

Fire Advisory Board Meeting Minutes March 6, 2012

Meeting was called to order at 19:00 by Chairman Bush with 12 members present.

Present were: Adrian Bush, Bob White, George Brouse, Augie Weiss, Scott McRobbie, Joe Finnegan, Gary Lutz, Joe Gallagher, Robert Kerr, Jonathan Putney, Tom Popham, Jeff Hammond.

Excused were: Kit Smith, Jerry Wilson, Vinny Ferry

Purpose of special meeting was to discuss the Office of Emergency Services, Re-Structuring and Selection of Directors Position.

Chairman Bush thanked everyone who responded to his request to provide input via emails regarding the OES re-structuring selection process.

Chairman Bush turned to Joe Finnegan for report as he has attended the last couple of meetings with the selection committee. Joe handed out some worksheets from the meeting, talked about consolidation of the office, re-organization and priorities 1-5.

Board of Legislators Rep John Putney provided input on priorities, high lighting county emergency response plans. Last updated in 1998.

Joe Gallagher commented on LEPC role in emergency response planning. Joe Finnegan pointed out the 911 center was not wanted by the Sheriff's Office, stated Sheriff Wells agreed.

Augie Weiss commented on Ice Storm of 98, stated the county administrator acted as the IC, OES was Operations. Discussion followed regarding the role of ICS, need for NIMS training for the Board of Legislators/Administrator.

More discussion on staffing the 911 center followed. Bob White asked about staffing totals. Joe Finnegan stated it was a recommendation of the FAB to staff all positions within the 911 center.

Discussion followed regarding the OSE position review process, job evaluations. Joe Gallagher stressed the need to keep on top of any future steps to evaluate performance of the OES.

Joe Finnegan commented on the role of the FAB/EMS boards, stated gaining headway, BOL recognizing the advisory nature and the experience provided by both boards. Joe also pointed out John Putney is doing a good job as the BOL rep on the FAB. Joe also stated the job of the director position needs to be more administrative in nature and not field operations.

Discussion followed regarding the Deputy Director position. Need for Deputy Coordinators to receive continuing education and performance evaluations.

Chairman Bush stated where we were going next as far as implementation of recommendations, said we would be involved with all meetings on the matter. Next meeting with the BOL/committee would address some of the changes. He also mentioned the number of applicants for the director's position, local and out of county, and a time table for hiring.

John Putney commented there are good and bad issues with a timeline. Some think too long is bad while others think too short will result in making a bad choice. All are trying to do the best job possible.

Chairman Bush asked if anyone had information about 3rd party billing for EMS. Are fire departments allowed to bill. Scott McRobbie commented on FASNY legislation pending. Per NYS it is still illegal to bill for service unless they are independent organizations. John Putney asked what the FAB position was on the issue should resolution come before the BOL. The answer was support any legislation. M/M by Jeff Hammond, 2nd Joe Gallagher.

John Putney to sponsor a resolution recognizing the NNY Fireman's Convention in Louisville, NY.

For the good of the order no other business.

M/M Joe Gallagher to adjourn, 2nd Bob White. 20:35 hrs meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Robert E. Kerr