



St. Lawrence County Fire Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes August 19, 2021

In-person or ZOOM Meeting Format

1900 hrs meeting called to order by Chairman Finnegan. In attendance: Joe Finnegan, Matt Denner, Larry Denesha, Vinny Ferry, Larry Whitton, Mark Bomyea, Bob Kerr, Bob Crowe, Steve Parker, Steve Wilson, Rick Rusaw, Kevin Crosby, Art Howie, Chris Sherwin Zoom: Eric Johnson, Pat Obrien, Mark Basford, Darin Bullard, Dave Taylor, Bob Pierce. Excused: Don McCarthy

Chairman Finnegan introduced new FAB member Steve Wilson (Helena)

Motion to accept minutes of June 17, 2021 meeting (Distributed earlier electronically) Motion by Mark Basford, second by Larry Whitton, Carried

Reports:

SLC Bd. of Legislators - Larry Denesha

Covid update. 120 new cases for the week. Bringing the county from a Moderate status to a High. Mostly Delta virus. Public Health probably going to recommend moving to a mask mandate. 3rd vaccine shot distribution coming.

St Lawrence County population down 3.1 %

Communications project. Two meeting held thus far. Larry Denesha acting chairman of the committee working on development. Multi agency system, fire, police, ems, highways. Blue Wing Group and Motorola working issues. Maps of coverage area passed around. Larry emphasized the need for long range goals looking 5-6 years out. What we want, need and can afford.

Appears going UHF would be the best choice but with that brings new challenges like more towers. Next meeting August 25th.

Bob Crowe expressed concern for the impact on local fire, ems departments. Departments won't be able to afford the upgrades. County plan needs to factor in the cost.

New Risk Management Manager has been hired. His name is Jody Wenzel. He is doing municipalities now and will be doing fire departments soon.

Office of Emergency Services- Director Denner

Report of CAD calls for July 2019

Fire Call-525

EMS Calls- 1,911

Local PD Calls- 418

Sheriff Calls-994

NYS Calls- 315

Information Calls – 1507

TOTAL Calls in SLC -5,670

Matt reported on a complaint of an incident involving a medical call in Lisbon. Mutual aid was requested from Ogdensburg Fire Department but no assistance was provided as crews were not sure if the request fell into the area approved by the Ogdensburg Fire Chief. Situation was a critical one that needs to be addressed. A meeting will be set up to resolve the problem.

Kevin Crosby asked about the possibility of dispatch resending CAD messages to active 911 or other users of phone messaging. Sometimes the first message may not be heard or situations like standbys or move ups are missed. Matt to look into it.

Dispatch doors to be locked due to uptick in Covid cases in SLC. Need to protect staff and facility.

Scott Niles retiring

Tammy Labrake retiring (Party ?)

Dispatch renovation project underway. Legislature approved project. Engineering, scope of work and cost estimated being developed. Possibly end up with 7-8 work stations when complete. Video wall, Mini EOC to be part of end product.

Haz Mat Team -Trailers have been worked on. Equipment checked old items removed. Working with consortium on new equipment. Thanks to Canton, Massena for their help. Team is ready to respond with Decon capability, few guys able to do entry work. Haz Mat Tech training coming up in September.

Investigation Team- No report. There are a few new members on the team.

Dive/Rescue Team- Dave Taylor reported on an upcoming picnic training event in Waddington. Team is available if called. Massena rescue also holding some training.

Matt also reported on the upcoming 2023 World University Games being held across 5 neighboring counties. Meeting underway between state, local agencies. Local fire depts, ems agencies, law enforcement, emergency management needed. Potsdam, Canton to have a big impact. Training for a variety of topics to be made available.

Training Schedule update – Bob Kerr reported several classes under way, BEFO, IFO, EVOC, Pump, Water Supply going on. Instructors busy. New IFSTA 7th Edition books were purchased by the office. Books will be needed when the state make the change later this year.

Training Center- Work currently underway to prepare for the August 28th Youth in The Fire Service Day being held at the center. Meeting have been held every 2 weeks in preparation for the event. Bob Kerr thanked all involved thus far.

County Fire Chiefs Report- Mark Bomyea reported the September meeting is in Louisville. Norwood to host November meeting. Tickets for the shed raffle are made and will be sent all departments. Proceeds to go to County Chiefs and the Training Center. 2020 Firefighter of the Year banquet for Vinney Ferry September 25th. Larry Whitton has tickets. 2021 Firefighter of the Year Jeff Hammond to be in November.

Old Business- None

New Business-

Parishville FD open house and parade September 4th. All welcome!
Star Lake having a 911 ceremony. Norwood Fire Chief Monk Loomis had a heart attack recently. His department is asking for help if anyone would like to help. Bill Knowlton Heuvelton, funeral services Monday 2 pm. Procession to be held if any department wants to participate. Calling hrs 10-2 pm

Matt asked for volunteers to look at the current mutual aid plan and see what updates are needed. Kevin Crosby agreed to Chair the committee. Bob Crowe, Mark Bomyea also on the committee along with district deputies.

Bob Crowe mentioned that Canton Fire has funeral items should a department need help. He is willing to assist in any way. Other departments represented at the meeting also offered up the same thing.

Matt mentioned the Open Meetings Law and was advised that addresses should be included when holding a hybrid type FAB meeting.

2100 Hrs Chairman asked if anyone had any other business for the board. No other business. Motion to adjourn was made by Bob Crowe 2nd by Kevin Crosby to adjourn. Carried.

Next FAB Meeting October 21, 7 pm