

Fire Advisory Board Meeting Minutes, August 8, 2011

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Bush at 1900 hrs, with 12 members present.

Members present: Adrian Bush, Jonathan Putney, James Houmiel, James Sullivan. Jr, Mark Smutz, Ronald Streeter, Vinny Ferry, Gary Lutz, Tom Popham, Augie Weiss, Dale Gardner, Marty Hassett, Bob Kerr. Also present were Rick Collier, Mark Smutz.

Excused members: George Brouse, Jerry Wilson, Dan Basford, Bob White, Frank Burns, Craig Laplante.

Last month minutes were presented. M/M Ron Streeter to accept, 2nd Gary Lutz.

Chairman Bush opened the meeting and turned to Director Hassett for introduction of guest, Mark Smutz, County Dive Master. Dive Master Smutz was asked to attend meeting so members of the FAB, could meet him and associate his name and face with his position as county dive master.

Director Hassett reported on new training building, turned to Bob Kerr and Dale Gardner to give update on efforts relating to new training building. Bob Kerr reported on a letter that was being drafted for sending out to all St Law County fire departments. Copies of the draft letter were passed out. Purpose of the letter was to update departments on changes occurring at the training center, and fund raising efforts for the purchase and construction of the new training building. Approximate cost of the project \$450,000. Said letter was going to be distributed to all departments via mail and email within the next couple weeks.

Dale Gardner followed by reporting on the property that the county training center currently sits on. He stated the West Potsdam Fire Department sold the land to the St Lawrence County Fire Training Facilities, Inc for \$1.00. The new deed has been filed, and the transfer is complete. He also stated a new Training Center sign was installed along with other improvements at the training center. Mr Gardner also reported on the new training building site, the proposed foundation, soil samples, foundation plans. Contamination if any, on the current training center site was discussed.

Discussion followed: Mr Gardner stated cost for the foundation plans were \$6,500. Tom Popham asked about leasing options. Mr Gardner told the group that leasing was an option that was being looked at as well as borrowing and other fund raising. Vinny Ferry suggested sending the same type of letter to all business in the county. John Putney asked if the cost for attorneys, abstract, recording fees for the land transfer were being donated. Mr Gardner said so far the cost was \$860.00.

Director Hassett asked Bob Kerr to report on new Radio Policy and Procedure. Copies of the policy were handed out. Bob stated a final, signed copy of the new policy and procedure would be sent out to all fire, rescue squads in the county for compliance. No other questions or comments.

Director Hassett followed by reporting on county budget. He stated some possible impacts to his office, to include the elimination of the Deputy Directors position, 911 center operations. John Putney gave a brief on budget process, tough times ahead, 2% tax cap, upcoming public hearing. He also mentioned the sales tax increase as a revenue source for the county. He also stated the out years will also be very difficult.

Director Hassett asked the FAB to support his office, he feels his office does not get the respect it deserves across the county. Chairman Bush asked if the FAB would agree to draft a letter of support for the Office of Emergency Services, and the need to keep the Deputy Directors position. M/M by Augie Weiss, 2nd Ron Streeter, to draft letter to county administrator. Letter to also include support for reversal of mandatory state programs from the county level back to the states.

Director Hassett reported on 911 center vacancies, hiring freeze. He also reported on needed upgrades to the 911 center. Narrow banding radio compliance was discussed. Director Hassett wanted each department to know they had to solve their own radio, pager hardware problems. The county would not be responsible. Seems some confusion existed on the issue. Jim Sullivan asked about narrow band programming, radio ID's. No other comments or question on the issue.

Chairman Bush asked for anything Good of the Order: No other business

M/M Dale Gardner, 2nd by Marty Hassett to adjourn. Meeting adjourned 20:40 hrs.

Respectfully Submitted

Robert E. Kerr