

# ERIE COUNTY FIRE ADVISORY BOARD – MEETING MINUTES

<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	5/30/19	
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Erie County Training and Operations Center	
<b>CALL TO ORDER:</b>	19:00	
<b>PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:</b>		
<b>ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:</b>	<b>PRESENT:</b>	William Cleary, James Gajewski, Timothy Gibbons, Michael Griffin, Kevin Herzog, James Judd, Scott Kuhlmeier, Doug Lahnen, Dwayne Morosey, Robert Rackl, James Reger, Christopher Couell, Joleen Schlossin
	<b>ABSENT:</b>	
	<b>EXCUSED:</b>	Jeffrey Daege, Eric Karcher, Peter Spilsbury, Daniel Neaverth Jr.
<b>INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:</b>		
<b>APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING:</b>	<b>DATE OF LAST MEETING:</b>	Workshop 3/28/19 – No minutes provided
	<b>MOTION BY:</b>	
	<b>SECOND BY:</b>	
	<b>APPROVED:</b>	
<b>REPORT OF OFFICERS:</b>		
<b>CHAIRMAN:</b>	Some new members present, so went around the room and had everyone introduce themselves by name and department	
<b>CO-CHAIR:</b>	No report	
<b>SECRETARY:</b>	No report	
<b>TREASURER:</b>	\$266.05, including tonight's contributions	
<b>REPORT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES:</b>		
<b>COMMISSIONER:</b>	No report	
<b>DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:</b>	<p>Jim Reger met with the Amherst Chiefs Association regarding the Chaplains. There are currently three, Steve Bienger in Clarence Center, John Gaglione in Hamburg, and Dave Borowiak in Cheektowaga, who respond to fires. There has never been any Standard Operating Guidelines or agreements with them. There were 4 questions discussed: Are they covered under workman's comp? Who covers their car insurance when they are responding? Do they respond hot or cold? How do they respond? Currently, if there's a working structure fire, everyone receives a page. Sometimes, they respond on their own, sometimes they are previously requested. In the new SOG's, it was discussed that they need to be requested, just like with Jim and Chris, as county employees, who cannot respond to anything unless requested. You can have them put them on your line card so when you dispatch your mutual aid, dispatch will notify MERS who will dispatch them. Chaplains are covered under the county's workman's comp (by legislation). They need to stamp a ticket at MERS when they are responding so we know they're out on the road and we can track it and there will be a record. Chaplains, if dispatched per policy, will be covered under the county umbrella for injuries and deductible. Consistent with other private vehicles used in the fire service the expectation is that the primary vehicle insurance coverage of chaplain will be the default. Regarding hot or cold response, responding hot was established by Father Joe. There are no accommodations in vehicle traffic law in NYS for chaplains having red lights on their cars. In the end, it was voted that chaplains run cold to incidents in Amherst. But each town can do as they wish. The county recommends responding cold. Statistically, the 5 or 10 minutes they'd get there sooner is not worth the risk. Most do not have any EVOC training or very little and no one wants to take responsibility if they get into a bad accident. No lights will be put in, unless they are done themselves. If they are already present, they will remain in place. The response policy will note that any install, use of lights or siren is solely at the liability of the chaplain. Policy is currently in the hands of the county attorney and once received back, will have the chaplain's sign. Also, looking into getting some gear for the chaplain's for when they are on scene.</p> <p>Next discussed was an incident where a fire company brought a piece of equipment to a NYS training class. They were extending a 35 ft. ladder on a tower site and once it was fully extended, 2 guys were trying to control it and the wind grabbed it and dropped it on the ground. It was damaged and the fire company asked who pays for it? The fire company is volunteering their time and effort to support the training and the state has no mechanism in place to handle this type of incident, nor does the county. There was much discussion regarding this. Some thought it should be the responsibility of the state, as the equipment was requested for the training, or the county, because, it was on county property. Other thoughts were it being the responsibility of the individual fire company. Discussed looking into</p>	

