

St. Lawrence County Fire Advisory Board

Thursday October 17, 2024

Meeting minutes

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm by Chairman Joe Finnegan.

Members present: Chris Backus, Lenny Bickelhaupt, Mark Bomyea, Mark Bradish, Tom Conklin, Kevin Crosby, Matt Denner (Car 1), Edward Drake III, Vinny Ferry (Car 5), Joe Finnegan, Jeff Hammond Car 4), Erik Johnson, Bob Kerr, John Lashomb, Rick Rusaw (car 2), Larry Whitton & Steven Wilson.

Members excused: Adrian Bush, Bob Crowe, Larry Denesha, Scott McRobbie, Steve Parker & Ken Stull.

Guests: Ralph Manlami – Motorola representative.

Motion made by Larry Whitton to accept the minutes from the August 15, 2024 Fire Advisory Meeting.

2nd by Tom Conklin. Motion carried with all in favor.

SLC Board of Legislators - Liaison from the Board of Legislators - Larry Denesha – No report, excused.

Motion by Mark Bradish for the Fire Advisory Board to send Tory Russell’s name to the SLC Legislators for appointment to one of the two remaining open positions on the Fire Advisory Board.

2nd by Larry Whitton. Motion passed with all in favor.

Matt Denner submitted to monthly call report and the total call report for 20234 for the dispatch center.

The following is a report of CAD calls for SEPTEMBER 2024:

	SEPTEMBER 2024	YEAR 2024
FIRE DEPTS DISPATCHED	508	4,682
EMS DISPATCHED	2,096	18,647
LOCAL PD CALLS TO 911	229	3,570
NYSP DISPATCHED BY SLC ES	148	2,859
INFORMATIONALS CALLS*	993	9,497
SHERIFF’S CALLS FOR SERVICE	1,113	9,627
TOTAL CALLS DISPATCHED IN SLC	5,087	48,882

*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)

	September 2024	Year 2024
NYSP DISPATCHED BY B-COMM	1,466	11,935
CANTON PD DISPATCHED	443	3,425
MASSENA PD DISPATCHED	1,029	7,724
POTSDAM PD DISPATCHED	820	5,752
OGDENSBURG PD DISPATCHED	876	6,507
TOTAL OUTSIDE LAW DISPATCHED CALL	4,634	35,343

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

Emergency Services Dispatchers handled:

911 2,999

EMS 4,073

TEXT_2_911 143

NYSP 116

SHERIFF 2,934

TOTAL 10,265

YTD: 95,551

Communications project update – Matt Denner updated the members on the progress being made on the project.

Testing will begin in late winter on the new upgrades.

There will be 12 talk paths for the FD's.

New Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD), Emergency Fire Dispatch (EFD) & Emergency Law Enforcement Dispatch (ELD) will be included in new dispatching center. County will be signing contract with APCO for this software. APCO will train two dispatchers who will then train the rest of the county dispatchers on all of the EMD programs.

Motorola will be installing the radios in all fire department trucks. They will be installing all radios department by department. Matt will be contacting each department to find out where departments will want their radios mounted so Motorola can have the right number of radio and antenna mounts with them.

New tower sites – Steal is ordered for the Potsdam site. Still waiting for RFP for site development.

Cranberry Lake and Star Lake – No APA application as of yet.

No update on the command unit.

911 dispatch – Still in Massena

5 new dispatchers, 1 new administrative assistant & 1 open full time position.

Dispatch desks have been installed in Canton.

Motorola has started installing equipment on the desks.

Waiting on the path from the basement to the 2nd floor for low voltage wiring.

911 phones being installed 12/3/2024.

County Fire – Bio data sheets for fire advisory board. Two people are currently being considered by the county legislators now. It takes the legislators two committee meetings for appointments to go through. With one more name being sent to the legislators, there will be one opening still.

Active shooter drills at the county court house will be in December. MCI training is available for departments wanting it.

Deputy coordinators will be continuing to have district meetings.

Matt Denner announced that Vinny Fairy Car 5 will be retiring from the Deputy Coordinators position at the end of the year. Matt will be looking to have a replacement around the first of the year.

