

7/11/2019 FAB Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order by Chairman J Finnegan at 1900 hrs

Members in attendance: Chairman Finnegan, Keith Zimmerman, Jonathan Mitchel, Larry Denesha, Bob Kerr, Larry Whiton, Adrain Bush, Vinny Ferry, Art Howy, Scott McRobbie, Pat Obrien, Tom Miller, Tom Popham, Don McCarthy.

Excused: Kevin Crosby, Chris Sherwin, Nicole Reid.

Chairman entertained any discussion regarding the last meetings minutes. Motion to accept last month's meeting minutes Adrian Bush 2nd by Pat Obrien, Carried

Chairman Finnegan turned to Acting Director Emergency Services Keith Zimmerman for updates of the office, comments.

Acting Director Zimmerman started by providing an update on the search for the new director of emergency services. He stated the circumstances surrounding the last attempt to fill the position. Moving forward he said all applications will be reviewed by the hiring committee. He explained the need to qualify candidates that have years of volunteer experience compared to college degrees or other qualifications. Committee make up will include 2 members from fire, 2 from ems. There will be a full committee report out upon selection.

Next item discussed was the preparation of the 2020 budget. He along with Car 2 will be looking at all areas. They are planning for a small increase in the budget and would be looking to do more dispatch training, he mentioned the need to update CAD system software that would cost around \$35K . Training center funding is also in the budget. Overall he expect budget to be funded at current levels.

The county haz mat team was discussed. Not much going on with the team. There needs to be a closer look at the contract for the team. There have been questions by our regional consortium regarding readiness.

He followed by giving an update on the communications project. State grants still needed but thing are moving forward with towers in Hammond, Gouverneur.

Towers are about 35% complete. The backup PSAP in Massena is ready with the exception of raising the antenna. It will have 3 dispatch positions.

Acting director Zimmerman mentioned the interest by other agencies to have the county 911 center pick up their dispatch services. He said many issues with consolidation need to be looked at staffing, physical limitations, funding. Asst Chief Don McCarthy Ogd's fire asked about a recent report on Ogd police, fire dispatch.

The upcoming Bass Master tournament in Waddington is coming up. Concern on impact of recent emergency declaration on the event. Speeds on the water, shoreline property issues still a concern. He then asked that if any dept who responds along the river to let him know if they need any resources. He also mentioned the state was placing sand bag machines in the county for future use. He then mentioned the state representatives who worked to provide \$5,000 grants to 18 fire departments and 1 rescue squad located in the southern end of the county.

Lastly acting director Zimmerman asked all members of the FAB and others to show good leadership in helping the office transition when a new director is hired. He stated car 2 is also still in transition but doing a good job. Help him as well.

Floor was turned over to legislator Larry Denesha. Larry reported on a bill at the state level called the "GreenLight" bill. The bill would allow illegal immigrants to have drivers license. He stated the county legislature made a resolution to block the bill. Move to come on the legal issues.

County car 2 reported on calls for the month of June 352 fire, 1502 EMS, 5911 L/E. He stated the need for more dispatcher position to help manage the added call volume. He followed by discussing the haz mat team need a new leader as the current person no longer wants the job. There are ongoing readiness issues. Chairman Finnegan asked about volunteers joining the team. Asst Chief McCarthy stated volunteers would be welcomed. Car 2 thought there might be funding from the regional consortium to help pay for a leadership position on the haz mat team.

Car 2 highlighted the need to follow up with those that are no shows at state classes. Possibility of restricting participation in future classes for those violating the rule.

Chairman Finnegan followed by mentioning the need of local AHJ to get more involved with the departments training, workman's comp cases, physicals etc. Larry Denesha stated there is a County Supervisors Association that meets regularly and this would be a good place to update towns, villages on what is needed. Larry will look to setup a mtg to discuss awareness on these issues.

Bob Kerr gave a quick update of training in the county, stating it is busy with several BEFO, IFO classes. He also mentioned the result of the recent 5 year inspection of the live fire training burn building. The report was good but we need to update to current OSHA changes. Issues to include adding handrails, roof protection, new ladder.

Chairman Finnegan then opened up the floor asking for feedback from the group. He was asking for recommendations on what skills, characteristics, expectations, problem areas roles the new director should have. Discussion followed.

20:52 hrs a motion to adjourn was made by Larry Whiton, 2nd by Tom Miller to adjourn, so moved.