	<p>this further and making recommendations to the powers that be, but there are many variables involved in this. Bill Cleary suggested sending a notice to all fire companies of the potential for damage to equipment, but could that deter fire companies from supporting training???</p> <p>Chris Couell said that is has always been the policy that if your fire company is supporting the training of its members, then you must supply the equipment to do so. Therefore, if any damage is done, it would fall back on the fire company. Tim Gibbons mentioned having a record anytime a piece of equipment leaves, for insurance purposes. Jim Gajewski mentioned possibly designating a safety officer, someone whose job it would be to determine if the conditions are safe to perform the required duties, in order to help prevent injury to person or damage to equipment.</p> <p>Quick mention that in order to host training, a fire company does not necessarily need to have 10 members present. Due to the new standards, we are required to have 5 or 6 instructors present, so if only 6 members are available to train, could still hold the training. It is at the discretion of the instructors and fire company chief. Of course, this is not to deter from inviting mutual aid companies to training.</p>
<p>DEPUTY FIRE COORDINATOR:</p>	<p>Chris Couell – Hopefully, everyone is familiar with the website. We are working on making it easier to navigate and more user friendly. In the past couple of months, we’ve added training calendars to the website so it’s easy to see when the towers are available. Previously, there were a lot of emails back and forth figuring out available dates for training. The process is streamlined now and seems to be working out well. Noticing that the towers are being used more this year than last. As always, any comments or suggestions, let us know. Per Jim, there has been a positive response to the changes to the website</p> <p>The training calendar is full. There are 25 active classes on it now. There will be several more added for the fall. There are 2 boot camps this summer that are both full. Orientation was this past Saturday and went really well. They will run a total of 4 weeks in July/August, 2 weeks for each. They are a blended learning, so they will do a lot of learning online prior to the 2 weeks of hands on training they will do at the academy. Buffalo Fire recruits will end mid-June, which will work out well.</p> <p>Erie County Tech Rescue Team- new, but has been in the process for the past couple of years. The history behind it was the fire companies in the southtowns who have a lot of gorges, hills and cliffs, with the help of social media has turned these sites (ex. Chestnut ridge park’s eternal flame) into must visits, which is great that the parks are being used, but it is creating more opportunity for accidents. During the summertime, Orchard Park runs a bunch of calls in to the park, so they formed a rope rescue team a couple of years ago. West Falls did the same thing, Gowanda has Zoar Valley. These teams all started training together. As that training grew, there were other companies that wanted to get involved too. This training group has grown into what is now being known as the Erie County Tech Rescue Team, which has allowed them to get a ton of grant money for equipment. The county owns the equipment, but disperses it as required to fire companies. There is also a rope rescue trailer, which houses some of the bigger equipment. The Tech Rescue Team consists of ESU, ECSO, Hillcrest, Orchard Park, Gowanda, East Aurora, West Falls, Eden, Seneca Hose, NFSAR, and Alert. Soon, it will include BFD. Others are encouraged to attend but must demonstrate a willingness to train as a unit. There will be a large scale drill June 29<sup>th</sup> in East Aurora. Dispatched through MERS, similar to Hazmat. There is a Coordinator, Josh Myers, and a Deputy Coordinator, Jay Mazurkiewicz. Chris Couell is in charge of the logistics. Missy is handling the finances and grants.</p> <p>Prop trailer has been used at least a couple of times a month. Also, it has been used for some state training courses. TIMS trailer has been used during EVOC class. Assets the county has have been being utilized and working out well. There is also a calendar on the website for the prop trailer so you can easily see when it’s available.</p>
<p>OTHER:</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>REPORT OF COMMITTEES:</b></p>	
<p>SCHOOL:</p>	<p>Jim Gajewski – Chair, Bill Cleary, Eric Karcher, and Bob Rackl. Discussed possibly looking into additional training opportunities. How to fund this training?? We are good on state training hours, we have one of the highest amount of hours in the state. Even if we go over, hours can generally be pulled from other counties not using all their hours. So far, have not been denied training hours. Bill mentioned the Lavender Report, which Jim G. will explore further.</p>
<p>DRILL TOWER:</p>	<p>Peter Spilsbury – Chair, and Kevin Herzog. Instructors are taking initiative for training and contacting the fire company beforehand and formulating a training plan for at the towers.</p>

