






# ERIE COUNTY FIRE ADVISORY BOARD – MEETING MINUTES

<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	January 25, 2024		
<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>	James Gajewski, Shad Garner, Paul Gorczyca, Kevin Herzog, Doug Lahnen, Scott Plecha, Don Roth, Eric Tuberdyke, Carraugh Nowak, Alex Doll, Joleen Schlossin	
	<b>ABSENT:</b>	Andrew Beehler, Roger Brennan, Jack Chiappone Jr., Michael Griffin, Kevin Jewett, Tom Partridge, William Renaldo, Garrett Wynn, Michael Zekas	
	<b>EXCUSED:</b>	Ron Endle, Jim Guy, Eric Karcher, Scott Kuhlmeier, Bob Rackl, Peter Spilsbury Jr., Bob Zacher	
<b>INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:</b>	Welcome to Carraugh Nowak, new special assistant for EC DHSES		
<b>APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING:</b>	<b>DATE OF LAST MEETING:</b>	12/07/23	
	<b>MOTION BY:</b>	Doug Lahnen	
	<b>SECOND BY:</b>	Scott Plecha	
	<b>APPROVED:</b>	Approved by all	
<b>REPORT OF OFFICERS:</b>			
<b>CHAIRMAN:</b>	No Report		
<b>CO-CHAIR:</b>	Kevin Herzog is the new co-chair for the board. Reminder to all about the dues due at each meeting.		
<b>SECRETARY:</b>	No Report		
<b>TREASURER:</b>	+\$28 from this meeting, \$177.05 total		
<b>REPORT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES:</b>			
<b>COMMISSIONER:</b>	No Report		
<b>DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:</b>	No Report		
<b>DEPUTY FIRE COORDINATOR:</b>	<p>-Working on getting all of the fire departments 2024 officer lists.</p> <p>-Email will be sent to all the fire departments regarding their NFRS reports. It is especially important now because any firefighter belonging to a department who is not current on these reports will not be eligible for the training class stipends.</p> <p>-A NYS Law – currently sitting in public comment for 90 days – will provide a stipend for students completing the following classes:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">BEFO - \$750</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">IFO - \$1250</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Fire Officer 1 - \$1000</p> <p>This is at the discretion of the fire chief, who must submit the proper paperwork. This can be used as a retention tool. Within this law, fire departments are also allowed to offer up to \$500 / class/ firefighter on other OFPC state training classes. This comes out of the fire departments budget. It will not affect LOSAP and as long as a firefighter stays under \$6000 in stipends/year, they will not have to worry about state/federal taxes. At the end of every year, the fire department will have to submit a form outlining which classes they were incentivizing and how many members were incentivized. Once the law is done sitting in public comment, more information will be provided and sent out to all the fire departments.</p> <p>-The other money that was set aside was a \$10 million grant program. This is not like a typical grant. Every department should be able to fill this out without a grant writer, just by reading and following the directions. The first part of the grant provides up to \$1 million for firehouse structural needs (i.e. gear washers/dryers, exhaust systems). The other part is up to \$500,000 for response capability projects (i.e. PPE, radios). When submitting for these grants, it needs to be very specific and the department must be 100% volunteer.</p> <p>-We posted 3 BEFO/IFO classes (Boston, ECTOC, Eggertsville) and all filled within a day or two of posting, with long waiting lists for all. Running these classes requires a lot of SFI's, which limits how many we can run. There has been increases of SFI's required to run almost all the classes, and even though we have the most instructors assigned to our county, we are seeing the effects.</p> <p>-Still trying to get our certificate of occupancy for the Drager building. The problem is not the snow load on the container that they're worried about, but the soil that its sitting on, as there was no soil sample prior to placing the containers. Still working on a solution to this.</p>		

	-Wed. FF series have been doing really well, really good attendance. The EC Fire Chiefs have been very helpful with registration, supplying water to attendees, 50/50 raffle. They've received a few applications, so it's been beneficial to them as well.
OTHER:	-
<b>REPORT OF COMMITTEES:</b>	
CANCER SCREENING:	Alex – Buffalo Fire had a trailer here this week for the Roswell Cancer Screening. Chris and Alex were able to participate. The screening takes about 5 minutes, goes through your insurance and the results get sent to your primary. More information can be found online.
DRILL TOWER:	Paul – working with Bob to update/refresh training ideas. If anyone has any input, reach out to Paul or Bob. Paul's lithium battery class is spreading across counties and agencies.
FIRE PREVENTION:	Scott – looking at changing things up for the EC Fair this year.
LINE OF DUTY DEATH:	Scott - Ron is still working on the Advanced Planning for Chiefs class.
BUDGET PLANNING & WALL OF HONOR:	Scott/Doug/Kevin – 8 applications sent to Jim, who needs to resend to the committee. Applications need to be fully filled out when submitted. Still working on getting more plaques, as there are only 2 left.
<b>REPORT OF BOARDS:</b>	
ERIE COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS MUTUAL AID ORG.:	Doug – looking for volunteers to assist with the registration for the FF seminar series. Next meeting is 3/18/24 at South Wales, 6:30pm dinner, 7pm meeting.
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:	Shad – still looking for a pumper
ERIE COUNTY HAZMAT:	Jim G. – working on recertifying members
<b>OLD BUSINESS:</b>	-
<b>NEW BUSINESS:</b>	Resignation letter received from Philip Wzientek.
<b>GOOD OF THE ORGANIZATION:</b>	-
<b>NEXT MEETING DATE:</b>	03/28/24
<b>NEXT WORKSHOP DATE:</b>	02/29/24
<b>ADJOURNMENT:</b>	20:00, Motion by James Gajewski, seconded by Shad Garner
<b>MINUTES RECORDED BY:</b>	J. Schlossin
<b>MINUTES SUBMITTED BY:</b>	J. Schlossin

