

St. Clair County Fire Chiefs Association
MABAS Division 32
Meeting Minutes 12/04/03

The meeting was called to order by President Feher at 7:05pm.

The meeting was recessed for dinner.

When the meeting resumed, President Feher introduced Dan Flynn with Recon Solutions. Recon Solutions is a division of Aberici Construction. Dan presented a program to show what Recon Solution has to offer area departments in the way of assistance during multiple alarm incidents. Recon Solutions has access to large scale machinery, engineers, and a lot of different resources to assist departments. Recon Solution is available 24 hours a day.

Radio System – Norm Forshee presented the status on phase 1 of the radio system on the county level. Norm showed some examples of the radios that will be available. The contract has been signed with Motorola and sites for towers are being worked on. The county will be ordering 400 radios for the county. The committee will be meeting with agencies from outside the county to set up interoperability with departments surrounding the county. The county system is expected to be operational by September 2004.

Phase II is for fire, police and EMS. This will be going to the voters in March 2004. If approved, departments would be given radios as needed by department. Phase II would also enhance the tower sites from 4 channels to 16 channels. If approved, 25 million dollars would be financed over a 20 year period, with 10 million being for maintenance. A CAD system would also be purchased, as well as establishing a communications center, which would included relocating some equipment. A motion was made and seconded that the St. Clair County Fire Chiefs endorse and support the 9-1-1 surcharge increase that will be on the ballot in March 2004. Motion passed.

President Feher introduced Roger Mann and Greg Earle with the South Central Illinois Fire Chiefs Association. This association is working on a regional basis in south central Illinois. Their next meeting will be in Nashville on January 29, 2004.

Red Cross – The Red Cross will be hosting a BBQ Day in Forest Park on April 29th, 2004 from 4pm to 7pm. The will be to thank the area fire departments for their efforts throughout the years. Additional information will be forwarded when it becomes available.

SWIC – The Spring semester starts in January. Class offerings were sent to departments and will be available on the chiefs website.

Illinois Terrorism Task Force – The South Central Chiefs Association received a grant for hazardous materials equipment. Mill Spec Canister masks have been ordered. Distribution of the masks will begin soon with police departments receiving them first.

ID System – 5000 ID's will be made in Springfield for haz mat techs, engineer techs, and state office holders. President Feher has made a lot of contacts while attending these meetings and has found a source for ID Cards for about \$5 per card.

Illinois Fire Chiefs – Jay Reardon is the new President. President Reardon and Executive Director Bob Buhs will be attending our next chiefs meeting.

Nomination of officers – the nominating committee recommended the following for the 2004 officers of the association:

President – Don Feher
Vice President – Brent Saunders
Secretary/Treasurer – Tom Elliff

The floor was opened for any other nominations. There being no further nominations, a motion was made and seconded for the secretary to cast a vote by acclamation. Motion passed.

Two bills were presented for payment. \$30.70 to O'fallon fire department for a battery for the Class "A" foam trailer. \$25.00 to Peaknet for the website. Vice President Elliff indicated that the \$25 was only for one month, and entertained a motion for \$300 to pay for the website for a year. Motion was made and seconded to approve the \$30.70 to O'Fallon and \$300 to Peaknet. Motion passed.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the chiefs meeting. Motion passed.

Chiefs Association meeting was adjourned at 9:03pm

The MABAS 32 meeting was called to order by President Feher.

Chief Smith reported that from the last executive meeting, that MABAS does not have a policy and procedure book. Work has begun on a book and will be available in the future

MABAS is looking at acquiring frequencies for low watt radios. A recommendation was made by MABAS to use IREACH (155.055) to talk to air ambulances throughout the state.

A discussion was held at the last meeting concerning the gas masks. Police Departments will be getting them first. Under an opinion from legal counsel for the MABAS board, physicals should be done by a health professional which is a minimum of a registered nurse. Fire departments do not have to give their police departments physicals.

Website information – MABAS does not have an official website. The MABAS radio committee has set up a site. Their address is www.mabasradio.org.

Smallpox vaccines are still being looked at by the Illinois Department of Health.

An Urban Search and Rescue team is being set up for the State of Illinois. Information about becoming a member of the team will be posted on the chiefs website.

The Missouri Fire Marshal, Bill Farr, has been given an opinion that he can sign one agreement to cover all departments in Missouri to join a MABAS Division. Work is continuing and an agreement with Division 32 may be in place as early as January 2004.

A bill was present for \$100 for 2004 dues for MABAS. Motion was made and seconded to approve the bill. Motion passed.

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 9:17pm.