



SONOMA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION MEETING

MEETING MINUTES
May 8th 2018 at 9:30 AM
Hosted By Sebastopol

Attendance:

Dave Francheschi	Forestville	Mark Heine	Windsor/RV
Rob Cassady	Russian River	James Salvante	CVEMS
Bill Braga	Sebastopol	Brian Masterson	Rohnert Park
Doug Butler	CVEMS	Bonnie Plakos	North Coast
James Williams	Sonoma County	Neil Bragman	Santa Rosa
Jason Boaz	Healdsburg	Chris Godley	Sonoma County
Dan George	GR/BV	Ray Mulas	Schell-Vista
Davis Franklin	OES	Michael Palacio	CHP

Call to Order: Chief Boaz called the meeting to order at 0932 and lead the pledge of allegiance. Following the pledge Chief Boaz requested that the group reserve a moment of silence for Tom Forster. After the moment of silence Chief Boaz went on to say that Tom was his chief when he started in the fire service and that he was very influential to him and others. He highlighted Chief Forster's emphasis on education, tradition and support. He was very helpful to people trying to move up in their careers. Chief Braga added that Tom has been a longtime supporter of the chief's association and that his passing is a huge loss to many.

Host Chief Intro: Chief Braga welcomed the group and offered refreshments in the kitchen.

President's Report: Chief Boaz relayed a message to the group from Randy Collins requesting that the Chief's Association donate \$1,000 to a survivor's or memorial fund in honor of Chief Forster. The timing and exact recipient fund is to be determined. The motion was made by Randy Collins, seconded by Chief Braga and passed unanimously. Chief Boaz also informed the group that there have been some changes in location for the next two meetings. The June meeting location has been changed to the PG&E yard on Occidental Rd. and that PG&E will be presenting. The July meeting will be held at the Sonoma County Water Agency where the group will hear presentation from BRYX.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: A motion to approve the April 18th minutes was made by Chief Braga, seconded by Chief George, and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report submitted by Chief Boaz showed the following balances.

Chiefs General Fund:	\$5,915.19
Survivors Fund:	\$108,031.31
OP's/TO's Fund:	\$17,593.79
FPO General Fund:	\$3,370.78
FPO Safety Trailer:	\$7,606.90
Career Succession:	\$4,637.28
FITF	\$2,245.09
Safety Pals Gen. Fund:	\$42,155.31
Safety Pals Trailer:	\$2,500.00
	\$194,055.65

Correspondence: None

Presentation: Reef Atwell-Smith from USDA Rural Development Department in Santa Rosa.

Presented two programs that could benefit departments located in areas with less than 20K in population.

Unincorporated areas can be looked up. He can help you determine if you are eligible and what program best suits your needs.

1. The first is the direct loan program, for instance they financed the Graton Fire department project but also good for large vehicle purchases. The terms for building loans are 40 years at 3.875% and for larger vehicle loans the terms are 20 years at 3.875%. Pre-application is required to start the process with rough estimate of cost to determine eligibility and then a full application will be needed. No limits or deadlines. Financing could be in place as soon as 4-6 months.
2. The second is the grant program which has a match component based on the income of the area where the requesting station and/or item is located. This program is good for the purchase of things like breathing apparatus, radios, computers, printers, smaller vehicles, any tool to help make jobs easier. Reimbursements can be submitted on recently purchased items.

Reef Atwell-Smith works out of the Santa Rosa office located at 777 Sonoma Ave. E Street Annex. He can be reached by phone at (707) 536-0246 or email reef.atwell@ca.usda.gov and would be happy to answer any questions you may have about the programs available.

Old Business:

Peer Support: Chief Boaz reported that he has been working with Tim Aboudara with SR Fire and as of now Petaluma Fire Local 1415 will be having a Peer Support class July 23-24. Using the IAFF \$50,000 grant SR local 1401 will host a Peer Support class on June 26-27 at either the Union Hall or the UFO field office. Specific details will be emailed but basically Chief Boaz said the main goal is for all regions to participate. In an effort to assure that all regions are represented well they are going to hold 4 spots for each region – the chief from each region should come up with 4 people to send to the class – which again would be mostly paid for by the grant. We might just pay through the Chief's Assoc. account and get reimbursed – still working that part out. It's a 2 day class – class holds 30 people – and again hoping to get participation from all regions.