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

MEETING:		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR <input type="checkbox"/> SPECIAL	DATE: 1/25/2024		LOCATION:		FTA	ABSENT	EXCUSED
	Name	Board Appointments	# of Terms	Expiration Date	Phone #	Email	Signature		
1	Beehler, Andrew		2nd	12/31/2025	716-954-9712	<a href="mailto:andrewbeehler@gmail.com">andrewbeehler@gmail.com</a>			
2	Brennan, Roger		1st	12/31/2024	716-525-6617	<a href="mailto:firesafetyguy72@gmail.com">firesafetyguy72@gmail.com</a>			
3	Chiappone Jr., Jack		1st	12/31/2024	716-628-5458	<a href="mailto:jchiappone813@gmail.com">jchiappone813@gmail.com</a>			
4	Endle, Ronald		2nd	12/31/2025	716-479-4186	<a href="mailto:ronfirellc@aol.com">ronfirellc@aol.com</a>			X
5	Gajewski, James		4th	12/31/2025	716-864-6748	<a href="mailto:commjim10@yahoo.com">commjim10@yahoo.com</a>			
6	Garner, Shad		1st	12/31/2024	716-984-6928	<a href="mailto:seabass126@yahoo.com">seabass126@yahoo.com</a>			
7	Gorczyca, Paul		3rd	12/31/2025	716-866-1634	<a href="mailto:gork315@gmail.com">gork315@gmail.com</a>			
8	Griffin, Michael		3rd	12/31/2024	716-714-9772	<a href="mailto:opie652@gmail.com">opie652@gmail.com</a>			
9	Guy, James		2nd	12/31/2025	716-544-0327	<a href="mailto:jhguy@verizon.net">jhguy@verizon.net</a>			X
10	Herzog, Kevin	Co-Chair	3rd	12/31/2024	716-725-2984	<a href="mailto:kevinherzog@roadrunner.com">kevinherzog@roadrunner.com</a>			
11	Jewett, Kevin		2nd	12/31/2025	716-512-9054	<a href="mailto:kevin.jewett@erie.gov">kevin.jewett@erie.gov</a>			
12	Karcher, Eric		3rd	12/31/2024	716-697-1395	<a href="mailto:ek7166971395@aol.com">ek7166971395@aol.com</a>			X
13	Kuhlmeier, Scott		4th	12/31/2025	716-392-7810	<a href="mailto:scott.kuhlmeier@erie.gov">scott.kuhlmeier@erie.gov</a>			X
14	Lahnen, Douglas		3rd	12/31/2024	716-864-2240	<a href="mailto:dlahnen1@roadrunner.com">dlahnen1@roadrunner.com</a>			
15	Partridge, Thomas		2nd	12/31/2025	716-480-9871	<a href="mailto:sfibirdie1501@verizon.net">sfibirdie1501@verizon.net</a>			
16	Plecha, Scott		3rd	12/31/2025	716-909-4206	<a href="mailto:s.plecha@yahoo.com">s.plecha@yahoo.com</a>			
17	Rackl, Robert	Chair	4th	12/31/2025	716-341-3716	<a href="mailto:rwrackl@gmail.com">rwrackl@gmail.com</a>			X
18	Renaldo, William		1st	12/31/2024	716-860-4093	<a href="mailto:wren713972@aol.com">wren713972@aol.com</a>			
19	Roth, Donald		1st	12/31/2024	716-523-2307	<a href="mailto:donroth9@gmail.com">donroth9@gmail.com</a>			
20	Spilsbury, Jr., Peter		4th	12/31/2025	716-583-0183	<a href="mailto:Peter.Spilsbury@erie.gov">Peter.Spilsbury@erie.gov</a>			X
21	Tuberdyke, Eric		1st	12/31/2024	716-430-6737	<a href="mailto:erictuberdyke@gmail.com">erictuberdyke@gmail.com</a>			
22	Wynn, Garrett		3rd	12/31/2025	716-570-2209	<a href="mailto:gwynn@ucrestfire.org">gwynn@ucrestfire.org</a>			
23	Zacher, Robert		2nd	12/31/2025	716-863-1388	<a href="mailto:rjzacher@roadrunner.com">rjzacher@roadrunner.com</a>			X
24	Zekas, Michael		2nd	12/31/2025	716-984-3606	<a href="mailto:miz9229@msn.com">miz9229@msn.com</a>			
25	Nonak, Carraugh				716-888-4945	<a href="mailto:carraugh.nonak@erie.gov">carraugh.nonak@erie.gov</a>			
	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>	