Matt Denner discussed that possibility of appointing a 2nd off shore rescue coordinator. Matt stated he was looking to get someone along the St. Lawrence River.

Class will begin at the beginning of the New Year for the following topics for minimum standards for officers.

NIFERS

Scene Preservation

On the job injuries/Workers Compensation.

How to use the radio

LMS

Training for chiefs

When to call for stand by mutual aid.

Matt Denner stated he had made an offer to a new fire training tech and he name will be forth coming in the next few days.

Emergency management – Matt Denner discussed FEMA had extended the deadline for paperwork for reimbursable items from the flood of August 2024.

Matt Denner handed out RAVE information flyers for department members to sign up to use the notification system which will send important messages to fire & rescue members directly.

OFPC Report – FPS Matt Kroeger

The fire academy construction has begun, and things will be slowing down there in the coming weeks. I don't have much of an update as far as what's coming and going but most of the courses taught there are being taught regionally except for the RFFT program and the EMT program.

If the board is not aware, there is a new version of the state's Live Fire Policy coming out. It is expected to be in place on January 1st but that is not a firm date. One of the big changes coming out with the new Live Fire Policy is whenever someone is assisting with a state class (like the Safety Team for IFO) they are to have a Training Authorization letter signed by their chief (or designee). I'll forward along the policy once it has a firm date so that the Board and training center personnel can review it and be ready for its implementation.

Training Schedule Updates – Bob Crowe – No report – Excused

Training Center – Bob Kerr – New guard rails have been installed.

Parking lot lines have been painted.

Starting to put things away for winter.

Looking to get guard rails around the pond.

County Fire Chief's Association – Jeff Hammond – Jeff reminded everyone that the next fire chief's meeting will be held Thursday November 21st at the Ogdensburg Elks Club and is hosted by the Ogdensburg Fire Department.

Fire Investigation Team - Tom Conklin - 49 cases so far this year. Several arrests in some recent cases with more arrests expected in the future. Mark Bradish asked if there was an update on the SUNY Potsdam fire. Tom & Matt both stated that State Fire and NYSP took jurisdiction of that case and they control the release of any information and that they have heard nothing on that fire. Tom Conklin brought up the need for training on fire scene preservation. Tom went through a quick over view of why it is so important and that Bob Crowe can and does teach a great course on that topic. A question was asked about the juvenile fire setter program. Tom Conklin states that NYS Fire has one of the best programs for that problem if a department has a need for it to call them and they will send a representative.

SLC Hazmat Response Team - No Report

Dive/Rescue Team - Dave Taylor – No Report

Technical Rescue – Tyler Mulvenna – Car 26 - No Report

Old Business - Discussion on the minimum standards for officers and how to get the authority with jurisdiction to make these their standards not just recommendations.. Chairman Joe Finnegan asked if anyone was interested in forming a committee from the Fire Advisory Board on these recommendations and how to get more fire departments to start getting more line officers with this training. The committee will consist of Bob Crowe, Mark Bomyea, Bob Kerr, Jeff Hammond & John Lashomb. Tom Conklin asked if any of the fire department training officers could train their department members on some of the entry level classes being recommended.

Matt Denner asked if district deputies could ask at district meeting about forming district decon teams.

Matt Denner also asked for departments using a tanker force to update dispatch with any changes. Discussion held on if this is useful.

Bob Kerr brought up that the new minimum standards for officers is like the radio training course started years ago. Slow to roll out and become policy because members don't want change but it is for the best of the department and its members.

New Business - Discussion held in regards to stored energy solar systems and how to fight any fires that may break out. With several new arrays being built and in the plans for this area. This is an issue that needs to be addressed by local, state and federal fire officials as no one really knows how to put these fires out and what the hazards are. At this time there seems to be no standard on how to safely put a fire out.

Members were told of the upcoming dinner honoring Dennis Eickhoff for his 10 years of service to the Firemen's Home in Hudson to be held at the Gouverneur Elk's Club.

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday December 19, 2024.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Mark Bomyea.

2nd by Tom Conklin. Motion passed with all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:16pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kevin Crosby