

# ERIE COUNTY FIRE ADVISORY BOARD – MEETING MINUTES

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|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| <b>MEETING DATE:</b>                 | 01/26/23   |  |  |
| <b>LOCATION:</b>                     | Erie County Training and Operations Center   |  |  |
| <b>CALL TO ORDER:</b>                | 18:05  |  |  |
| <b>PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:</b>         |  |  |  |
| <b>ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:</b>         | <b>PRESENT:</b>  | William Cleary, Ron Endle, Jim Gajewski, Jim Guy, Kevin Herzog, Kevin Jewett, James Judd, Scott Kuhlmeier, Doug Lahnen, Scott Plecha, Bob Rackl, John Rothrock, Peter Spilsbury Jr., Philip Wzientek, Joleen Schlossin |  |
|                                      | <b>ABSENT:</b>   | Andrew Beehler, Timothy Gibbons, Mike Griffin, Eric Karcher, Garrett Wynn, Bob Zacher, Mike Zekas  |  |
|                                      | <b>EXCUSED:</b>  | Paul Gorczyca  |  |
| <b>INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:</b>       | Bill Taylor – NYS OFPC   |  |  |
| <b>APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING:</b>     | <b>DATE OF LAST MEETING:</b>   | 12/01/22   |  |
|                                      | <b>MOTION BY:</b>  | Scott Plecha   |  |
|                                      | <b>SECOND BY:</b>  | Bob Rackl  |  |
|                                      | <b>APPROVED:</b>   | Approved by all  |  |
| <b>REPORT OF OFFICERS:</b>           |  |  |  |
| <b>CHAIRMAN:</b>                     | No Report  |  |  |
| <b>CO-CHAIR:</b>                     | No Report  |  |  |
| <b>SECRETARY:</b>                    | No Report  |  |  |
| <b>TREASURER:</b>                    | + \$22 from this meeting, \$181.05 total   |  |  |
| <b>REPORT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES:</b> |  |  |  |
| <b>COMMISSIONER:</b>                 | No Report  |  |  |
| <b>DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:</b>          | <b>Fire Advisory report from FC-1 1/26/23</b>  |  |  |
|                                      | <p><b>Training:</b><br/>                     Wednesday Night Firefighter Seminar Series are going well. We started our week 1 with Officer Orientation. We had approximately 70 people show up to learn what the Fire Safety Office does, and how we can assist. We also went over our website and how to use it, and also the NYS LMS system.<br/>                     Week 2 was Calling the Mayday &amp; FAST Response<br/>                     Week 3 was Firefighter Cancer Awareness and was also attended by NYS OFPC where they kicked off their support to this cause. Local media were here, and OFPC gave away free DECON kits to every department in attendance. Kits will be available to every station in each Erie County department. We will advise on how to obtain those in the next few weeks.<br/>                     Week 4 was HazMat Awareness for Firefighters taught by FC-2<br/>                     We will be going every Wednesday evening at 18:30 until the first week of April. Included is the schedule for everyone to take a copy.<br/>                     Terrorism Awareness class was taught by FC-1 Couell and PS-29 Piotrowski in West Seneca Wednesday night.<br/>                     Our Firefighter 1 classes have begun for the year. The first one started last week, another this week, and the third next week. These 3 classes will train 70+ students to be qualified firefighters in their respective departments by early spring.<br/>                     Division staff met with other fire coordinators from WNY at Mercy Flight of Western New York. The topic of conversation was outreach training to fire departments and other first responders that deal with helicopters landing on their scenes. Fire Safety will assist in advertising and facilitating their ground school lectures. Over the last year Mercy Flight has seen an increase in unsafe conditions caused by the actions of individuals on scene.</p> <p><b>News &amp; Updates:</b><br/>                     New training trailers are all in. New Vent Trailer is almost finished and it is in service now. New Survival &amp; Forcible Entry are here, awaiting vinyl graphic wraps, and will be put in service around mid-March. We will do a little news conference to highlight the new trailers once they are all complete. Donation of a new Engine Company Ops Trailer is in the works. A resolution to accept the donation has been filed. Tom Trzepakz and his company PAC Tracs donated the trailer.<br/>                     Division staff meet with Draeger to discuss the training prop production bi-weekly. Building of the containers is going well and on schedule. We will conduct a virtual walkthrough in a few</p> |  |  |

