

MINUTES

Niagara County Fire Advisory Board

Date | time 4/20/2023 17:00pm 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 Jeff Dewart – PASSED

Emily James from Catholic Health gave an update on the new Lockport Hospital and the closing of the current hospital on June 17th, 2023. The new Hospital will not be ready to open until hopefully mid-September. The old Hospital is not under Catholic Health, so they had no control over the time frame of the closing.

Motion to resume normal meeting.

Motion by Mickey Sutor, seconded by Arthur Kroening - PASSED

Approval of Minutes

Previous Meeting Minutes 2/16/22 – Motion by Jeff Baes, seconded by Nick Baes to approve the minutes - PASSED.

Correspondence:

Paul Gurnett informed us that the County Manager has assured us the County is supporting the new Niagara County EMS with an anticipated start date of June 17th, 2023.

Fire Coordinator: Jonathan Schultz

- Looks like the VFBL will not be in the budget, but funding for basic training (BEFO, IFO and Fire Officer 1) but still unsure of amount.
- The new Niagara County EMS needs to be added to the Mutual Aid Plan.
- Catholic Health gave a great presentation last week on the facility and plans for urgent care.
- Mercy Flight will be doing ground crew training by area. The goal is to get everyone trained over a two-year period. They have had a few near misses and do not want any accidents.
- Will be starting an active shooter training for all Fire Departments and EMS; this training will be with the NC Sheriff's Office. Looking to do the training by area and will be part classroom and part hands on training.
- The Hazard mitigation plan has been completed and implemented for five years, will start the renewal process in three years.
- Planning for the upcoming Solar Eclipse on April 8th, 2024, has begun. Potential for several millions of people to come into our area to see the eclipse, as it will be coming straight over us.
- Teams are updating all plans and paperwork – LMS, Physicals, Training and Meetings.

- Once again, this year Bald for Bucks is coming and looking for any volunteers.

Training: Jonathan Schultz

- Cancer awareness training
- Lithium-Ion Battery Training

Area 1: Edward Zimmerman

- March 25, 2003, 764 Michelle Ct. Lewiston
Lewiston 1 Fire Company called out for a possible structure fire at 764 Michelle Ct. 7m7 on location calling flames out front window extending upward to second floor, fire burned extensive corner of the front of the home but contained for the most part to that location. Heavy first floor smoke and water damage, similar on the second floor. Crews on location included the following: Lewiston 1 Fire Company, Upper Mountain Fire Company, Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station Fire, Niagara County Car 32-A, Niagara County Car 32-1, Town of Lewiston Police, New York State Police, Niagara County fire investigation unit, National fuel, and National Grid. Fire still under investigation
- April 11, 2023, 3319 Hyde Park Blvd Niagara Falls
Niagara Active Fire Company called out at approximately 02:55 am for a working commercial garage fire at 3319 Hyde Park Blvd, 12m7 on location reporting fully involved garage, containing multiple vehicles, and exposures. Unoccupied building. The fire caused extensive damage to the main portion of the garage and vehicles inside, a quick knock down of the fire prevented the spread into another attached garage (separated by fire wall with closed doors). Crews on location included: Niagara Active Fire Company, Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station Fire, Niagara County car 32-A, Niagara County Car 32-1, Niagara County Fire Investigation Unit, Town of Niagara police and I believe. New York State police to assist with road closure.
- April 14, 2003, 6005 Packard Rd Niagara Falls
I was out of town for this fire and got the details as best I could. Car 32 or 32-A may be able to give further insight if needed. Niagara Active Fire Company was called out for a report of a Landfill fire at 6005 Packard Rd, unknown at the time if it was on the Town of Niagara side or the City of Niagara Falls Side. Niagara Active had water on the fire quickly and were able to contain it. Crews On location Included: Niagara Active Fire Company, Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station Fire, Sanborn Fire Company for their Tanker, Mercy EMS for Ambulance standby and the Notifications of Car 32 and 32A.

Area 2: Robert Walker

- February 11th, 2023, 2080 River Rd. Lot 213 House Fire.

At the Scene - Frontier, 2 Engines 1 Rescue, Bergholz, 2 Engines, Adams, 1 Engine, 1 Rescue with Fast Team, NC Sheriff, NC Cause & Origin, Tri-Community Ambulance, National Fuel, National Grid, Wheatfield Code Enforcement, Car 32-2

Standby – St. Johnsburg at Bergholz, Grand Island at Frontier.

Fire is under investigation.

- Next Area 2 meeting will be April 25th, 2023, at St. Johnsburg. @ 7:00pm.

Area 3: Jeff Dewart

- April 5th, 2023, Beebe Rd in Wilson House Fire.

2 Adults and 1 Child were in the house.

South Wilson, Wilson, Wrights Corners, NC Cause & Origin, American Red Cross, Car 32, 32a

- April 15th, 2023, Grass fire in the woods in Olcott
Barker, Wilson, Olcott, Miller Hose
- Next meeting will be in June.

Area 4: Jeff Baes

- April 16th, 2023, 6813 Amanda Lane House Fire. 14:56
Rapids, Clearance Center, Swormville, all on scene along with Car 32-6, NC Cause & Origin, NYSEG, Town of Lockport Code Enforcement.
Standby – Wendeville at Rapids, S. Lockport
The Red Cross called for 2 Adults and 1 Child. Heavy damage to 50% of the house.
- Next Area 4 Meeting will be June 20th, 2023, at Hartland @ 7:00pm.

