

ERIE COUNTY FIRE ADVISORY BOARD – MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE:	2/25/16	
LOCATION:	Fire Academy	
CALL TO ORDER:	7:22 PM	
OPENING PRAYER BY:	n/a	
ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:	PRESENT:	17
	ABSENT:	5
	EXCUSED:	Bob Kryszak,
INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:	Mark Poloncarz, Joe McMahon	
APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING:	DATE OF LAST MEETING:	12/20/15
	MOTION BY:	Unknown
	SECOND BY:	Unknown
	APPROVED:	Unknown
REPORT OF OFFICERS:		
CHAIRMAN:	Paul Wilson: We all share the same goal - to do what is best for the firefighters of Erie County.	
CO-CHAIR:	Mike Wutz nominated Lee Smith for this position. Nomination accepted. Seconded by Ernie Mathews. – unanimously approved	
SECRETARY:	Motioned Dan Corby – 2 nd by Ernie Mathews – unanimously approved	
TREASURER:	Motion Mike Wutz in position, Dwayne Moresy 2 nd – unanimously approved	
REPORT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES:		
COMMISSIONER:	<p>Commissioner Neaverth Jr. welcomed all members and thanked them for taking the position on the fire advisory board. The meetings will be public and recorded. Minutes will be taken for each of the meetings and will be posted to the county website.</p> <p>The Sheriff's Office has appointed Detective Shaun Hediger to represent the Sheriff's Office on the board and Buffalo Fire has appointed Div. Chief Peter Kertzie who can bring both the paid fire and volunteer insight to the board.</p> <p>Commissioner reminded the members that they are each on the board to represent the entire fire service – not the individual agency you represent; and that they are looking out for the good of the fire service as a whole.</p> <p>Updates on Communications System: Starting to hang equipment on some new towers. It does take time as we have a lot of items that need to go through before we can put the shovel into the ground. Tower in Aurora is finally moving forward after a 3-month battle with NYSEG to assume liability.</p> <p>Paging System – We set out about a year ago to look at the current public safety grade paging system - but it is only a public safety grade if you use the system as it was supposed to with the alpha numeric pagers, not cell phones. If you use your cell phone it is based on 3rd party provider. To update this system it would cost \$250,000 and we would get only the same level of one-way service that we have today. We evaluated several vendors and did significant research before deciding on one vendor. We look to hopefully transition to this new system by the end of March/middle of April. There are a number of agencies that already use this so the selected provider has agreed that if you are currently using the system, the county will absorb that cost and those fire departments will get a pro-rated credit for contract. For a fraction of the cost we will get a better two way communications platform.</p> <p>As grants are dwindling possibly next year, possibly cut by as much as 40-50%, this gives the first responders value added services at a cheaper cost than what would be needed with the current system. It will also be provided to your dispatch centers. More details to follow shortly.</p>	
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:	<p>PESH violation for the outdoor tower stairway. Working on fixing it when the weather warms up and concrete can be poured.</p> <p>County instructor interviews – every two years we do interviews.</p> <p>Maintenance worker – works on maintaining the towers</p> <p>Do hay and pallet runs – buy hay and business donate pallets.</p> <p>3 Burn Buildings – Cheektowaga, Tonawanda and Chestnut Ridge Park</p> <p>Firefighter I or other classes – As a FAB member feel free to come to the facility and take a walk</p>	