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|   | <p>weeks. We will be working with DPW to get the concrete piers installed. They have been delayed due to weather conditions. Still looking for early April for them to be completed. Division staff met with EMS &amp; Hazmat team leaders on Monday 1/9/23 regarding the replacement of Hazmat 1. A committee has been formed to discuss the most functional options for the team. Initially we will be replacing the (1) large vehicle with (2) smaller pieces of apparatus. Fire safety now oversees the EC HazMat Team and is working with them and all county Hazmat teams to cross train and work together during emergency events. FC-1 &amp; FC-2 met with NYS Assemblyman William Conrad to discuss recruitment and retention in the volunteer fire service. Mr. Conrad is co-chair to the NYS Assembly to work on the volunteer firefighter issues. He has presented many bills to the state that include paying firefighters for taking classes, tax breaks beyond what is offered now, making a change in VFBL laws to allow stipends and payments...just to name a few. We provided him with information on the issues that we hear from all of our county agencies.</p> <p>J-Fire is going well. A letter was sent to every fire department in the county asking for help with a small donation. We received some back, but not as many as we thought. After some investigation, many departments said they never received the letter. We will send out another letter shortly. This fund drive is partnered with the Erie County Fire Chiefs MAO. There is a hand out for J-fire for you to take tonight. Take as many as you want and please put them in your stations.</p> <p>Division staff met with the Executive Board from the WNY Snowmobile Federation to discuss deployment of their assets for future storms. Dialogue pertaining to deployment, notifications, liabilities, legal, assets, need, and functions were all addressed. A second meeting was set for February to allow time for follow up information gathering.</p> <p>So far this year we responded to various emergencies including... a structure fire in West Falls, commercial building fire in Lancaster, a missing person/search &amp; rescue at Highmark Stadium, and of course the blizzard.</p> |
| DEPUTY FIRE COORDINATOR:                        | No Report   |
| OTHER:  | -   |
| <b>REPORT OF COMMITTEES:</b>                    |   |
| ACTIVE SHOOTER:                                 | -   |
| CANCER SCREENING:                               | No Report   |
| DRILL TOWER:                                    | No Report   |
| LINE OF DUTY DEATH:                             | Ron Endle - LODD, part 2 – tentative date of 4/22. Anyone can attend, even if they weren't at part 1. Possibly to be held at Sheridan Park. Lunch being provided. Just waiting on confirmation from all parties and then can advertise.   |
| BUDGET PLANNING & WALL OF HONOR:                | Jim Guy – new criteria is out and will be in the Firefighter newspaper in a couple of weeks. It will also be in the chief's book. Still needs to be added to the county website (Joleen will take care of).   |
| <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   |
| BUFFALO FIRE DEPT:                              | No Report   |
| LACKAWANNA FIRE DEPT:                           | No Report   |
| ERIE COUNTY HAZMAT:                             | Jim Gajewski – HazMat team moved to Erie County Fire Safety. Looking at possibly obtaining some new equipment.  |
| <b>OLD BUSINESS:</b>                            | -   |
| <b>NEW BUSINESS:</b>                            | Resignation received from Alicia May – effective immediately, unable to put forth the time towards the board due to work and position within her fire department. Resignation received from John Rothrock – effective February 2023, accepted new position and will be moving out of the area.  |

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| <b>GOOD OF THE ORGANIZATION:</b> | -   |
| <b>NEXT MEETING DATE:</b>        | 03/30/23  |
| <b>NEXT WORKSHOP DATE:</b>       | 02/23/23  |
| <b>ADJOURNMENT:</b>              | 18:51, motion by Jim Guy, seconded by Doug Lahnen |
| <b>MINUTES RECORDED BY:</b>      | Joleen Schlossin                                  |
| <b>MINUTES SUBMITTED BY:</b>     | Joleen Schlossin                                  |

