**ERIE COUNTY FIRE ADVISORY BOARD – MEETING MINUTES**

**MEETING DATE:** 5/31/2018  
**LOCATION:** Erie County Fire Training and Operations Center  
**CALL TO ORDER:** 1902

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRESENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Melissa Calhoun, Jim Reger, Jim Gajewski, Bob Zacher, Jim Guy, Scott Kuhlmeiy, Douglas Lahnen, Dwayne Morosey, Paul Prautzsch, Robert Rackl, Peter Spilsbury, Chris Maciok, Lee Smith,</td>
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<td>ABSENT</td>
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<td>Daniel Neaverth Jr., Daniel Corby, Robert Kryszak, Timothy Moses, Peter Kertzie, James Reger</td>
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<td>EXCUSED</td>
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**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** Dale Icekamp – East Concord, Todd Catalano – D - Unit

**APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING:**

| DATE OF LAST MEETING: | 3/29/2018 |  
| MOTION BY: | Paul P. |  
| SECOND BY: | Chris M. |  
| APPROVED: | All passed unanimously |

**CHAIRMAN:** Bob Zacher reported Mike Wutz stepped down as treasure so we are now looking for a treasurer. Paul P said he would do it.

**CO-CHAIR:** No report

**SECRETARY:** Asked if she was missing anyone from the committee roster.

**TREASURER:** $167.05

**REPORT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES:**

Jim – interviewing for FC-3 position. Offered to someone however, it was turned down. Working on re-interviewing a few candidates. The Administrative position has been vacated so will be working on filling that position as well. Currently, only Jim is in the office. Melissa is helping out when she can. Reminded all that state training has to go through the Fire Safety Office. The state instructors will work with the host company to schedule classes. The state instructor once working with host company will then submit a proposal for the class to Jim who will sign off on it and submit it to the state. If firefighters cannot make a class please make sure that they call us as many of the classes have waiting lists and we want to make sure they are full. In 2017, we were allocated 3300 hours and utilized 3500 hours.

County Tower Sites – are requested at beginning of the year. When companies call to cancel a training the day before it doesn’t give a lot of notice to make other arrangements for that date. Not only do you inconvenience the 4 county instructors who are expecting to work that day but it also doesn’t allow another fire company to take that training day, so it hurts everyone. If you can’t get enough firefighters from your company look outside your company to mutual aid companies. That way you can get more out of a training and will not have to cancel.

Buildings & Grounds is working on the pigeon issue at the Amherst tower site.

There will be 10 new county fire instructors starting soon.

**DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:** No report

**DEPUTY FIRE COORDINATOR:** No Report

**OTHER:** Melissa reported out about the Firehouse Sub Grant. The county cannot apply as they are not a responding agency but if your fire departments are unaware of this grant please share with them.

**REPORT OF COMMITTEES:**

**SCHOOL:** No report

**DRILL TOWER:** No report

**RADIO:** See Attachment

**LEGISLATIVE & FIRE PREVENTION:** No report

**BUDGET/PLANNING & WALL OF HONOR:** Discussed the wall of honor – it is more visible now and criteria has changed to be added to it. Discussed putting together a one page hand out to send out to fire service. It is a great opportunity to promote our past, present and future. Received to nominations to the Wall of Honor.
- Donald Waldraff – South Line VFC – motioned Jim Guy – Second – Lee Smith – approved unanimously

RULES & MUTUAL AID:

REPORT OF BOARDS:

ERIE COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS MUTUAL AID ORG.: No report
ERIE COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIREMEN’S ASSOCIATION: No report
ERIE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION: 6/20-7pm-Collins
ERIE COUNTY FIRE POLICE ASSOCIATION: 7/17-7pm-Fire Museum
DISASTER ADVISORY BOARD: If anyone needs 100/200/700 please reach out to Melissa to schedule
EMS ADVISORY BOARD: No report

OLD BUSINESS: SOPS of FAB – sent out and need to vote on them.

