

Fire Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

12/16/2010

19:00 hrs

Submitted by Robert E. Kerr

Members Present: Bob Kerr, Adrian Bush, Jim Lowery, Augie Weiss, Joe Gallagher, Scott Edkin, Vincent Ferry, Jeff Hammond, James Sullivan Jr, Ron Streeter, Tom Popham, Marty Hassett, Chris Adams, Eric Morrow, Rick Collier, Bob White, Joe Finnegan.

Members Excused: Frank Burns, Gary Lutz, Dana Paduano, Jerry Wilson, Craig Laplante, Kit Smith, Steve Badlam, Dan Basford

Chairman Joe Finnegan called the meeting to order 1915 hrs. First order of business was to introduce guest, Barb Foley, Scott Edkin from OFPC, Chris Adams, EMS Advisory Board.

Barb reported on status of county fire reporting (BFIRS). For 2009 the county was @ 84%. Scott Edkin reminded everyone part of the reason for the 84% was because extra work was done to make sure monthly reports were either completed or zero responses were annotated thus giving the higher completion rating. Scott also mentioned there is a financial incentive for the county if reports are completed. The incentive appears as a credit at the state fire academy and can be used for training purposes by the county's departments. Last year \$750.00 was realized and per Marty Hassett was used for fire investigation training. Over all Barb said the county was doing ok but it could do better. She thanked Chairman Finnegan for the opportunity to be at the meeting.

Next item of business: Presentation by the Ad Hoc Training Committee headed by Bob Kerr. Bob Kerr reported on who made up the committee and why they were selected. Members: Marty Hassett, Joe Finnegan, Bob Crowe, Scott Edkin. Members of the FAB were briefed on challenges relating to training and some of the policies and procedures that would be forth coming in hopes of improving county wide training. New course guidelines, registration policy, course application, unexcused absence policy, SCBA policy, host training policy, host training application, fire training survey, and FF1 student packet were all introduced.

Discussion on the unexcused absence policy and charging \$25.00 for any dept who violated the policy took place. Any money collected would go to support the George E. Briggs Training Center. Idea was generally accepted by the board.

Upon completion of the training presentation, board members stated a lot of work went into the new policies and forms. Good job to those on the ad hoc committee. Tom Popham asked about conducting a Q&A period as it relates to the new training requirements.

Next item of business: EMS during live fire training. Chairman Finnegan highlighted the issue and stated it was an important requirement in order to conduct live fire training. He spoke about a mtg he had with the EMS advisory Board. Chris Adams said he knows the issue and agrees EMS is essential. The question of what is needed was discussed, EMTs with jump bags, or transport capability. It was agreed the goal should be to have a dedicated, staffed, ambulance on scene during live fire training. The issue of Certificate of Need was also discussed. As Potsdam and Seaway Valley ambulances currently hold the CON it seemed more likely Potsdam would be more involved in providing an ambulance for live fire training at GEB. Chris Adams stated that EMS agencies of the county supported the goal of providing ambulances for standby.

Next item of business: Director Hassett reported on dispatching of Potsdam Rescue. He stated a mtg was held between, Potsdam Rescue, village administrators, Car 7 and his office. Upon conclusion of the mtg it was agreed eff 1 Jan 2011 county dispatch will be responsible for dispatching Potsdam Ambulance. He also said modification to pagers etc is already underway.

Director Hassett also reported on an ongoing issue with the DEC and burn permits. A lot of uncertainty still exists. Guidance from DEC not consistent, Scott Edkin cautioned depts to use good judgment, common sense. Training plans or lesson plans are required for live burns per OFPC.

Next item of business: Election of Officers. Chairman Finnegan thanked the board for supporting him the past two years and told everyone he is not running for the office.

Joe Finnegan nominated current Vice Chairman Adrian Bush for Chairman. Motion was 2nd by Augie Weiss. No other nominations. Adrian Bush accepted and is the new FAB Chairman. Adrain thanked everyone and said he would do his best to have meetings as scheduled.

Nomination for Vice Chairman: Motion by Bob White for Joe Gallagher, 2nd Joe Finnegan . Joe Gallagher declined

Nomination by Bob White for Jim Sullivan, 2nd by Tom Popham. No other nominations. Jim Sullivan is the new FAB Vice Chairman

Motion for the position of Secretary, no takers. Craig Laplante not present at the mtg had told Chairman Finnegan he was interested in remaining secretary. Motion by Tom Popham 2nd Joe Gallegher nominating Craig Laplante. No other nominations. Sec cast one ballot, moved nominations be closed

Congratulations to Adrian, Jim and Craig.

Next item of business: Joe Finnegan asked Marty about county wide radio contract. Per upcoming narrow band requirements could county make purchases on behalf of depts. Marty replied there could possibly be support of this kind. A brief discussion of radio purchases took place.

2100 hrs, following no other business. Motion to adjourn by Bob Kerr, 2nd Bob White, carried