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

| MEETING: |                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR <input type="checkbox"/> SPECIAL | DATE:      |                 | LOCATION:    |  | FTA   | ABSENT | EXCUSED |
|----------|-----------------------|--|------------|-----------------|--------------|--|---|--------|---------|
| Name     | Board Appointments    |  | # of Terms | Expiration Date | Phone #      | Email  | Signature   |        |         |
| 1        | Beehler, Andrew       |  | 1st        | 12/31/2023      | 716-954-9712 | <a href="mailto:andrewbeehler@gmail.com">andrewbeehler@gmail.com</a>         |   |        |         |
| 2        | Cleary, William       |  | 2nd        | 12/31/2022      | 716-796-8069 | <a href="mailto:wcleary53@verizon.net">wcleary53@verizon.net</a>             |   |        |         |
| 3        | Endle, Ronald         |  | 1st        | 12/31/2023      | 716-479-4186 | <a href="mailto:ronfirellc@aol.com">ronfirellc@aol.com</a>                   |  |        |         |
| 4        | Gajewski, James       |  | 3rd        | 12/31/2023      | 716-864-6748 | <a href="mailto:commjim10@yahoo.com">commjim10@yahoo.com</a>                 |   |        |         |
| 5        | Gibbons, Timothy      |  | 3rd        | 12/31/2023      | 716-725-3770 | <a href="mailto:Gibbons105@yahoo.com">Gibbons105@yahoo.com</a>               |   |        |         |
| 6        | Gorczyca, Paul        |  | 2nd        | 12/31/2023      | 716-866-1634 | <a href="mailto:gork315@gmail.com">gork315@gmail.com</a>                     |   |        | X       |
| 7        | Griffin, Michael      |  | 2nd        | 12/31/2022      | 716-714-9772 | <a href="mailto:opie652@gmail.com">opie652@gmail.com</a>                     |   |        |         |
| 8        | Guy, James            |  | 1st        | 12/31/2023      | 716-544-0327 | <a href="mailto:jhguy@verizon.net">jhguy@verizon.net</a>                     |   |        |         |
| 9        | Herzog, Kevin         |  | 2nd        | 12/31/2022      | 716-725-2984 | <a href="mailto:kevinherzog@roadrunner.com">kevinherzog@roadrunner.com</a>   |  |        |         |
| 10       | Jewett, Kevin         |  | 1st        | 12/31/2023      | 716-512-9054 | <a href="mailto:kevin.jewett@erie.gov">kevin.jewett@erie.gov</a>             |   |        |         |
| 11       | Judd, James           | Treasurer  | 2nd        | 12/31/2022      | 716-604-6874 | <a href="mailto:LFD_Judd@yahoo.com">LFD_Judd@yahoo.com</a>                   |  |        |         |
| 12       | Karcher, Eric         |  | 2nd        | 12/31/2022      | 716-697-1395 | <a href="mailto:ek7166971395@aol.com">ek7166971395@aol.com</a>               |   |        |         |
| 13       | Kuhlmeiy, Scott       |  | 3rd        | 12/31/2023      | 716-861-7933 | <a href="mailto:scott.kuhlmeiy@erie.gov">scott.kuhlmeiy@erie.gov</a>         |  |        |         |
| 14       | Lahnen, Douglas       |  | 2nd        | 12/31/2022      | 716-864-2240 | <a href="mailto:dlahnen1@roadrunner.com">dlahnen1@roadrunner.com</a>         |  |        |         |
| 15       | May, Alicia           |  | 1st        | 12/31/2023      | 716-998-9429 | <a href="mailto:amay1021@gmail.com">amay1021@gmail.com</a>                   |   |        |         |
| 16       | Plecha, Scott         |  | 2nd        | 12/31/2023      | 716-909-4206 | <a href="mailto:s.plecha@yahoo.com">s.plecha@yahoo.com</a>                   |   |        |         |
| 17       | Rackl, Robert         | Co-Chair   | 3rd        | 12/31/2023      | 716-341-3716 | <a href="mailto:rwrackl@gmail.com">rwrackl@gmail.com</a>                     |  |        |         |
| 18       | Rothrock, John        |  | 1st        | 12/31/2023      | 716-697-3780 | <a href="mailto:capt4fire@aol.com">capt4fire@aol.com</a>                     |  |        |         |
| 19       | Spilsbury, Jr., Peter | Chair  | 3rd        | 12/31/2023      | 716-583-0183 | <a href="mailto:Peter.Spilsbury@erie.gov">Peter.Spilsbury@erie.gov</a>       |  |        |         |
| 20       | Wynn, Garrett         |  | 2nd        | 12/31/2023      | 716-570-2209 | <a href="mailto:gwynn@ucrestfire.org">gwynn@ucrestfire.org</a>               |   |        |         |
| 21       | Wzientek, Philip      |  | 1st        | 12/31/2023      | 716-712-6315 | <a href="mailto:phil.wzientek@gmail.com">phil.wzientek@gmail.com</a>         |  |        |         |
| 22       | Zacher, Robert        |  | 1st        | 12/31/2023      | 716-863-1388 | <a href="mailto:rjzacher@roadrunner.com">rjzacher@roadrunner.com</a>         |   |        |         |
| 23       | Zekas, Michael        |  | 1st        | 12/31/2023      | 716-984-3606 | <a href="mailto:mjz9229@msn.com">mjz9229@msn.com</a>                         |   |        |         |
| 24       |                       |  |            |                 |              |  |   |        |         |
| 25       |                       |  |            |                 |              |  |   |        |         |
|          | Neaverth Jr., Dan     | Commissioner   |            |                 | 716-983-6080 | <a href="mailto:daniel.neaverth@erie.gov">daniel.neaverth@erie.gov</a>       |   |        |         |
|          | Couell, Chris         | Deputy Commissioner  |            |                 | 716-481-7970 | <a href="mailto:christopher.couell@erie.gov">christopher.couell@erie.gov</a> |   |        |         |
|          | Doll, Alexander       | Deputy Fire Coordinator  |            |                 | 716-228-2822 | <a href="mailto:alexander.doll@erie.gov">alexander.doll@erie.gov</a>         |   |        |         |
|          | Schlossin, Joleen     | Scribe   |            |                 | 716-681-7111 | <a href="mailto:joleen.schlossin@erie.gov">joleen.schlossin@erie.gov</a>     |   |        |         |