Mr. Klinger advised the LEPC has developed and is providing workshops and additional information for the businesses/industries but the information and its availability is not reaching the intended audience. Mr. Klinger suggested that the Pinellas Fire Chiefs may be a conduit to help as they know their area. Mr. Klinger provided a DRAFT informational brochure that will soon be finalized. President Angle suggested Mr. Klinger email the final product to him for PCFCA email distribution should that Chief is interested it having it distributed via their departments.

### **Correspondence**

President Angle reported he received a thank-you email from County Commissioner Seel regarding the report developed by the EMS Transport Committee chaired by Chief Bullock.

### **New Business**

Chief Bullock reported that the participating Pinellas County Fire Chiefs were victorious over the Pinellas County Police Chiefs/Sheriff in the recent "Step Up Pinellas." The Fire Chiefs averaged approximately 48,000 steps for the week. It was suggested that President Angle played a critical roll in this win.

Pinellas Park Fire Marshal Sandy Sullivan supported by several other Pinellas County Fire Marshals advised that the group held a special meeting recently and it was decided that they wished to leave the Tampa Bay Fire Marshal's and Inspector's Association as it has become a social club. They requested to come under the umbrella of the Pinellas County Fire Chief's Association mirroring the Pinellas Operations Chiefs and the Pinellas Fire Training Officers. Seminole Fire Marshal Ed Mullins and St. Pete Beach Fire Marshal Ernie Hand provided a brief history of the TBFMIA. Chief Sullivan indicated the group wants to be very active in the County and spoke of a Pinellas 400 Series mirroring the Pinellas 600 Series. Following discussion, **motion Chief Bullock, second Chief Naylor to accept the Pinellas Fire Marshals Group as a recognized subcommittee in its new form of the PCFCA as is the Pinellas Operations Chiefs and Pinellas Fire Training Officers. Motion passed unanimous by voice vote.** President Angle pointed out that the Fire Marshals are already a subcommittee of the PCFCA in their old form. President Angle suggested that a representative of the Pinellas Fire Marshals

select a liaison to attend PCFCA meetings to continue communications. In addition, President Angle suggested that the Pinellas County Fire Marshals group continue to have a representative attend the TBFMIA meetings should the organization remain again to continue communications. Chief Bullock suggested that the PCFCA have a liaison on such an important subcommittee and volunteered. President Angle advised Chief Bullock he was the liaison and thanked him for stepping forward.

### **Unfinished Businesses**

President Angle advised the PCFCA web site was up and progressing slowly. The Pinellas County Training Officer advertisement for Chief Rick Lasky's Pride and Ownership seminar March 23 and 24, 2007 is on the site.

President Angle reminded all the Retirement Tribute to Chief John Leahy was June 2, 2007 at the Belleview Biltmore.

President Angle spoke of the PCFCA Officer Nominating Committee. Chief Fant was not present at the meeting but Chief Naylor advised he had spoken to Chief Fant and the final slate would be emailed soon. President Angle reminded the vote was in April.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Operations Chiefs**

Chief Wallace reported the Technology Committee completed a report providing recommendations for future information and capability improvements to the Pinellas County 911 Emergency Communication Center (See Attachment 1). Chief Wallace recommended the PCFCA approve the report. **Motion Chief Naylor, second Chief Graves to accept the document. Motion passed unanimous by voice vote.** Chief Graves advised he would forward the document to Jackie Weinreich.

#### **Education Committee**

President Angle advised the PCFCA usually provides an Assessment Center Preparation seminar in the first quarter of the year. He indicated he would work toward setting one up and contact James Steffens of JTS Associates.

#### **Purchasing**

No report

#### **Fire Marshals**

Presented under New Business

#### **PALS**

Chief Greek reported PALS has created a subcommittee to study the recently enacted Cardiac Arrest and Cycles forms by the Pinellas County Medical Director. A meeting is scheduled for the upcoming week to provide input to Dr. Romig.

#### **Training Officers**

Chief Keirn reminded all of the Chief Lasky Pride and Ownership seminar. He indicated Firefighter Stand Down would be occurring again in June. The Pinellas Fire Training Officers are also planning for an Officer Development program to occur next year.

#### **Pinellas Assembly**

President Angle gave a brief update on the status of the EMS contract and expressed a concern echoed by many Chiefs that the unincorporated fire budgets are coming do and that is a difficult task without figures regarding the EMS funds. Craig Hare was not present at this meeting. Mike Cooksey indicated he just received an email from Mr. Hare and that Mr. Hare indicated he would be contacting the Fire Departments individually shortly and a new "DRAFT" contract would be available shortly.

Marine Rescue Capabilities – No Report

EMS Transport – Report forwarded to Commissioner Seel and this item will be removed from the agenda.

### **Affiliate Member Reports**

#### **Fire & EMS**

Mike Cooksey questioned if he should proceed with attempting to obtain a DHS grant for mobile data terminals. Chief Graves indicated most departments already had the equipment. Mr. Cooksey indicated he would do a survey of need. A brief discussion occurred on using DHS grant money on a Fire Command Bus. Chief Stout indicated this would be a great aid for any event occurring 12 hours or more. Mr. Cooksey to investigate procedure. Chief Graves inquired if Pinellas County had any money for fire hydrants. Mr. Cooksey indicated there was \$400,000.00 earmarked for hydrants in the unincorporated area. Mr. Cooksey indicated it costs the County approximately \$3000.00 per hydrant if the main is 6" or greater. The cost soars when the main size has to be increased.

