

St. Clair County Fire Chiefs Association
MABAS Division 32
Meeting Minutes 09/17/03

President Feher called the meeting to order by asking if there were any corrections or addition to the July 31, 2003 meeting minutes. There being none, the minutes were approved.

Secretary/Treasurer Rutherford gave the following treasurer's report: the total in the join account is \$27,477.88 with \$26,571.15 in the Chiefs Association ledger and \$906.73 in the MABAS division 32 ledger. A motion to approve the treasurer's report was made and seconded and approved by association vote.

President Feher reported that the County should receive a \$3.8MM grant towards the proposed radio system and that the projected total cost of the system is estimated at \$8.6MM. He indicated that maintenance cost issues still needed to be resolved but that the County radio committee proposed an additional surcharge for 9-1-1 on telephone bills to cover the cost.

Chief Smith reported for SWIC. He stated that the state grant for the new training facilities is being held up due to the current financial crisis with the State and that he currently has no idea of the completion date. Chief Smith further reported that the Fire Apparatus Operator certification is now under the State Fire Marshal's office and that department members interested in the certification will need to get the Fire Apparatus Engineers Certification.

President Feher discussed the status of the statewide ID program for emergency responders. He indicated that there is a current data base for police and EMS but none for the fire service. One issue that needs to be resolved is how to develop this data base and keep it current. FEMA will probably funnel money to the State for the development on an ID program. To keep the data base current each department will probably be required to turn a roster into the Fire Marshal's office on a regular basis. Current thoughts are to stay away from the State driver's license due to security issues. The State will most likely to with a private firm to make the ID cards.

President Feher mentioned that a Federal grant had been secured for the purchase of two trailers for the St. Clair County Special Emergency Services team and a heavy duty pickup truck to pull them and that the equipment should be delivered in about a month.

Chiefs McGuire stated that it was his understanding that the state MABAS executive committee was recommending that departments apply for certain available specific radio frequencies so that they would have access to state wide frequencies. He asked if MABAS division 32 is considering application for these frequencies on behalf of its member departments. Chief Smith replied that there was some discussion at the last state MABAS committee meeting regarding available frequencies but that no firm recommendation came from the committee. It was suggested by some members of the

state executive committee that fire departments apply for these frequencies on their own. President Feher stated that we would try to determine if the Chiefs Association or the MABAS division could even hold a license.

President Feher appointed the following nomination committee: Chief Owens, Chief Little, Chief Hogg. The committee is to give their recommendations for officers at the meeting to be held in December.

There being no further business, President Feher called for adjournment at 9:30pm.