

## Fire Advisory Board minutes 8/17/2017

Meeting called to order at 1900 hours by Chairman Finnegan.

Members Present: Joe Finnegan, Bob Crowe, Kevin Crosby, Larry Whitton, Erik Johnson, Adrian Bush, Larry Denesha, Bob Kerr, Rick Rusaw, Tom Popham, Scott McRobbie, Jerry Wilson, Ron Streeter, Art Howie

Members Excused: Joe Gallagher, Pat O'Brien, Mike Farrell, Tom Miller, Jim Lowery

Guests Present: Director Mike LeCuyer, Vinny Ferry, Trooper Bullis

Minutes from the last meeting were not available. They will be acted on at the next meeting.

### Reports:

Director LeCuyer:

1. Fire and EMS call data not available for meeting. Will be mailed out to FAB members.
2. Communications Project
  - a. Towers at Massena and Ogdensburg transfer stations are up. Waiting for fencing, ice bridge and gas line work.
  - b. Towers at Kimball Hill and White Hill to go up within the next week or so. Prefab equipment buildings also delivered and will be installed in the next few weeks.
  - c. All towers should be done by September 8<sup>th</sup>. A third party inspection of the towers themselves will then be done. Following that inspection, the project manager will look at the overall installations and develop a punch list to be completed. The final step is to relocate/install radio equipment on the towers and put them in service.
  - d. Massena will be done first, followed by Ogdensburg, then Kimball and White Hills.
  - e. The VHF High Band radio equipment should all be operational on the new towers by mid-October.
  - f. Microwave equipment won't be installed until all the towers are up.
  - g. There are three towers left to go up to complete the project. There is only currently enough money to erect 1. Will have to rely on future grant funds to purchase the last two.
  - h. There is also no money currently built into the Emergency Services budget to maintain the new equipment in the future.
3. Current Kimball Hill tower was struck by lightning for the second time in a month. The second strike burned out the control board for the automatic transfer switch, resulting in the site operating on generator power for an extended period. A replacement part has been ordered and will be repaired by county staff.
4. The dispatch center is severely short staffed. Two full time dispatchers have left and a third is out on maternity leave. The two Senior Dispatchers and the Supervisor of Dispatch Operations are all working regular shifts on the dispatch desk. This is resulting in back end work that is not being handled because those who do them are on the desk. The civil service list has been exhausted and the next test is not until January. There is a plan to hire provisionally, which would require that

those hired and trained must score in the top three grades in order to retain their jobs after the test results come out. We have taken on a former NYSP Communications Specialist part time.

Legislator Larry Denesha

1. Spoke to the cell phone surcharge that was not approved at the most recent board meeting. He explained his reasons for voting against it.
2. Numerous members voiced their concerns and opinions on the need for this surcharge to maintain and improve the communications system that serves the volunteers and citizens of the county.
3. A motion was made by Kevin Crosby, seconded by Adrian Bush, that the Fire Advisory Board send a letter to the Board of Legislators expressing our full support of the cell phone surcharge and our reasons for doing so. The motion passed unanimously. Chairman Finnegan will work with Director LeCuyer on the details.

OFPC – FPS Harris-Reid not present

Training Center – Bob Kerr

1. The new well to keep the pond full is working as hoped.
2. Looking to put a new roof on the classroom building this fall.
3. Alcoa employees came out and donated time at the center to complete numerous small projects.
4. There is an uptick in the number of departments taking advantage of the Training Center for department training. All departments are encouraged to utilize the center for training for their own department and with their neighboring departments.

Upcoming Training – Bob Kerr

1. Two BEFO classes have been scheduled for the fall. One solely at the Training Center, one tentatively split between Brier Hill FD and the Training Center.
2. The instructors met on 8/16 and scheduled numerous classes for the fall, winter, and into the spring. The new schedule will be forthcoming.
3. Any departments having additional training requests should direct them to Bob Kerr.

Old Business

1. Rehab committee sent its draft report. Changes have been made and a final draft will be ready for the October meeting and then be distributed to the emergency service agencies in the county.
2. Mutual aid plan has been updated and will be available at the next meeting.

New Business

1. Director LeCuyer advised that there are again issues in Newton Falls affecting their ability to respond. He wasn't sure of all the facts but Star Lake has been placed back on auto aid with them. Rick Rusaw spoke to the issue. District Deputy Gary Lutz met with the Newton Falls Fire commissioners. An internal disciplinary issue caused the current rift. There will be an emergency meeting of the department tomorrow night (8/18) to iron out the situation. For the time being Star Lake will remain on auto aid.

2. Director LeCuyer also advised that there has been no change in the status of Degrasse – Clare – South Russell FD. They still exist as an organization but have no contracted area and therefore are not responding or being dispatched to any calls.
3. Director LeCuyer has again received a request from a department requesting to move districts. IT is apparent that this is the result of a personal issue between the Chief of the department and the District Deputy. Director LeCuyer is taking it under consideration. Discussion followed by member of the FAB and the consensus was that, absent a compelling and articulable operational reason for the change, the department should remain in its current district.
4. Bob Kerr brought up the Cancer bill. Discussion followed on it origin and its shortcomings. The details of the bill haven't been clarified (what constitutes a physical that finds a firefighter cancer free). The Governor has not yet signed the bill as there is opposition from the NY conference of Mayors and the NY Association of Towns.
5. Trooper Bullis, NYSP, made a presentation regarding the recruitment for the upcoming NYSP exam. Application numbers are running lower than in the past and lower than they would like to see. He asked that if anyone knows an individual who would make a good trooper to encourage them to apply by September 1<sup>st</sup> and take the exam. They may apply at [www.nytrooper.com](http://www.nytrooper.com).

Next Meeting: October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Motion to Adjourn made by Ron Streeter, second by Adrian Bush. Motion passed unanimously at 2045 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Crowe, Acting Secretary