

MINUTES

Niagara County Fire Advisory Board

Date | time 2/16/2023 | 7:00pm Meeting called to order by Chairman Gurnett

Pledge to the Flag and Prayer

Arthur Kroening led the Pledge to the flag and Prayer.

Motion to suspend regular order of meeting for presentation.

Motion by Jeff Baes, seconded by Art Kroening – PASSED

Jonathan Schultz, Legislators Richard Abbott, Dave Godfrey and Shawn Foti called Pat Barney to the front. Pat was presented with a proclamation from the NC Legislators, and a plaque from Jonathan and Dan.

Motion to resume normal meeting.

Motion by Jeff Baes, seconded by Chad Shepherd - PASSED

Approval of Minutes

Previous Meeting Minutes 12/15/22 – Motion by Art Kroening, seconded by Jeff Baes to approve the minutes - PASSED.

Correspondence:

No Correspondence currently.

Fire Coordinator: Jonathan Schultz

- Jonathan was in Syracuse the first part of the week and informed us that NC is eligible for a grant again this year.
- Also informed us that right now in the proposed State Budget, there is \$9 Million dollars to help with training and stipends for Volunteer Firefighters. This is still all proposed, but we are hoping that it will get through.
- EMS Statewide update, looking to give the County's more insight.
- March 28-29 the County will be hosting NYS Cancer Awareness Training. Supplies will also be passed out to Companies at this training. Watch for updated information.
- A Disability Training class will be held at Wendelville.
- Since 2012 218 Ambulance Services have closed.
- Ed Zimmerman from Lewiston #2 will be named as Dept Fire Coordinator Area 1 once approved by the NC Legislators.
- Niagara County EMS, ambulances, will be there to supplement the volunteer agencies across the County, not put anyone out of business. We need everyone to cover what we have in our busy County. The goal is to help fill the gaps that happen daily all while helping keep all our volunteer ambulances in-service across the county for the long-term. The hopes are to help lessen the burden a bit and keep the volunteers responding and keep

them available for calls. The ambulances will respond anywhere needed in the County to include the cities if needed, it all falls under mutual aid so we will help anywhere needed with our countywide CON. It's all about working together to get the best response in EMS for our people regardless of where we go.

Training

No Report

Area 1:

No Report – Pat Barney past 32-1 was present and thanked everyone for their many years of support.

Area 2:

- Robert Walker – Dec 30th, 2022, Fire at Wheatfield Tower appt 210, 6949 Plaza Dr Town of Wheatfield.
 - Several Companies at the scene and on standby. Fire under investigation.
- Dec 17th, 2022, Attic fire in garage at 6697 Errick Rd Town of Wheatfield.
 - Fire is under investigation.
- Next Area 2 meeting will be Feb 28th, 2023, at Pekin Fire Co. @ 7:00pm.

Area 3:

- No Report

Area 4:

- Jeff Baes – Dec 18th, 2022, Basement fire at 4642 Beach Ridge Rd. Wendelville and Getzville Fast Team.
- February 3rd, 2023, fire at 577 Sweetwood Dr. Several Companies present, injury to occupant.
- February 11th, 2023, Apartment fire at 6931 S. Transit Rd. Several companies were present. Fire was in front wall.
- Next Area 4 Meeting will be February 21st, 2023 at Middelpport @ 7:00pm.

EMS Deputy:

- Chad Shepherd – No Calls to report. A lot of Ambulance's covering standbys since last meeting.
- Multiple changes to Protocols at the State Level.

Fire Investigations:

- No Report

Haz-Mat:

- No Report

TRT:

- Les Myers – Received a grant to update some equipment.

Fire Police:

- No Report

LEPC:

- No Report

Lockport City:

- Chief Quagliano was not able to attend the meeting but sent a letter to Chairman Gurnett. The letter was passed out and was also read during the meeting.

Niagara Falls City:

- Chief Pedulla – They have hired two more people and that brings them to the full staff. They will have two people retiring in 2023.
- Reported that 2022 they had just over 7900 calls, and they are already at 993 this year.
- They have also ordered five new trucks.

North Tonawanda City:

- Chief Sikora – Reported that 2022 was their 2nd busiest year ever.
- They have one new hire and that brings them to full staff.

Niagara Falls Air Base:

- No Report

Sheriff's Office:

- Mark Kasprzak - Reported that they had one new employee that was done with training and started on their own this past Tuesday. They also have another new employee starting their training.
- They also had their first retirement on Thursday.
- The tower project is still moving ahead and doing well. Wilson and Shawnee sites both have power ran to them. Barker site is a little behind schedule, due to the ground being so wet.

State Chiefs:

- No Report

Legislators:

- Legislator Dave Godfrey was in Washington earlier in the week. He had met with a few of our representatives trying to get Niagara County on the FEMA reimbursement list for the Blizzard.
- Legislator Richard Abbott told us that the County is looking at the tax credit the State passed.
- Legislator Shawn Foti told us they are still behind the Ambulance project and working to make sure there would be no hurdles in the future of it.

Tower Committee:

- Lockport Tower: Everything is good, and the tower is being used.
- Wheatfield Tower: Everything was good.

Critical Stress Debriefing:

- Jonathan reported they had their 2nd meeting. Looking at late summer to get Debriefing Training.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- None

Discussions:

- Talked more on the State Tax credit.

Good of the Organization:

- Bill Perry from the EMO office is doing a great job on the website.
- Next County Chiefs Meeting will be March 9th, 2023, at South Rapids.
- Next County Meeting is TBD
- Art Kroening let everyone know they are invited to stop down to Halligans after the meeting and celebrate Pat Barney's retirement.

Next Meeting

April 20th, 2023 / 7:00pm, PSTF

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:06pm by Jeff Baes and seconded by Robert Walker – Passed

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Kislack

Secretary