

Upper Peninsula Fire Chief's Association
Spring Meeting Minutes
April 22, 2023
Sault Ste. Marie – Lake State University Rm 102

Meeting called to order at 10:05 Eastern Time.

Roll call:

President Jeff Friedenstab, Present

Vice President Rocky VanDorn, Present

Secretary Treasurer Dan Hammerberg, Present via zoom

Trustee Al Koski, Excused

Trustee Scott Carlson, Excused

Membership Present representing: Iron Mountain, Breitung Twp, Sands Twp, Dafter Twp FD, Sugar Island FD, Kinross FD, Sault Ste. Marie City FD, Rudyard FD.

On Zoom: Crystal Falls FD, Ahmeek FD, Spalding Twp FD, Sherman Twp FD, Dan Dulong (UNK FD),

Guests present: MAFC, MABAS, MI-Prevention, Fire Marshall (all allowed time under reports)

Approval of the agenda: Motion by Sault Ste. Marie supported by Breitung to approve the agenda. Approved as printed.

Minutes of previous meeting: Motion by Sugar Island, seconded by Sault Ste. Marie to approve the minutes as printed. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Motion by Sands Twp, seconded by Kinross to approve the treasurer's report as printed. Motion Carried.

Communications: No communications reported.

Old Business:

AFG/SAFER Grant: Update provided to President Friedenstab from Chris Peterson that no movement was made for this application period, but Chris is willing to attempt the paperwork again for the next grant cycle. Discussion was held on recruitment and the shortage of staff for all departments throughout the UP.

MABAS: Delta Co has signed with MABAS and is working on cards, Schoolcraft and Marquette counties are working on moving forward.

NFA Course: President Friedenstab stated that we are offered one of these classes a year FREE and that any FD in the UP can apply to host. He also stated that we fight to get trainings in the UP and we need to push our members to attend these classes as attendance has been extremely poor. ***The Fire Marshal also discussed attendance for all courses and that we need to fill the classes to show continued need for the future.

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Reminder the Fire Marshal sent the PFAS training letter and some departments have not sent in a roster of their members completing the PFAS training. Please send in a roster if you haven't yet. ***The Fire Marshall addressed this issue himself and provided an update.

Jeff reported on the website and updates: He is working on the updates and has been adding information as he receives it. He also stated that if any of our members are more tech savvy that he could use some help in getting it finished.

New Business:

Discussion held on local issues with incidents involving electric vehicles. The National Volunteer Fire Council has a free training available to all firefighters who sign up for the free account on the NVFC website.

NFA Strategic Considerations for the Company Officer class will be hosted at Breitung Twp Station 1 (Quinnesec) October 7-8, 2023 8am Both days.

President Friedenstab also reminded everyone that Sec/Tres Hammerberg will be sending out the due's notices in the near future.

President Friedenstab brought up that a motion was needed to approve payment for the annual add for the UP Firefighters Tournament, motion made by Breitung Twp and seconded by Sands Twp, motion carried.

Jeff reported there have been updates and changes in the laws and the cancer presumption now applies to volunteer firefighters. Firefighters with cancer would apply for a workers compensation claim. It likely will be denied by the department workers compensation but after that the State will pick up the claim if the type of cancer falls within the guidelines. ***Fire Marshal gave a brief discussion on this topic and acknowledged the MAFC for their dedication and hard work in getting this passed for all firefighters.

President Friedenstab gave a reminder that if anyone was in need of equipment or gear to go to www.terryfund.org and make contact with them. Several UP FD's have gotten turn outs and other equipment including apparatus from them.

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Reports:

Fire Marshal / FFTD Report

FM Selmyer gave updates on the changes made to Fire Instructor and Fire Officer Courses and included the new FO III course. He also discussed the fire statistics for the State of Michigan to date. He also discussed how you can access SMOKE from the MI-Prevention website,

Michigan State Firemen's Association (MSFA)

MSFA will not be hosting any classes in the UP this year.

MI-Prevention

Kimberly Pashkowski was present and discussed the smoke alarm program, how it works, where to get them, and what is required for logging placements. She also discussed the MI-Prevention website and passed around the QR code for members present to scan and download the website to their phone.

Michigan Association of Fire Chiefs (MAFC)

President Johnny Menifee and Vice President Chris Stoecklein were present and provided a brief presentation on the MAFC, and what they stand for and their commitment to all FD's/FF's in the State. They also gave some legislative updates for items that are being looked at by legislators both good and bad for the fire service as well as the passing of funding for the current round of AFG grants and the passing of the workers compensation act that is now tied into the cancer presumption act.

National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC)

***NO REPORT

Membership Comments: NONE

Board member Comments:

Rocky thanked everyone for attending.

Jeff reminded everyone that Trustee officers will next be elected in 2024. He also thanked Chief Miller for agreeing to host this meeting and that it has been long overdue to have a meeting on this side of the UP. He also thanked everyone for taking time out of their busy schedule to attend what has been one of the longest meetings we have had in a long time. He thanked all of our guests for making personal appearances and sharing all of the information.

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Next Meeting:

Next meeting will be Friday, July 28, 2023, 10:00 eastern time at the UP Firefighters Tournament, hosted by Negaunee City FD.

Adjournment:

Motion by Rudyard supported by Sands Twp to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 1:26pm

UP Chief's MTG 4/22/23 10am EST

Sault Saint Marie - LK Superior - Room 102

Rocky Van Dorn TRI Co fire 00207

Jim Rose Breitung Twp 2101

AUSTIN CONWAY DAFTER TWP 01712

Tom Wahlstrom Sands Twp 05212

Dave Pine Sugar Island 610530

CHRIS STOECKLEIN MAFC/CANTON

Trent Atkins MI MABAS

Brian Bensch Kinross 001714

Grey Postma CCCC

Nick Vaught SSMFD 01707

Ryan Beronimas Rosary FD 01706

Kevin Seymeyer State Fire Marshal

Kimberly Paszkowski MI Prevention

Edwin Miller Sault St. Marie FD 01707

JOHNNY MENEFEE MAFC / Southfield

Zoom Dan Hammerberg

Zoom Dan Dulong ???

Zoom Rob Middlemis-Brown Sherman Twp F&R

Zoom Mike Mankin Ahmeek FD

Jeff Friedenstab IMFD 2202

Zoom Steve Fabbri Crystal Falls