

June 18, 2020
Fire Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
(Meeting conducted via Zoom)

FAB members in attendance: Director Matt Denner, BOL Larry Denesha, Chairman Joe Finnegan, Nicole Harris Reed, Bob Kerr, Eric Johnson, Bob Crowe, Mark Bomyea, Tom Conklin, Pat Obrien, Don McCarthy, Rick Rusaw, Tom Miller, Scott McRobbie, John Lashomb, Tom Popham,

1900 Hrs Meeting called to order by Chairman Finnegan

First order of business was to review minutes from last meeting (April) No further discussion M/M Pat Obrien to accept minutes 2nd by Mark Bomyea, Carried

Chairman recognized Larry Denesha for comments. Larry stated county sales tax numbers were down 30%. BOL hoping June/July numbers would improve, not sure how the year end numbers will impact next year's budget. Larry shared some COVID 19 numbers indicating 50% of county numbers were from A-Symptomatic cases. Larry also mentioned the food distribution program set for 6/19/20. Lots of meats, fruits vegetable are available.

Chairman then recognize Director Denner for comments he shared Dispatch numbers for the month of May at 6,134 for all agencies YTD 26,705. Calls specific to 911- 8,834 YTD 40,763.

Matt followed with some COVID 19 numbers specific to case break down by age etc. Showed slides from the state website relating to overall state wide numbers, and counties. He said new guidance coming. PPE and supplies are slowing down not a lot of request at this time. Lots of sanitizer! Some No Touch thermometers' did arrive. He thanked those that have helped working in the EOC during the pandemic. He also expressed to anyone wanting to help Tues/Thursdays they are welcome.

Tower projects: Hammond site has had water issues impacting site work, things on hold until July 15th. Waddington site has had a leased signed and work is expected to start in July. The Gouverneur site is moving along. Tower is BIG!

Matt mentioned both PSAP locations Canton and Massena are in use. The Canton location will be undergoing a deep cleaning process and service will be switched to Massena during the cleaning. Matt briefly mentioned teams within the county. HazMat, Dive, Fire Investigation. Dave Taylor will be heading up the Dive team. Car 16 has submitted his letter of resignation after 10 years on the job. A replacement is being sought. Matt expressed what a good job Rick has done and that he was highly respected within his district.

Training: Nicole Harris reported on new guidance relating to start up of county training. Class sizes to be limited, needs for PPE, sanitizer, social distancing. Questions still up in the air on who provides said items, state, county, local FDs. There is a scheduling meeting set up for 6/25 to look at what classes will be offered. It is expected to start with classes that were put on pause because of the COVID 19. West Potsdam bingo hall is a possible site as there is a lot of room there. SFI's will be getting some COVID 19 update training, screening prior to start up of classes.

New Business: Burn Ban. Matt stated he has had request to have the county re-instate the county burn ban. 82 outside fires reported month of May. Bob Kerr mentioned the impact of out of control outdoor fires on department's resources; especially during the day when man power is severely impacted. Bob referred to using the DEC fire danger rating system when considering when to put a burn ban on and off. He is going to get some info on the system and report to Director Denner.

Training Center: Bob reported that little has been going on at the center because of the COVID 19. Some L/E, Fire personnel have been using the center for K9 training. A check for \$2500 was received from the Garrett Loomis Foundation. Money to be used for purchase of saws, fans. Buildings are being cleaned and sanitized every couple weeks. Roof fall protection railings are waiting to be installed.

Old Business: Discussion regarding county re-hab policy was held. Chief Conklin Gouverneur stated it is not realistic for his department to meet said guidelines because of the vast area they cover. Not enough squads! Chairman Finnegan stated the re-hab policy was a guide and hoped all departments are working their best to keep re-hab in mind when operating at emergencies.

Next Meeting August 20th

No other business: 1950 hrs M/M Tom Conklin, 2nd Scott McRobbie to Adjourn. Carried

Respectfully Submitted
Robert E. Kerr Acting Secretary