NEW BUSINESS: Todd Catalano and Dale Icekamp spoke about moving dispatch of Chaffee Sardinia Fire Company from Springville to East Aurora. An injunction was filed as there is confusion regarding the contract year that Sardinia has to pay for the dispatch service. Not sure if it is calendar year or fiscal year. Reger reported out that the county has no input on this matter, we did not initiate this. The county was asked if it would be feasible to move equipment and we can. Todd Catalano stated he is not representing the fire company, just him being a D Unit. The system currently works well, the fire control is concerned the coverage will not be as good if moved to East Aurora. Currently, there is mutual aid with Springville, East Concord and have a verbal MOU. Concerns that they will not know what is going on if being dispatched by East Aurora. At midnight tonight the fire company doesn’t know what will happen. Springville claims they will no longer dispatch the fire company. In addition to mutual aid concerns, they stated they will no longer be a part of the Springville Chiefs Council which will not allow them to know what is going on in their area. The fire chief stated he would refuse to join the East Aurora Fire Chief’s Council. As a D – Unit, it is unclear what is expected of him with this transfer. Dale reported out that 15-18 years ago they wanted to move from fire control and Erie County blocked it not 100% sure why but curious why it is different now. East Concord Fire Department currently listen to Chaffee Sardinia frequency for mutual aid calls. Now concerns with being at a different control how will they do that? After further discussion on this matter – bottom line is they wanted the fire advisory board to know what was going on. As for D-Units – Jim hasn’t seen anything since Skibitsky time what their exact role is. Some communities no longer have them. According to Lee Smith they were appointed by the County however Jim cannot find any record of that.

GOOD OF THE ORGANIZATION: Ivolunteerfire.org will be deactivated and will only have one webpage and one facebook page for Emergency Services. Tunnel toTowers 5K – 9/8 – this is a fundraiser - have built homes for veterans – Building a home in Marilla and doing another one this year. The race will be at Bellvue – need pumpers and aerials to line Como Park Blvd. 6/29-7/1 is Chaffee Sardinia Carnival Ellicott Creek is hosting a Survival Course on 9/7/18-9/9/18 – flyer out shortly County is working on a prop trailer to be utilized for mobile training around the county.

NEXT MEETING DATE: 7/26/2018
ADJOURNMENT: Motioned by Dwayne Morosey & Jim Guy
MINUTES RECORDED BY: none
MINUTES SUBMITTED BY: Melissa Calhoun
Overall County Enhancements

This year continues the replacement of our critical microwave links between tower sites to improve reliability and reduce interference by going to FCC Licensed channels and equipment. We are also, in most cases, doubling the size of the microwave antennas to improve signal strength and data throughput. Work is currently in progress or has recently been completed at the following sites: Aurora DPW Tower, Chestnut Ridge, Derby, East Aurora BOCES, ECMC, Eden, Elma, Erie Co Public Safety Campus, Evans, Hanover, South Wales and Sturgeon Point. This is about a $125K investment from identified grant funds.

East Aurora and Evans/Springville F-2 Projects

Both systems have been pre-staged for final assembly and integration. Updates to the final system I.T. changes are in progress. Equipment will be deployed to sites over the next 90 days with testing and acceptance immediately following. Planning underway for necessary dispatch console updates at East Aurora, Evans and Springville Fire Controls.

Evans Fire Control

Installation of equipment on the Border Patrol Tower at Sturgeon Point is now complete. Remaining microwave work to link this site back into the system will be completed next week. This site serves Evans Fire Control, Countywide Fire, Countywide Police, Emergency Services and the Erie County Sheriff’s radio communications systems. Work is in progress to expand the current single site repeater to include two additional voted receive sites, Derby & Sturgeon Point. Work should be completed next week.

Hamburg Fire Control

Voted radio receivers on F-1 & F-2 have been moved from the Derby tower to the new Lake View Blue Wireless tower. Data connectivity is now in progress between Lake View, Hamburg Dispatch and the County Network to bring the tower site on-line.

The ongoing coverage problems in the Boston area are still under review. Motorola has suggested changes to antenna infrastructure on our Boston tower which should fill gaps not only for the fire service but law enforcement as well. We should know more about this proposed solution in the next few weeks.

Public Safety Campus

Received a grant from NYS to replace the 20 position radio console system at the Public Safety Campus. Work will hopefully be completed by the end of this year.

Motorola XTL/XTS Product Line

Be advised that the Motorola radio repair depot will no longer be supporting or servicing this product line as they have reached end of life in their system. All companies should be making plans now for future replacement of their portables and mobiles to the latest radio equipment lines. Parts and service will remain available through third party shops so long as parts are available.