

Thursday December 15, 2022

Called to order at 19:00 hours by Chairman Joe Finnegan.

Members present - John Lashomb, Mark Bomyea, Joseph Finnegan, Scott McRobbie, Christopher Velez, Steve Parker, Bob Crowe, Don McCarthy, Art Howie, Larry Whitton, Tom Conklin, Chris Sherwin & Kevin Crosby.

Other Present - Jonathon Mitchell (OES), Jeff Hammond (Car 4) & Vinny Ferry (Car 5)

Excused – Larry Denesha (Legislator), George Massarotti (State Fire) Bob Kerr, Adrian Bush, Mark Bradish & Rick Rusaw

Motion to accept SLC Fire Advisory Board minutes from the August 2022 meeting.

Motion made by Mark Bomyea.

Seconded by John Lashomb.

Motion carried with all in favor.

Legislators – No report

Office of Emergency Services

No COVID update

Update on communication project.

Command vehicle update. Vehicle is ordered with estimated delivery in March 2023.

Update on dispatch center construction. New vendor hired with work expected to begin in November or December of 2023. 911 calls will roll over to neighboring counties if there is a problem and no answers in St. Lawrence County.

Update on hiring of new dispatchers and night supervisor.

Update on EMD plan.

Updated on White paper recommendations on EMS call turnover. New draft should be out by March 2023.

The following is a report of CAD calls for NOVEMBER 2022:

NOVEMBER 22		YEAR 2022
FIRE DEPTS DISPATCHED	490	5,139
EMS DISPATCHED	1,949	20,484
LOCAL PD CALLS TO 911	389	3,667
NYSP DISPATCHED BY SLC ES	439	3,516
INFORMATIONALS CALLS*	1,058	11,820
SHERIFF'S CALLS FOR SERVICE	1,135	12,145
TOTAL CALLS DISPATCHED IN SLC	5,460	56,771

*Informational calls include pocket dials, hang up calls, and test calls

The following are law enforcement calls dispatched by their own dispatchers CAD cards created for the Law Enforcement Departments (from their start date)

NYSP DISPATCHED BY B-COMM	1,246	11,399
CANTON PD DISPATCHED	514	4,414
MASSENA PD DISPATCHED	553	7,486
POTSDAM PD DISPATCHED	723	7,759
OGDENSBURG PD DISPATCHED	582	7,812
TOTAL OUTSIDE LAW DISPATCHED CALL	3,618	38,870

Phone calls handled in dispatch center incoming and outgoing by line:

Emergency calls handled in dispatch center incoming and outgoing by line:

911	3,049
EMS	3,450
Text-2-911	6
NYSP	197
<u>Sheriff</u>	<u>2,726</u>
Total	9,429

YTD: 105,575

Tom Conklin brought up about the dispatchers using the incident management clock for structure fires and other major incidents. Discussion was held. With the major reason being safety of firefighters. The Incident commander will be able to cancel the clock whenever they deem the incident was under control.

Tom Conklin brought up the financial burden of the new communication system was going to be to all departments. Most radios current radios will not work properly with the new system. With portable radios costing an estimated \$4,000 each. Some departments will be paying well over \$150,000.00 just for portable radios. Jonathon stated the county was willing to let departments order through the county bid to get a better price but it was still going to be expense no matter what.

State Fire Report - Jonathon read written report from George Massarotti

George Massarotti (State Fire) Updates

- Cancer paperwork has been sent; please ensure you complete and return.
- New York State Weekend at the National Fire Academy March 31 thru April 2
- Electric Vehicle training course has been developed by the state, it's being reviewed then out for Pilot
- Modern Fire Behavior class will be rolling out in Spring, soliciting SFI's now to teach. Will be done in a large settings
- A new division has been established in the Special Ops Branch. There will now be Tech Rescue and Haz Mat
- Numerous classes are in rewrite: FF 2, ARFF, Aerial, HSO.
- World games IC will be at the Ray Brook State Police barracks, an OFPC member will be there from 7am till 11pm for the entire time
- Should be it. Have a merry Christmas and New Year!!

World University Games – Discussion held on staffing of fire & EMS. The approximate number of people expected to come into the area. Also that there was going to be a refresher advanced extrication class with special attention to tour buses to be held very soon. Jonathon advised that anyone providing mutual aid for the games will be required to have a county ID badge.

Training Center – No report

Training - Bob Crowe brought up all of the new training that will be coming out. All firefighters need to be signed up through the LMS. Classes are posted 75 days before the class begins on the LMS. If you want a class please be sure to have your chief or training officer make the request in writing to the county. St. Lawrence County no longer prints course completion certificates for firefighters. LMS has a link that prints all of your certificates. Bob stated that there will be a fire instructor I course February at the Training Center and that it will not get any closer so if anyone is interested that they should sign up. Bob went over all of the refresher classes that are going to be held.

Mark Bomyea added that all training information and classes will be added to the SLC Fire Chief's Assc. website.

Fire Investigation Team – Meeting held in November with election of officers. Brian Sullivan, Chief; David Weitz, 1st Asst.; Andy Barr, 2nd Asst. There are two new investigators. Still need new members if anyone is interested. Tom also brought up for chiefs to only call for investigators only when really needed. A chimney fire is a chimney fire you don't need an investigator to investigate it. Mark Bomyea asked if the fire Investigation Team could send an investigator to the next SLC Fire Chief's Assc. Meeting in Louisville to do a presentation on when to ask for a fire investigator.

Tom Conklin brought up about the experience he had with the Juvinal Fire Setters program at schools. Stated it was a great program and it really helped out when it was used.

HAZMAT – The team recently had some training. 6 -7 new technicians have come on board. All the equipment has been inventoried and updated. Both trailers are in Massena. Kevin Durant is in charge.

Larry Whitton brought up about the new organization in Jefferson county targeting first responder wellness and PTSD.

Dive Rescue - Update on new air boat.

Old Business - Jonathon advised they are still working with Ogdensburg on taking over full dispatching of fire, police and EMS.

Mutual Aid Plan – Kevin Crosby stated the committee turned the plan over to the members for approval. Short discussion on possibly an MOU for ALCOA and whether or not Newton Falls should be still in the mutual aid plan. This was tabled until next meeting.

Potsdam Rescue will be testing the mobile CAD system for EMS vehicles.

Kevin Crosby asked if anyone else had heard that as part of the new fire department billing law (209-B) that states, prior to July 8, 2022, non-municipal NYS fire departments were not permitted to bill for their services, and an exclusion to Medicare Law allowed organizations to bill Medicare or Medicare HMO's directly for ALS interphases. Because NYS fire departments may now bill, the exclusion no longer applies. Instead, 209-b directs that organization directly bill the transporting agency. This applies whether or not a transporting agency has elected to exercise its right to bill. This would be a great harm to volunteer departments that do not bill. Jonathan requested a copy of the law so he could check into it.

LODD - Discussion held on getting a procedure for all departments to use in case of a LODD.

Election of officers: Joe Finnegan – Chairman, Bob Crowe – Vice Chairman & Bob Kerr – Secretary. Motion made and passed with all in favor, for all three to remain in office for another term.

Tom Conklin asked if SLC was going to advertise in the media about fire safety.

Motion to adjourn – Chris Sherwin
2nd - Tom Conklin

Motion carried with all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 20:38 hours.

Respectfully submitted by Kevin Crosby