

Minutes of the April 16, 2020
St Law Co Fire Advisory Meeting
Conducted via Zoom

Members in Attendance: Director of Emergency Services Matt Denner, Chairman Finnegan, Legislator Larry Denesha, FPS-Nicole Harris, Bob Crowe, Vinny Ferry, Eric Johnson, Bob Kerr, John Lashomb, Tom Popham, Adrian Bush, Gary Lutz, Nick Friot, Don McCarthy, Art Howie, Jeff Hammond, Kevin Crosby, Kevin Durant, Larry Whitton, Mark Bomyea, Pat Obrien, Rick Coller, Bob Pierce, Scott McRobie, Tom Miller, Rick Rusaw

1900 hrs – Meeting called to order by Chairman Joe Finnegan.

First order of business Chairman Finnegan presented meeting minutes from the last meeting (Feb) asked if there was any discussion on the matter. No discussion M/M Larry Whitton, 2nd Bob Crowe to accept minutes as presented.

Meeting was then turned over to Director Denner for briefing on issues within the office of emergency services. He gave update on CAD call volume from April 1-14

Fire-94, YTD-937

EMS- 529, YTD- 4,718,

Local PD-123, YTD-1,037

NYSP Dispatched B-Comm-226 YTD-3,089

NYSP Dispatched By SLC ES- 91 YTD-831

Sherriff's Calls For Service- 294 YTD- 3,351

Information Calls- 394 YTD- 3,391

Total Dispatches – 18,281

Phone Calls- handled -3,516 YTD-26,691

Report on Communications Projects: Some work on going. The Hammond tower has had issues with water on the foundation pad. Had to have it pumped off. Pad very thick on one side in an attempt to level the site. The Gouverneur site has steel on the ground. Waddington site has issues with getting lease agreement in place.

Massena back up PSAP is up and running. We are currently working out of both Canton and Massena dispatch centers. As a precaution with COVID 19 2 dispatchers are working at each site in an attempt to keep social distancing.

Director Denner briefed the board on COVID 19 issues. Daily reporting, maps, supply of PPE, stand up of the EOC. He thanked all who have worked to staff the EOC.

Meeting turned over to Legislator Denesha. He reported District 10 Legislator is resigning. Also the Lost Prevention Manager is leaving. He mentioned the country fund balance was good but as the sales tax drop caused by COVID 19 is going to be down things will change. At this point no changes to budgets.

Bob Kerr reported on the training center and county training. Things are quite at the center for the moment as all training has been suspended. He mentioned the recruiting effort for replacing Bob White as Co-Operations Manager at the center. Search is ongoing. Bob thanked Pat Obrien for his proactive work preparing on line classes during the COVID-19 shut down. Classes open to all fire/ems departments via Zoom.

Pat broke in and mentioned some of the classes he is working on. Stating he has also hooked up with SFI Dave Walsh who is presenting classes.

Nicole Harris came on line and briefed on state classes, indicating no word on when things will open back up for training. She said thought is being given to on line BEFO. Class size increases probably not going to happen just because of the COVID-19 issue.

Old Business: None

New Business: Director Denner asked the board for input on establishing a Dive Team Deputy Coordinator. He stated he wants a shared decision making process consisting of the FAB, Co Chiefs and others. The recent incident in Massena created questions as to how things currently operate and brought the issue to light. Discussion followed. Don McCarthy mentioned using the state police dive team. He said he believes they want to get more involved in the county. Comments from several members indicated cars 26, 27 don't work well within the system, concerns with VFBL, mutual aid, where does liability fall.

Director Denner thought using a single tone cad page would be better than using several tones as is the practice now.

M/M by Bob Crowe 2nd Don McCarthy to have the FAB support Director Denner in creating a new Dive Team Deputy Coordinator position. Motion carried.

Tom Miller brought up the need for more county fire investigators. Rick Rusaw stated 4 new members are in training, apprenticeship program. Director Denner mentioned Shawn McCarger from the Sherriff's office. He is being assigned the role as fire investigator. Shawn has completed 1st week of training is very eager and hardworking.

Comments regarding the lack of leadership on the team came up along with the team being misused by fire chiefs who don't want to do their own investigations. Chiefs need to do a better job of trying to determining cause-n- origin of their own fires before request county team. Over all the county investigation team is doing a pretty good job.

Chairman Finnegan asked if there were any other issues or concerns before the board. No other issues. He thanked all who signed onto the zoom meeting. Mentioned how technology can work when nothing else can.

2035 hrs M/M A Bush to Adjourn 2nd by Eric Johnson Carried

Respectfully submitted
Robert E. Kerr