#### **Emergency Management**

Sally Bishop could not attend and emailed President Angle with a report. She advised that Pinellas Emergency Management has two new employees and almost a third. She indicated that there will be three pet friendly shelters this hurricane season located in schools. She reminded the PCFCA that GA Foods – Vendor Managed Food Program is available to municipalities. Lastly, a survey is being conducted to establish debris removal priorities for the County and where the equipment should be staged.

#### **Medical Director**

Chief Lewis ask Dr. Laurie Romig about the large triage bags and items that are being shipped to the departments from the State of Florida. He indicated some of these items are on the State EMS Inspection form to be carried. Chief Lewis indicated he has no additional space in his District Chief vehicle and questioned if they could be carried on a squad, etc. Dr. Romig indicated she would check with Dave Hudak and clarify. Chief Lewis suggested that once the information is obtained the Operations Chief might wish to develop a policy. Dr. Romig reported that CPAP is on tract to begin in April. Dr. Romig indicated her office and PALS are discussing changing policy, procedure, and or new equipment start dates to something other than the 1<sup>st</sup> day of a month. Weekends, holidays, etc. have created problems in the past. Dr. Romig advised the March CME is CPAP in the classroom and the April CME is Pediatrics in the classroom. She indicated the June CME would be online. Lastly, Dr. Romig indicated the preliminary studies on the results of the new CPR protocols are nothing short of amazing. She indicated a January 40% admission rate from the ER therefore they appear to be working.

#### **Communications/911**

No Report

#### **St. Petersburg College EMS**

No Report

#### **St. Petersburg College Fire**

Jim Terry reported that Pinellas fire departments have received letters requesting to identify an individual for Fire Academy grounds entry swipe cards and the requirements. Mr. Terry indicated the first Frank Spirek Educational Award will be presented to a student in the current Fire Academy set to graduate March 29, 2007. It is presented based on academic excellence. Mr. Terry indicated an Accelerated Fire Academy was a possibility and if there is interest within a fire department please contact him. President Angle as Mr. Terry about Firefighter 1 being instructed in high schools. Mr. Terry indicated he would do some research.

#### **Red Cross**

No Report

**Sunstar**

Interim Operations Manager Richard Schomp indicated Sunstar had 9,758 responses in February 2007

**Good of the Organization**

No members or affiliates had additional information for the Good of the Organization

**The meeting was adjourned at 1:37 P.M.**

**Next Meeting is April 5, 2007 at Stacey's Buffet – Largo**

Respectfully submitted by Chief Gordon W. Yaudes

## ATTACHMENT 1

Pinellas County Fire Chiefs Association – Operations Chiefs Committee  
Technology Subcommittee  
February 27, 2007

### Purpose:

The purpose of this committee is to determine needed enhancements to the 911 dispatch system that will improve the information and capabilities available to emergency responders by providing input to Pinellas County 911 Emergency Communication Center as to system's needs.

### Summary:

The group met to discuss priorities so the county could respond to those items identified as the most important issues to be resolved.

Before software enhancements can be addressed the issue of hardware was discussed. The discussion resulted in a recommendation to the county to provide a list of equipment and manufacturers who have proven to be the most reliable products for this use. The list will not be mandatory to purchase but will be the county's recommendation for purchasing guidance and an attempt to standardize equipment to minimize troubleshooting. The items discussed included brand of laptops (i.e. Motorola and Panasonic) and types of antenna (GPS and radio).

After this a discussion of reliability of the connection between units and dispatch was identified as the most important issue. Without reliable communication the rest of the priorities would be of little value. The intention is to give the new high performance data modems an opportunity to prove themselves before making a determination as to reliability.

As far as software enhancements the following priorities were identified:

1. In Vehicle Computer – The program must make available to each responder:
  - a. Address of call
  - b. Type of call
  - c. Notes of the call
  - d. Touch Screen buttons – En-route, on scene, available, status (following to hospital, delayed response for training, etc.) message, emergency and other.
2. Mapping – Computerized maps available in each emergency response vehicle must include the entire county as a continuous map and have the following items available:
  - a. Pre Plans – Preplans drawn by fire departments available to responders by attaching them to a specific address for viewing during response and operations.
  - b. Hydrants – Hydrant locations must be shown.

- c. Show real-time location of all responding vehicles. (This will include all staged units on greater alarm calls.)
  - d. Water Mains – Water main overlays available to assist commanders in determining proper water availability.
  - e. Touch screen – Map locations must be moveable on the touch screen computer by dragging the map using the operator’s finger. Maps moved in this manner must refill and refresh.
  - f. Storm Drains – Storm drain overlay available to assist emergency responders in determining flow direction of substances inadvertently discharged into the storm draining system.
  - g. Map and data updates must be made available at hotspots throughout the county.
3. AVL – Automatic vehicle location system must keep track of the location of all emergency response vehicles and dispatch the closest appropriate vehicle(s) to calls.
- a. Individual jurisdictions will retain the ability to determine the appropriate number and types of units responding to calls within their respective jurisdictions.
  - b. Closest units to be tracked / selected by anticipated arrival time at the scene by way of usable roadways.
  - c. AVL system will provide verbal and written directions to calls.
  - d. System must able to accept parameters (to be determined by each jurisdiction) for when a BLS unit will be sent to assist an ALS unit which has an extended response time.
  - e. Calls waiting
4. *Was not discussed* Condition Codes – System must be able to be altered to accommodate the following conditions:
- a. Storm conditions – single engine response
  - b. Strike teams
  - c. Mutual aid companies without AVL capabilities