	in the classes – always are welcome to stop by and watch.
DEPUTY FIRE COORDINATOR:	<p>As part of our partnership with NITTEC and our team effort to improve highway safety for first responders, we partnered with Erie County DPW to pave the remainder of our unpaved south lot, and with Accent Striping of Orchard Park who donated striping of the academy streets as part of our vision to create a stand-alone Traffic Control Training Center where responders can train on highway safety and traffic control in a safe environment without the risk and challenge of closing down real roads to train. The paving and striping will finish up this spring so the entire Cheektowaga Complex can be used.</p> <p>Remember the training schedule is a living document – we accept course request at all times of the year - not just when you want the course to be scheduled. We encourage collaboration between all of the fire companies in a given Fire Control area.</p> <p>FASNY's RecruitNY Weekend is April 23-24, 2016 and we encourage everyone's participation. Let us know how we can be of assistance in promoting your efforts.</p>
OTHER:	<p>The County Executive attended the meeting and thanked all for joining the fire advisory board, and thanked Paul for being the Chair of the Board. This is an important job; you are here to assist the county moving forward to address any issues the fire service may have. The board is here to help him. As an example, he brought a copy of a report by the Erie County Environmental Management Council which is where the idea of banning micro-beads came from. That council recommended the ban to the County Executive, who had no prior awareness of the issue and now the county is in a position to take the lead on helping the environment. This ban is in effect and will be a federal law in a few years, all thanks to the recommendation by the Environmental Management Council.</p> <p>He suggests that the fire advisory board looks at items within the fire service and if there is a need for something, recommend it to the county executive and he can move it forward to help solve the issue. Please think about how we can help the fire service in Erie County. He appreciates you all for taking your time to serve and assist the fire service. He also reiterated that because this is a chartered board all meetings are public and the minutes will be posted.</p> <p>Deputy Commissioner Greg Butcher spoke on the Disaster Preparedness Division and what that division's role is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Required to update and keep the CEMP as well as keeping current other plans. • The Division works on credentialing for the county for all first responders. • Opening up of the EOC • Manages the county's alerting system. • Communications – oversees and runs the Interoperable Communications Section and works on the infrastructure of the 400Mhz system. Currently, we have two towable towers that any agency can utilize if additional coverage is needed. • Critical Infrastructure – work on a group to help the resiliency within the County's critical infrastructure. • Federal Grants to acquire regional equipment and staffing to assist with homeland security • FEMA Reimbursements • Responsible for ICS training and homeland security and Active Shooter training • Offers multiple assets that any agency can utilize if needed: 3 Mobile Operations Centers/ Command Vehicles; 3 Traffic Incident Management trailers; Shelter Management Trailers
REPORT OF COMMITTEES:	
SCHOOL:	What to expect from this committee: State training courses as well as bringing in outside training/speakers to the county.
DRILL TOWER:	What to expect from this committee: Tower issues and projects but also county drill training. They are able to assist the county in the interview process but ultimately the county will select the instructor.
RADIO:	What to expect from this committee: Assist with the 400Mhz projects. Interoperable Communication course. Assist with managing licensing, who is allowed on the system who isn't. Make sure it is current with modern technologies
LEGISLATIVE & FIRE PREVENTION:	What to expect from this committee: As a group bring to the table Legislative issues that are national and statewide. Also bring to light local issues that should be

	addressed at local law or things that should be brought up further. For example there is no local or state law for criminal background checks maybe this could be a law to bring to the forefront. Fire Prevention – shall work on fire prevention/recruitment retention programs.
BUDGET/PLANNING & WALL OF FAME:	What to expect from this committee: Come up with ideas of where we should address enhancements for services that we are currently not providing.
RULES & MUTUAL AID:	What to expect from this committee: Work with updating the fire mutual aid agreements for the county.
REPORT OF BOARDS:	
ERIE COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS MUTUAL AID ORG.:	3/21/16- installation of officers for the Try Board – 4/2/16-Woodlawn – combined banquet fire chiefs mutual aid, volunteer fireman’s association, fire district officers association Scholarship applications are due 6/1 Awards – no letters for awards have been submitted. Have not had a fireman of the year in 4 years
ERIE COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIREMEN’S ASSOCIATION:	5/1/16 – next meeting – Sheridan Park
ERIE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION:	U-Crest – 3/16 installation will be 3/19 at Millennium
ERIE COUNTY FIRE POLICE ASSOCIATION:	4/19 - Brighton
DISASTER ADVISORY BOARD:	3/22 – Fire Academy – 7pm
EMS ADVISORY BOARD:	
OLD BUSINESS:	
NEW BUSINESS:	
GOOD OF THE ORGANIZATION:	This board maybe can develop a committee to work on acknowledging volunteers via awards or scholarships. Do we want to continue to collect the \$1 – Motioned by Mike Wutz, second by Mike Schuler – Chris Couell questioned that if we only hold 4 meetings a year we may want to up the cost. Motioned carried unanimously Commissioner Neaverth Jr, stated, we are not above criticism. Budgets are completed early July, in late June we are given budget projections for the upcoming year. Have midyear budget hearings. August is when we finalize budgets. If you see a need to have something in the budget you need to let Emergency Services know by June for the next budget year. After June it is to late.
NEXT MEETING DATE:	Timothy motioned to do meeting in March 3/24 and April 4/28 then go to every other month be June 6/23, August 8/25, October 10/27, early December 12/1
ADJOURNMENT:	Motioned by Tim Moses – 2 nd by Dan Corby unanimously – 9:21
MINUTES RECORDED BY:	Tiger Schmittendorf
MINUTES SUBMITTED BY:	Melissa Calhoun