New Business: None

Standing Committee Reports:

- **Training/OP's:** Chief George reported: 1) XSN_All-Call Page will be tested every Wednesday at noon for the month of May. 2) Working on 2018 goal of draw down procedure, still need must cover info from regions 4,5,7 and 8. 3) REDCOM Sop 6 was discussed regarding numbering for type 6 engines. The group discussed specifying the policy so 70 series are 2WD Type III's 60's are 4wd Type III's and (57-59) would be for type 4,5 or 6 engines. The 40 series was discussed but many agencies are needing those for utility trucks. <https://www.coastalvalleysems.org/images/documents/redcom/sop/SOP%2006%20-%20Resource%20Identifications.pdf> 4) The FBOR class will be hosted by the SCTO's at the Luchesi Center in November/December by Jeff Johnson. Free for Sonoma County Fire Agencies, \$50 outside agencies. Flyer to follow at a later date. 5) Active Status is undergoing some transformation. Continue to utilize as normal, the table below is what OES and I working on. It will feed live data direct to Region 2 once complete inclusive of engines and Overhead. Once complete I will do a presentation to the Chiefs/Ops and REDCOM staff but operability will be very similar as to today. Very important to have approval to be listed as available in active status.
- **FPO's:** None
- **Fire Districts:** None
- **Volunteer Fire Companies:** None

Ad-Hoc Committee Reports:

- **Fire EMS Committee:** It was reported that things are moving in a positive direction. They went to the board requesting an extension and they should hear back in 30 days. Chief Boaz said that he thinks Chris Thomas is doing a good job facilitating the meetings.
- **Fire Recovery/AAR:** None
- **County Alerting System:** Chris Godley with Sonoma County reported that the County BOS has asked for an assessment of where we are currently and what direction we are heading in the future. Yesterday Chris met with about a dozen stakeholders just to listen and hear what they had to say. He wanted to find out what they are doing now, what their needs are and where they'd ultimately like to be. The goal is not just to look at what technology is available to us but also what fits best. The meeting generated 4 main objectives. 1. How to best deliver messages so that it reaches the right people, what language, and we need to consider areas where there is no service. 2. Situational awareness development. 3. Develop policies and procedures as to who has the authority to issue alerts. We also need technology in place to issue these warnings. Should it be a county wide system that everyone is a part of? And finally the public education component – what does our community understand about the threats that they face and what the warnings mean and what action they should take. Chris got a lot of input and now the goal now is to develop a recommendation for the BOS to obtain funding to move forward with the plan. Chief Braga commented that Chris did a good job at the meeting but he was surprised that it wasn't better represented from the fire sector. He urged the group to reach out to Chris and get involved. Chief George asked if there would be another meeting – Chris said there would be several – Chief George would like to send a representative from BV and that it's very important that they first establish the budget and funding so they can move forward. He's thinking it would be up to \$300,000 which would include technology and perhaps even hire a community warning coordinator. Chris discussed the idea that the warning would be issued through the SO – one dispatcher would stop taking calls and send the warning – this could dramatically reduce the number of 911 calls coming in to just get information. Chief Masterson agrees. He also believes that it is very important that the county drives the alert system and all districts and departments follow – he believes there should be one comprehensive system so we all have access to same information. He thinks funding could be raised through a 1/8 cent tax. The county needs to get behind this. Chris asked if Chief Masterson was available on June 11th to present to the BOS. Neil Bragman said that he has found that the public is very confused and possibly not subscribed to the right tool which could actually be a danger to the public. He thinks the county needs to streamline the technology, decide on a tools and educate the public. We need to figure out how we can all be under one tent - we need to leverage the tools we already have, keep the subscribers, but educate and create proper procedures. Chief Heine said it's so important that any one of the chiefs needs to get ahold of one person 24 hours a day – again most likely at the SO. He agreed that a unified approach is best. He also said that alerts should also come with education – if you send a red flag warning – explain what it means. Chief Boaz asked Chris if he would report on the county alert system at future meetings – Chris said he would. Chief George said that the Chief's Assoc. needs to send out a press release so that residents know that these issues are being worked on. Chief Boaz and Chief George will meet in the next week to get something together. It was also recommended that a letter signed by both the president of the Police Chiefs assoc. and the Fire Chief's assoc. be sent to the BOS asking them to get behind a county wide unified alert system.
- **Resiliency & Recovery:** Chief Williams reported that things are moving slowly but in a positive direction. He said that they are taking a more global approach addressing things like water shed protection etc. They are also trying to focus on what can we do now with the existing funding we have. The next meeting will be on May 14th.