RADIO:	Discussed that there isn't really too much for a radio committee to do. Mostly driven by grants received. Jim mentioned possibly having Jerry Whittington/Kevin Hughes attend one of the meetings to discuss what they're doing and why they're doing it. Any issues can still be brought to the board.
LEGISLATIVE & FIRE PREVENTION:	No committee formed
BUDGET PLANNING & WALL OF HONOR:	Doug Lahnen – Chair, Kevin Herzog, and Jeffrey Daege. Last year, Jim Guy played a huge role in the Wall of Honor ceremony and is available if anyone has questions. It was decided that the Wall of Honor ceremony will be held during Fire Prevention week on Friday, October 11 <sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Joleen will get the Aud booked for that. Currently, there are three nominations; Edward Tokasz from Doyle 2, Robert Carncross from Ellwood, and Michelle Bliss from South Line. Any letters received after July 31 <sup>st</sup> will be for next year. A new declaration will be posted to the site shortly to reflect the updated guidelines. Bill mentioned possible group recognition for the Wall of Honor, but the legislation was written out specifically as individual, so maybe look for another venue for recognition of these outstanding groups.
RULES & MUTUAL AID:	No Committee formed
<b>REPORT OF BOARDS:</b>	
ERIE COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS MUTUAL AID ORG.:	No report
ERIE COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION:	No report
ERIE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT OFFICERS ASSOCIATION:	No report
ERIE COUNTY FIRE POLICE ASSOCIATION:	No report
DISASTER ADVISORY BOARD:	No report
EMS ADVISORY BOARD:	No report
<b>OLD BUSINESS:</b>	None
<b>NEW BUSINESS:</b>	There was interest in Fire Advisory Board shirts for members. Jim will look into pricing to discuss at the upcoming workshop.
<b>GOOD OF THE ORGANIZATION:</b>	None
<b>NEXT MEETING DATE:</b>	7/25/19
<b>NEXT WORKSHOP DATE:</b>	6/27/19
<b>ADJOURNMENT:</b>	20:18 Motion by Robert Rackl, seconded by Michael Griffin
<b>MINUTES RECORDED BY:</b>	Joleen Schlossin
<b>MINUTES SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Joleen Schlossin

**ERIE COUNTY FIRE ADVISORY BOARD SIGN IN AND CONTACT SHEET**

	<b>MEETING:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR <input type="checkbox"/> SPECIAL	<b>DATE:</b>	<b>5/30/2019</b>		<b>LOCATION:</b>	<b>FTA</b>		
	<b>Name</b>	<b>Board Appointments</b>	<b># of Terms</b>	<b>Expiration Date</b>	<b>Phone #</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>	<b>EXCUSED</b>
1	Cleary, William		1st	12/31/2020	716-796-8069	<a href="mailto:wcleary53@verizon.net">wcleary53@verizon.net</a>			
2	Daege, Jeffrey		1st	12/31/2020	716-440-2017	<a href="mailto:jeffreydaege@yahoo.com">jeffreydaege@yahoo.com</a>			X
3	Gajewski, James		1st	12/31/2019	716-440-4755	<a href="mailto:commjim10@yahoo.com">commjim10@yahoo.com</a>			
4	Gibbons, Timothy		1st	12/31/2019	716-725-3770	<a href="mailto:Gibbons105@yahoo.com">Gibbons105@yahoo.com</a>			
5	Griffin, Michael		1st	12/31/2020	716-714-9772	<a href="mailto:opie652@gmail.com">opie652@gmail.com</a>			
6	Herzog, Kevin		1st	12/31/2020	716-725-2984	<a href="mailto:kevinherzog@roadrunner.com">kevinherzog@roadrunner.com</a>			
7	Judd, James		1st	12/31/2020	716-604-6874	<a href="mailto:LFD_Judd@yahoo.com">LFD_Judd@yahoo.com</a>			
8	Karcher, Eric		1st	12/31/2020	716-697-1395	<a href="mailto:ek7166971395@aol.com">ek7166971395@aol.com</a>			
9	Kuhlmey, Scott		1st	12/31/2019	716-861-7933	<a href="mailto:scott.kuhlmey@gmail.com">scott.kuhlmey@gmail.com</a>			T
10	Lahnen, Douglas		1st	12/31/2020	716-864-2240	<a href="mailto:dlahnen1@roadrunner.com">dlahnen1@roadrunner.com</a>			
11	Morosey, Dwayne		1st	12/31/2019	716-949-4701	<a href="mailto:dwaynemorosey@gmail.com">dwaynemorosey@gmail.com</a>			
12	Rackl, Robert		1st	12/31/2019	716-583-1798	<a href="mailto:rwrackl@gmail.com">rwrackl@gmail.com</a>			
13	Spilsbury, Jr., Peter		1st	12/31/2019		<a href="mailto:Peter.Spilsbury@erie.gov">Peter.Spilsbury@erie.gov</a>			X
14	Zamrok, Andrew		1st	12/31/2019	716-425-7907	<a href="mailto:azamrok@evanscentervfc.org">azamrok@evanscentervfc.org</a>			
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	Neaverth Jr., Dan	Commissioner			716-983-6080	<a href="mailto:daniel.neaverth@erie.gov">daniel.neaverth@erie.gov</a>			
	Reger, Jim	Deputy Commissioner			716-289-0614	<a href="mailto:james.reger@erie.gov">james.reger@erie.gov</a>			
	Couell, Chris	Deputy Fire Coordinator			716-481-7970	<a href="mailto:christopher.couell@erie.gov">christopher.couell@erie.gov</a>			
	Schlossin, Joleen	Scribe				<a href="mailto:joleen.schlossin@erie.gov">joleen.schlossin@erie.gov</a>			