

St. Lawrence County Fire Advisory Board

Thursday December 19, 2024

Meeting minutes

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

Members present: Mark Bomyea, Tom Conklin, Kevin Crosby, Bob Crowe, Larry Denesha (Legislative liaison) Matt Denner (Car 1), Edward Drake III, Vinny Ferry (Car 5), Joe Finnegan, Jeff Hammond (Car 4), Erik Johnson, Bob Kerr, Matt Kroeger (OFPC), Rick Rusaw (car 2), Torey Russell, Thomas Schwahn, Ken Stull, Christopher Velez.

Members excused: Adrian Bush, Scott McRobbie & Steve Parker.

Motion made by Mark Bomyea to accept the minutes from the October 17, 2024 Fire Advisory Meeting.

2nd by Bob Kerr. Motion carried with all in favor.

SLC Board of Legislators - Liaison from the Board of Legislators - Larry Denesha – Went over the 2025 budget which represents a 2.4% decrease in the tax levy. Stated that the new appointments for the Fire Advisory Board should be confirmed at the next full board meeting of the legislators.

Matt Denner submitted to monthly call report and the total call report for 2024 for the dispatch center.

The following is a report of CAD calls for October, November & December 2024:

	Oct. 24	Nov. 24	Dec. 24	YEAR 2024
FIRE DEPTS DISPATCHED	553	393	486	6,114
EMS DISPATCHED	2,283	2,038	2,210	25,178
LOCAL PD CALLS TO 911	218	217	209	4,214
NYSP DISPATCHED BY SLC ES	160	176	169	3,364
INFORMATIONALS CALLS*	1,042	835	991	12,365
<u>SHERIFF'S CALLS FOR SERVICE</u>	<u>1,180</u>	<u>964</u>	<u>987</u>	<u>12,758</u>
TOTAL CALLS DISPATCHED IN SLC	5,436	4,623	5,052	63,993

*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)

	Oct. 24	Nov. 24	Dec. 24	YEAR 2024
NYSP DISPATCHED BY B-COMM	1,525	1,440	1,346	16,246
CANTON PD DISPATCHED	444	364	430	4,663
MASSENA PD DISPATCHED	984	799	758	10,265
POTSDAM PD DISPATCHED	698	674	660	7,784
<u>OGDENSBURG PD DISPATCHED</u>	<u>902</u>	<u>704</u>	<u>686</u>	<u>8,799</u>
TOTAL OUTSIDE LAW DISPATCHED CALL	4,553	3,981	3,880	47,757

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

Emergency Services Dispatchers handled:

	Oct. 24	Nov. 24	Dec. 24
911	3,134	2,720	2,971
EMS	3,961	3,534	3,671
TEXT-2-911	161	128	115
NYSP	160	13	0
SHERIFF	3,108	2,986	2,715
TOTAL	10,524	9,381	9,472

YTD: 106,059 115,440 124,912

Matt Denner went over the ambulance scratch rates for the county.

Dispatch is still in Massena. Matt is hoping the renovation project will be completed in the next couple of months.

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. Dispatchers will have to recertify every year. Matt has been talking with other counties who already use this EMD system to check on any pros or cons with the system. EMD questions will now all be on the screen for the dispatcher to see.

Motorola will be installing the radios in all fire department trucks. They will be installing all radios department by department.

Matt & Rick will be going to each station to find out where departments will want their radios mounted so Motorola can have the right number of radio and antenna mounts with them.

The new cell phone tax will start being added to phone bills in December of 2024.

Potsdam tower site – Bids for site development are out. Work expected to start in the spring of 2025.

Cranberry Lake and Star Lake – No APA application as of yet. Need to get objectives from military. Air Force made complaint about tower height of 140 feet. They want tower to be 90 feet max.

NYPA negotiations are not going well.

The command unit has been put away after all of the active shooter drills.

911 dispatch – Still in Massena

1 open full time position.

Dispatch desks have been installed in Canton.

Motorola has started installing equipment on the desks.

Tower is striped. Should be back in operation by mid-January. New wiring tunnel is now in. Motorola equipment racks will be in sometime in January.

911 phones being installed 12/3/2024.

Matt brought up about the MCI tabletop drill that will be held in Lake Placid.

County Fire – There is one opening still on the fire advisory board.

Matt stated that the active shooter drills have gone very well with the same problems popping up. Law enforcement communication with FD & EMS needs attention. Next active shooter drill is in Hammond.

Matt Denner stated they will be meeting soon to pick Vinny Ferry’s replacement for Car 5. 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.

- NFIRs
- 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 that Brandon Murray is the new County Fire Instructor and Shawn McGregor is new skills instructor.

OFPC Report – FPS Matt Kroeger – Teaching for the winter is slowing down. Meeting January 3, 2025 for upcoming training, 112 courses were held with 612 students.

Training Schedule Updates – Bob Crowe – Bob went over some topics for upcoming training. Long discussion held on minimum training for new fire chiefs and new officer training.

Training Center – Bob Kerr – Safety trailer is put away for the winter. Bob stated the training table top was recently used. Bob also discussed having the WIFI extended. Mark Bomyea asked about possibly updating the table top.

County Fire Chief's Association – Jeff Hammond – Jeff reminded everyone that the next fire chief's meeting will be held Thursday January 16th at the Lawrenceville fire Department. Jeff also brought up about the St. Lawrence County Fire Fighter of the Year and that there are only 3 letters so far.

Fire Investigation Team - Tom Conklin - 59 cases so far this year. 2 in December so far. 6 attended Montour Falls last month and received 15 hrs. for continuing education. Tom discussed the solar panel presentation that was taught. He also stated that the county has several active investigations ongoing at this time.

SLC Hazmat Response Team - No Report

Dive/Rescue Team - Dave Taylor – No Report

Technical Rescue – Tyler Mulvenna – Car 26 – Some technical rescue training has been done.

Old Business – Jeff Hammond brought up the about the county paying for the I Am Responding or Active 911 for all departments. He stated it was a great thing to do and it should be done. Either phone app is fine just pick one. You can't make everyone happy, and if they don't like it, they don't have to use it.

New Business - Discussion of the cancer policy and if any departments have used it. Discussion on Line of Duty Deaths. Motion made by Bob Kerr to form a committee to do up a booklet of things to do in the case of a LODD. 2nd by Mark Bomyea. Motion passed.

Chairman Finnegan appointed the following to the committee

- Bob Kerr- Chairman
- Torey Russell
- Jeff Hammond
- Rick Rusaw
- Matt Denner

Election of Officers – Motion made by Bob Kerr to nominate
Joe Finnegan for Chairman
Mark Bomyea for Vice Chairman
Kevin Crosby for Secretary

2nd by Erik Johnson. Motion passes with all in favor.

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday February 20, 2025.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Bob Kerr

2nd by Bob Crowe. Motion passed with all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:22pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kevin Crosby