Closed Session: No closed session.

Good of the Order:

- Chief George reported that Cal Fire will be hosting three training courses on the ABH invoicing process. Classes are scheduled on:
 - May 16th 09:00 until 12:00- Sonoma County- Gold Ridge, Station 1, 4500 Hessel Rd. Sebastopol
 - May 23rd 09:00 until 12:00- LNU HQ, 1199 Big Tree Road St. Helena
 - May 30th 09:00 until 12:00- Solano County-Location TBD
- Chief Heine reported LAFCO has begun the MSR on Windsor, Rincon, Mountain and BV. He also reported that they have signed up with Nixle and he thinks it'll be a really good tool for them even internally.
- Chief Williams said that they are getting an insurgence of weed complaints. We have a new ordinance but he's concerned about not having the funding or staff in place to deal with inspections. Still working on details.
- James Salvante reported on the new BLS scope of practice skills and training updates for Mendocino and Sonoma counties. They will be meeting with stakeholders on May 15th at the EMS Agency to discuss needed changes to the vehicle equipment list and develop the minimum standard for in-service paramedic and EMT responders.
- Bonnie Plakos reported that North Sonoma Coast will be having their annual BBQ on Sunday Memorial Day weekend please come if you can.
- Chief Mulas reported Schell Vista completed their first in-house recruitment class. They pinned 13 new firefighters and promoted 2 captains and the explorer post is up to 9. They had a successful polenta feed fundraiser and also received a \$10K grant from Shell Oil and Sonoma Raceway that wasn't expected but they are very grateful for it.
- Chief Franklin thanked those departments on behalf of OES, Mendocino County and the Mendocino Chiefs that assisted swift water teams to locate individuals in the river a few weeks back. He also encourages chiefs to get your admin rate turned in to the state including any new salary changes you may have. He said that pre-positioning funding is still trying to be secured, on the fire side they are still trying to come up with developing criteria on how it will be used. He thinks that if you request it you should be responsible for the logistics. Still questions to be answered. He also mentioned that there will be a Region 2 meeting tomorrow in Santa Rosa.
- Michael Palicio wanted to remind the group to be sensitive at accident scenes and careful of any evidence. He is also very grateful for the new officers they have working in the area.
- Captain Cassidy reported that they will be receiving a new type 3 this week, looking forward to getting that in service soon. They have also entered into an MSR with other several fire agencies in the area. They are also looking for a fire chief so there will be an announcement coming out soon.
- Chief Boaz reported that he is the new representative for region 6 on the Fire Advisory Council and Justin McNulty will be the alternate. Their new fire substation in Healdsburg just passed the major design review so he hopes construction will start in the spring. They are also taking delivery of new type 6 in the next 45-60 days. On July 1st they will be hiring a new FF so they will now be staffed at 3 full time FF and 1 part time FF. Region 6 have been working on 8 pre-attack maps for north county. The first 2 will be going to print in June.

Meeting Adjourned: At 1139

Next Meeting: June 13th at PG&E on Occidental Rd.

Respectfully Submitted: May 16, 2018
by Leslie McCormick, Bennett Valley Fire