

# St. Lawrence County

## Fire Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

February 20, 2020

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by Chairman Joseph Finnegan

Members present – Joe Finnegan, Mark Bomyea, Art Howie, Chris Sherwin, Kevin Crosby, Erik Johnson, Steve Parker, Rick Rusaw, Tom Popham, Adrian Bush, Larry Whitton, Vinny Ferry, Tom Conklin, John Lashomb, Joe Gallagher, Bob Crowe, Scott McRobbie, Don McCarthy, Larry Denesha & Matt Denner

Members excused – Nicole Harris-Reid, Bob Kerr, Pat O'Brien & Jeff Hammond

Motion to except minutes from previous meeting.

Motion made by Mark Bomyea

Second made by Tom Miller

Motion passed

Larry Denesha –SLC Board of Legislators

Larry discussed the NYS Bail Reform Act and what it is having on the SLC inmate numbers.

Discussed the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment status in the county.

Advised that the SLC Sheriff's Department will be holding pistol permit safety classes.

Matt Denner – Director of Emergency Services

County Risk Manager will be meeting with the highway superintendents in the near future.

Matt discussed the new discovery law, and confirmed that if you take a picture on your phone it will not be confiscated as evidence, as first responders do not fall under this law.

Discussed reasons why we man the fire stations during wind storms.

Thanked the new members of the Board that were in attendance.

Gave update on tower progress.

Discussion of SLC taking over local PD dispatching.

FIT team - 8 members have taken the National Certification Test.

Meeting with IJC on flooding issues.

Meeting set for February 27<sup>th</sup> with town and villages on flooding.

Sand bags have been ordered from the State, unsure on the number that they will be issuing.

County stated an ice jam data network.

Sand bag machine is located in SLC.

In discussions with Al Rickett and Dale Gardner for part time Fire Instructors.

County will be adding a Senior Dispatcher position in the near future, job will be posted.

County will be taking over dispatching of the Ogdensburg Police Department, discussion held on how they will be dispatched and procedures.

Updated Hazard Mitigation Plan, RFP's are out.

County is working on trying to get a radio maintenance contract.

County applying for grants for a drone for car accident reconstruction and a drone for search & rescue.

Deputy Coordinators meeting on District #3, discussion of the time and date for interviews.  
Discussion held on upcoming NYPA & National Grid upgrades to main power transmission lines.  
Updated the FAB on the status of county grants.

Director Denner asked that all departments update their list of officers every year with  
Names  
Mailing address  
Phone & fax numbers  
Email addresses

DOH will be scheduling a clinic for testing firefighters for Hepatitis B. Date is not finalized as of yet, there may be a charge which is covered by insurance.

Joe Gallagher brought up about upcoming training with National Grid.

Tom Conklin brought up that State Fire will have a K-9 for arson investigations in the near future and will be located in SLC.

Nicole Harris-Reid – Written report – BEFO's in Potsdam and Harrisville are overwhelmingly full, sadly she had to make the decision to cut Gouverneur from the Harrisville class as it had ¾ of the class coming from SLC and it was a Lewis County class and they needed to get the northern Lewis folks in too. The SFI's and Matt will need to think about the possibility of doing a BEFO somewhere in the west area as there seems to be lots of folks needing the class. She is open to suggestions from the Board on appropriate locations and she will bring that to the SFI crew. Again she stresses appropriate locations, as not every station will be a good fit for skills, etc.

Fire service conference weekend at Montour Falls is the last weekend of March. She will be instructing along with Tim Graves on Firefighter Health and Wellness and there's other offerings for all levels of firefighters. Folks can check it out at  
<http://www.dhSES.ny.gov/ofpc/news/events/>.

Bob Crowe - SLC Training Center – Training center is very busy with classes and getting good use. States there will be an Assistance to Firefighter's Grant Seminar on March 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am at the SLC Training Center. Be sure to RSVP so they can have an accurate account of people attending.

Bob and Jonathon Mitchell working on an online survey form for training, Bob discussed the pros to the system.

They are trying to schedule more BEFO classes. Discussion on how to sign up online.

If you want a class scheduled, please send an email to Bob Kerr.

Discussion held on the need for more fire instructors and the courses that are required to become an instructor and requirements for being a department training officer.

States that all NYS DOT traffic signals are, or will be, generator compatible in the near future.

Fire Advisory Board currently has no open positions.

SLC Firefighter of the Year Banquet will be April 25, 2020 at the Gouverneur Elks Club.

Don McCarthy asked about the status of the HAZMAT Team and who is in charge of it now. Director Denner advised that Ken Stull was in charge of the team.

Discussion held on possible grant to help pay for supplies that were used during the Waddington Incident.

Don states that they need a place to store new equipment that has arrived because OPD cannot store anymore in their garage.

Director Denner states that NYS will be up in the near future to do training for the HAZMAT Team.

Steve Parker asked for an update on the minimum qualifications standards for fire department officers and the rehab policy. Discussion held.

John Lashomb brought up the low attendance at the St. Lawrence County Fire Chief's Dinners. Discussion held.

Next meeting of the FAB will be Thursday, April 16, 2020 at the Public Safety Building.

Motion to adjourn.

Motion made by John Lashomb

Second by Adrian Bush

Motion passes

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kevin Crosby