



STEBEN COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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**Timothy D. Marshall, Director of Public Safety
Kenneth J. Forenz, Deputy Director**

FIRE ADVISORY BOARD

5/24/23

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance and Bill Waggoner made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Tina Goodwin seconded, all were in favor, and the minutes were approved.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT:

Tim reported on the Radio System upgrade. They are still waiting on some of the projects to be completed. This includes the structural analysis for the Higman Hill antenna change, and also which antenna will work the best for that site. The antennas for Mt. Washington, Cty. Rte. 7, and Perkinsville are in the process of being ordered. Tim was also at the Pinnacle site today and the electric pole has been set and the transformer is there, so they are ready to get the electrical portion completed. The fence and generator are also in place. Once we have electric on site, we can move the equipment over from the clubhouse to get Law Enforcement up and running, and then we can get the Motorola proposal completed and the rest of the equipment ordered and installed.

They are still looking at options to fill along the lake. They are meeting with a property owner tomorrow on a new site. They are hoping to make a deal with the property on the bluff.

We are slowly getting underway with the new grant project. It was approved at Committee and by the full Legislature at Monday's meeting. We will now meet with the Counties and the vendor that will do the installs, and also the consultant to see how everything will fit together. We will then sit down with Motorola to outline exactly what we are asking for in the proposal.

Ed gave an update on the training. We have a Self-Rescue course coming up in Corning City, with one seat left in the class. There is a BEFO course running now. There are some other courses they are working on getting scheduled throughout the summer.

Tim and Ken talked about the Firefighter Contamination Reduction and Cancer Prevention training, along with Fire Investigation for the Line Officer, and Modern Fire Behavior training. Those are three additional courses we are going to be working with Corey on trying to get scheduled.

We are also going to work on getting a Battery Emergencies and Electrical Storage Systems course set up. Tim stated that there was a Pilot certification, then Instructor certification. Tim is currently waiting

for the Academy to get an instructor available to come out and teach the course. We want to try to get it in a few different areas of the County when an instructor becomes available. It may not happen until September/October timeframe.

Tim provided an EMS update. Applications for the EMS coordinator position were due back on May 17th, so we do have several that we will be reviewing. We are currently working on the RFP. We did an internal draft and review, and it has been sent off to the special attorney for review. The RFP will give two options – one will be for staff leasing if an agency wants to provide staffing, or it will be full EMS transport services. Once the RFP comes back, the County can then make a decision on which direction we want to go. We are hoping to get the RFP out within the next week or so.

911:

Tina reported that since the last meeting, they have hired a few people. They hired one person that transferred from another county, and is in the process of learning all the positions now. They have filled the two full-time positions with people provisionally that have taken the test and are just waiting for the results.

We have an intern from IT working with us to get her hours for her criminal justice program, but she had a strong interest in 911, so we hired her part-time and she starts next week. So right now, we do not have any full-time positions open. We are just waiting on exam results from the February exam.

Tina and Tim were able to talk to State Civil Service at the 911 Coordinators conference. The State is doing a program for certain titles that aren't getting a response after taking the test, or a high failure rate, etc., to help with provisional hires, and after a year they become permanent without a test. In talking with Personnel afterwards, they confirmed that the Dispatcher title is one of the titles identified for this program. There are several steps Personnel will have to complete before they can go forward with this, so it will not happen anytime soon.

They started their intro meetings for the CAD project, with data gathering, and contracts. It looks like it will be either first or second quarter of 2024 before we can start. We can keep our current system going past the November cut-off time, with a maintenance contract with the company.

Tina stated they accepted a free service last week from our phone vendor. ADT is offering alarms via text message. Instead of speaking to an operator, all the information will come up in a text.

Kelly Fitzpatrick stated that the County is receiving money from various pharmaceutical companies in regards to the opioid settlement, so we are discussing what to spend that money on. There are some restrictions, and she has asked for some additional data regarding the OD mapping. She would like to see it mapped based on location, and also based on a demographic for the individuals age ranges. We had a presentation from Erie County at the Human Services Committee meeting, and they discussed their programs for overdose and opioid treatments, and they have it really narrowed down to better age demographics, they have gotten certain employers on board, and have a really targeted program. She and Hilda Lando both feel they need to have a targeted approach on how they are going to spend this money rather than spending it on all of these various organizations that come to us and ask for money.

OLD BUSINESS:

Tim reported they have been working on having the departments get their Mutual Aid plans accepted. So far he has 19 departments that have returned their resolutions, accepting the plan. Corning and Bath Areas are almost complete, with some in the Cohocton, Hornell and Woodhull areas still needing to provide resolutions. Tim will get with the Deputy Coordinators of those areas to make sure they reach out to their chiefs to get these resolutions completed and plan approved as soon as possible.

Tim reported he doesn't have any additional updates on the Burn building. Ed has been doing a lot of work at the Training Center to try to get things fixed and updated. The parking lot has been milled as of today, and they are supposed to pave tomorrow or Friday. They will only pave the original piece for now, and Tim talked to Eric Rose from Public Works about possibly looking at a future capital project to pave the area around the tower.

Tim stated the property tax incentive has been approved by the Legislature in April. It is basically the same incentive we had before, but there were some adjustments that we had to make to comply with the State.

The State also put \$25 million into Volunteer Fire Department capital funding project. This is to fund for grants to volunteer fire departments for construction, renovation or purchase of facilities and equipment. He doesn't have any other information on that yet.

The enacted State budget includes language to create a public service campaign to recruit additional staff in the EMS field, as well as creating a task force to coordinate and operate resources that are needed around the State for EMS.

Also in the state budget, there was \$20 million assigned for creation of a statewide EZYnet, which is basically for Next Gen 911. This is for 911 centers to look at building a development of emergency services IP based network.

There was discussion in the budget about making changes to VFBL to allow for volunteers to receive stipends for their service. They could make up to 20% of what a paid firefighter in their region makes. This proposal was turned down.

NEW BUSINESS:

Tim reported that the NYS Association of Fire Chiefs has designated the Fire Chief of the Year to Mr. Bill Fries of the Hammondspport Volunteer Fire Department. They presented the award to him at his banquet. Congratulations to him!

Tim stated that if anyone has any A Triple F foam that they need to get rid of, T&R is looking at trying to put together a deal to collect it and dispose of it for departments. He will keep everyone updated on this.

The next meeting will be held on **September 27th** at the **Emergency Services office at 7 PM.**

Dan Hulbert made a motion to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded by Ben Joseph, everyone was in favor, and the meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauri Robords

