

Fall Meeting October 6th 2012
Palmer Fire Department.

1. Meeting called to order by President Caudill at 10:02 hours at the Palmer Fire Dept.
2. Pledge of allegiance was said aloud.
3. Roll call of members in attendance per the sign in sheet; Alpha-Mastodon FD, West Iron County FD, Marquette Township FD, Ironwood Township FD, Negaunee FD, Rock River Township FD, Tri-County FD, Sands Township FD, Wakefield FD, Richmond Township FD, Wells Township FD, Skandia-West Branch FD, Republic Township FD, Munising FD, Spalding FD, BFS/OFFT.
4. Roll Call of Board members;
 - a. President Caudill; Present
 - b. V.P Perlongo; Present
 - c. Sec. /Tres. Seppala; Present
 - d. Trustee Jacobson; Present
 - e. Trustee Yon; Present
5. **Introduction of Guests:** Dan Hammerberg, representing OFFT/BFS/Fire Marshall
6. **Approval of the agenda:** A motion was made by Marquette Township with support from Tri-County FD to approve the agenda as printed, all were in favor.
7. **Minutes of the July 2012 meeting:** A motion was made by Ironwood Township FD with support from Skandia-West Branch FD to accept the minutes as printed, all were in favor.
8. **Treasurers Report:** A motion was made by Republic Township FD with support from Palmer FD to accept the treasurers report as printed, all were in favor.
9. **Communications:** None
10. **Unfinished business:**
 - a. **Web Site:** Chief Seppala updated the membership on a new website that he had created due to the old site problem of not being able to delete old files or add new files because of the limitation on space (size) aloud for files on the free Tripod site. Jeff purchased one year of web hosting and five years of domain name registration from GoDaddy.com for \$119.73, the cost of one year of Web hosting is \$56.00 per year. Jeff advised that it can be even cheaper if purchased when they have specials. The web site is easier to update by Jeff and has much more space available. (10GB) verses the 1 GB from the Tripod site. Jeff asked that if any department has content they would like added to the site there is an e-mail link on the contact page to forward that information to him for addition, there is a lot of space available to add more content. The new web site is www.upchiefs.com. A motion was made by Spalding Township with support from Republic Township to approve the purchase of the Web domain and hosting package and continue maintaining the site into the future, all were in favor.
 - b. **Training:** Chief Caudill addressed the members that the late winter training will be held the weekend after the Super Bowl so there should be no conflict with turnout. The date agreed on by the membership will be February 9th 2013 at the Iron Mountain Elks Lodge. Jeff will put that information on the Web site and a mail reminder will go out prior. It was agreed upon that the same \$10.00 fee will be used this time as well and a head

count at least 1-2 weeks prior to the training for the meal planning. Dick has been in contact with a couple of instructors and talk was about breaking this training into a couple of different topics so as not to become redundant after the lunch break.

11. New Business:

- a. Chief Seppala mentioned narrow banding and the discussion was that most were having issues with skip from other areas of the country, such as voice traffic, tripping pagers and sirens. Palmer had to change the codes for their siren. The quality of voice traffic was questionable for some departments and not so for others. It was felt that as with any other changes some time was needed to work out all the kinks and after such time has passed with no recourse Chief Caudill thought that we as a group (Organization) can make a formal complaint to the appropriate organization at that time, MPSC, FCC etc.

12. Reports:

- a. **Fire Marshal Report;** Dan Hammerberg spoke on behalf of Fire Marshal Rich Miller, he apologized for not being able to attend due to prior engagements. Dan mention an executive order 2012-14 transferring the underground storage tank regulations to LARA/BFS. Also a reminder of Fire Prevention week. There is now a fire investigator stationed in Marquette, Jim Ellenboss.
- b. **Office of Firefighter Training;** Dan apologized for Joe Gruttza not being able to attend due to a prior engagement. Dan advised that Mike Griese has retired as curriculum specialist and that Paula Bracinski has taken his place. She has a background in education and IT. She is doing well and has figured out the IMS system and already has some changes in mind. The Fire Marshall and Joe have charged Dan with making sure all County training funds are used up this year. There was an increase in training funds this year and is up to \$2750.00 minimum per county this year. There is also a rumor that due to the Fireworks bill that was recently enacted may generate an addition \$750,000.00 to OFFT giving a boost to training funds of up to \$11,000.00 per County.....WOW. Chief Caudill reminded the membership to use all funds or give them to another county, also put in for more classes unfunded and if there is money available you might get it. Dan also mentioned the class September 8th at the elks Lodge in Iron Mountain, the Everyone Goes home program that incorporates the 16 life safety initiatives. It is a State recognized training and a certificate will be issued, all should attend when available. Dan also touched on new pilot program training on chimney fires that Wakefield had run recently. Fred Chamberlain will be credited for the program as he was the only trainer on the subject and had come up with the entire training curriculum. Chief Caudill mentioned that wood ash safety should be incorporated in to the class as he had just lost a 1 million dollar home in his jurisdiction due to an ash pail outside the residence. Dan also touched base on an Instructor 1 class in the UP that will take place around the end of March on a Friday, Saturday, Sunday and the following Saturday and Sunday.
- c. **Firefighters Training Council;** No Report
- d. **Michigan State Firemen's Assoc.;** No Report
- e. **NVFC Report;** No Report
- f. **Michigan Chief's Report;** No Report

13. Comments; No one had any comments from the membership or the board other than an update that the 2013 UP Firefighters Tournament will be held the weekend of August 1st, 2nd, 3rd in L'Anse due to the Pow-Wow being held the last weekend in July.

Dan Hammerberg did mention that Jeff was doing a terrific job as Secretary.

14. Election of Officers;

a. **President;** Palmer made the nomination to keep Chief Caudill as president with support from Marquette Township, with no other nominations, nominations were closed by motion from Wakefield with support from Ironwood Township, all were in favor. Congratulations Chief Caudill.

b. **Vice President;** Chief Perlongo wished to step down as he has been there long enough and some new blood should step up. Alpha-Mastodon nominated Chief Malone from Munising with support from Wakefield, with no other nominations, Watersmeet made motion to close nominations with support from Ironwood, all were in favor. Congratulations Chief Malone.

c. **Secretary;** Chief Seppala had no choice but to retain his position.

d. **Trustee #1;** Chief Jacobson wished to step down from the post. Bob Simms was nominated but declined. Nomination by Palmer FD for Chief Koski (Republic Township) as trustee with support from Skandia FD. With no other nominations they were closed with a motion by Alpha- Mastodon with support from Watersmeet, all were in favor. Congratulations Chief Koski.

e. **Trustee #2;** Chief Yon was willing to keep his position for one more term. With no other nominations West Iron County moved to close nominations with support from Alpha-Mastodon, all were in favor. Congratulations Chief Yon.

15. Next Meeting; The Spring meeting will be held at the Alpha-Mastodon Township Fire Department, 1371 Highway US-2 South, Crystal Falls, MI 49920. Saturday April 20th 2013. 10:00 hour's local time. Central Standard Time.

16. Adjournment; With a motion by Tri-County FD and support from Marquette Township to adjourn the meeting at 11:07 hours, all were in favor.