

St Law Co Fire Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Meeting Conducted 8/15/2019

Members Attending: Joe Finnegan, Keith Zimmerman, Jonathan Mitchell, Larry Denesha, Bob Kerr, Adrian Bush, Ron Streeter, Larry Whitton, Don McCarthy, Vinny Ferry, Chris Sherwin, Art Howie

Members Excused: Rick Rusaw, Nichole Harris-Reed, Tom Miller, Joe Gallagher, Pat O'Brien, Craig Laplante, Kevin Crosby, Bob Crowe, Erik Johnson

1900 Hrs Meeting was called to order by Chairman Joe Finnegan.

Chairman asked Legislator Larry Denesha to speak on behalf of matters for the County Legislature. Larry reported a new Risk Safety Manager was hired to replace Paul Baxter the current Risk Manager.

Larry also mentioned worker's compensation rates were to go down for the coming year.

Larry also mentioned the need to have a rep from the FAB attend the next town supervisors mtg to explain the role of AHJ as it relates to fire dept training, officers training etc.

Chairman Finnegan followed by asking Acting Director Zimmerman to brief the Board on issues with the office. It was noted Keith was retiring at the end of August. Keith gave an update on the process of hiring a new Director. 17 candidates applied. All will be given due consideration. Some were given the opportunity to provide additional qualifications/information. An in-depth job description is in place for the new Director's position. Keith stated the feedback from the last FAB mtg was important when considering applicants.

Keith went on to praise Car 2 for his hard work getting additional grant funds in the amount of 6 million dollars for radio system upgrades. Car 2 was also responsible for acquiring State section 18 permits allowing the Bass Master Tournament to go on. UCV 1 will be at the Bass Masters all weekend.

Keith also mentioned monies in the proposed budget for additional training of dispatchers, fire academy, or other training needs.

He also highlighted a new law enforcement law that has to do with criminal in nature issues and how it could affect first responder's radio communications being called into evidence.

Chairman Finnegan turned mtg over to Jonathan Mitchell, Car 2 for a report. Car 2 reported on efforts to switch repeaters on White Hill and Cranberry towers. One is a 100 watt the other a 35 watt. Moving the 100 watt to Cranberry should improve their service. He also went on to mention using tactical repeaters in the future. Gouverneur radio tower project is moving forward with expectation of completion next year.

Calls for the month: 911 - 3158, EMS - 2809, NYSP - 165, L/E - 3090 Total 10,225

HazMat team mtg that was scheduled is to be reschedule due to work load in the office. Car 2 asked what training classes might be needed. It was noted a Water Supply Class was needed in the Morristown end of the County.

Bob Kerr was asked to report on training center. He stated work was underway to complete recommendations from the May 5 yr inspection by the engineer. Center has been busy with state classes.

Old Business: Asst Chief Don McCarthy, Ogd Fire, mentioned they were still having issues with radio interference on the base radio. Car 2 remarked maybe putting a PL tone in place might help fix the problem.

Chairman Finnegan mentioned some movement in the old cancer bill as it was noted during a recent FASNY mtg claims for older members are being paid. This indicates older members who have not had fit testing may be covered and that all members should be covered under the cancer bill. He also mentioned the important of DECON after fires to include SCBA's.

Larry Denesha asked about the new ATV/UTV trail system and are the fire/ems departments prepared to deal with incidents along said trail. It was discussed and decided to survey departments as to what equipment they might have for meeting this need.

New Business: It was noted Keith Zimmerman has served as Acting Director of Emergency Services on 2 separate occasions and has done an outstanding job during both occasions.

Next meeting Oct 17th 2019

2000 Hrs M/M by Adrian Bush to Adjourn, 2nd by Larry Whitton, Carried

Meeting notes submitted by Bob Kerr