EMS Deputy: Chad Shepherd

- One Call to report on March 30th, 2023, at Lockport High School. Called in as an active shooter.
- UB/MD Portal is up and running. May 1st through June 30th to complete Skills.
- Vital Signs will be in October 2023 in Syracuse, NY

NC EMS: Thomas Eggert

- Tom provided a walkthrough of all equipment and vehicles at 6:00pm April 20th, 2023.
- The goal is to start service on June 17th, 2023.
- A Medical Director should be named in May, The Electronic PCR will take about 60 days to build.
- Working on Labor Relations so we can start to hire, 2 Supervisors, 5 EMT's, 1 Medic, 1 Clerical.

Fire Investigations:

- No Report

Haz-Mat: Kevin Hodgson

- Chemical Fire is still under investigation currently.
- LEPC will have a new Commander in Buffalo in June.

TRT:

- No Report

Fire Police: Mark Walter

- 1 incident on March 14th, 2023, MVA on S. Transit Rd.
- Next meeting May 16th, 2023, at Youngstown

LEPC:

- No Report

Lockport City: Chief Luca Quagliano

- Chief Quagliano wanted to Thank everyone for the support for his wife and family.
- Also wanted to thank everyone for their support to get the Ambulance service back in Lockport Fire.
- A lawsuit has been filed to have the meeting that approved the Ambulance Service to be reversed, they are saying the meeting was not legal.
- They had a fire in the Middle School in one of the rooms.
- The HS call came across as 6-7 people shot. Started the implementation of the active shooter plan right away. One item is the communication between the Police and Fire needs to improve.

Niagara Falls City: Bernard Lucantonio

- No report after Lockport.

North Tonawanda City: Chief Joe Sikora

- They will be running a drill for the boat at night. They have been trained in day calls but need night training.
- The Canal Fest is back on for 8 days in July. There will be no adult rides and 13 and under rides will be in Tonawanda.

Niagara Falls Air Base:

- No Report

Sheriff's Office: Mark Kasprzak

- Reported that they have two new employees, both are in training and will be in place in July and August.
- The Tower and shelter were delivered to the Barker site.
- Shawnee and Wilson sites, all the Radio equipment is installed and waiting for the electrical to be finished.

State Chiefs:

- No Report

Legislators:

- Legislator Shawn Foti thanked Jonathan and all the Emergency Management Staff. They know we still have some hurdles in front of us for the Ambulance Service, but assured everyone we will make it happen.

Tower Committee:

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

Critical Stress Debriefing:

- No Report

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- A motion was made by Chad Shepherd and seconded by Nick Baes to have the NC EMS added to the County Mutual Aid Plan. Approved
- Paul Gurnett asked for the Radio Committee to become active once again.

Discussions:

- None

Good of the Organization:

- Paul Gurnett has brought up some of the County Organizations not being able to hold meetings and have appointments to the Fire Advisory Board.
- Next County Chiefs Meeting will be in May.
- Next County Meeting is TBD
- Art Kroening let everyone know they are invited to stop down to the Golf Course after the meeting.

Next Meeting

June 15th, 2023 / 7:00pm, PSTF

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:15pm by Art Kroening and seconded by Jeff Baes – Passed

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Kislack

Michael Kislack

Secretary

Niagara County Fire Advisory Board

Meeting Attendance Record

Date: 4/20/2023

NC Volunteer Firemen's Assoc. (5)

John Voutour
Peter Smith
Arthur Kroening- Vice Chairman
Greg Robertson
Michael Kislack - Secretary

Signature

John Voutour
Pete
Arthur Kroening
excused
Greg Robertson

Niagara County Chiefs Assoc. (5)

Lowell Dickinson
Jim Mihalko
Nicholas Baes
Paul Gurnett - Chairman
Mickey Suito

excused

Jim Mihalko
Nicholas Baes
Paul Gurnett
Mickey Suito

City of Lockport (2)

Luca Quagliano
Joseph Prica

excused

City of Niagara Falls (2)

Joseph Pedulla
Bernard Lucantonio

City of North Tonawanda (2)

Joe Sikora
Jim Diermyer Jr.

Joe Sikora
Jim Diermyer Jr.

Legislators (5)

Richard Abbott
Dave Godfrey
Christopher Robins
Shawn Foti
Irene Myers

excused

excused

excused

Shawn Foti

excused

Ex-Officio Members (14)

Jonathan Schultz
Dan Leven
Ed Zimmerman - Voting Member
Robert Walker - Voting Member
Jeff Dewart - Voting Member
Jeff Baes - Voting Member
Chad Shepherd
Dennis McAvoy
Mark Hain
Les Myers
Mark Walter
Marc Kasprzak
Richard "Red" Kennerson
Kevin Hodgson

excused

Ed Zimmerman
Robert Walker
Jeff Dewart
Jeff Baes

excused

Mark Walter

Richard "Red" Kennerson

Guests

Name	Signature
Emily James CHS	Emily James
Pete Smith	
Bernie Lucem name	Bernie