

MINUTES

Niagara County Fire Advisory Board

Date | time 6/15/2023 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 resume normal meeting.

Motion by Mickey Sutor, seconded by Arthur Kroening - PASSED

Approval of Minutes

Previous Meeting Minutes 4/20/23 – Motion by Robert Walker, seconded by Mickey Sutor to approve the minutes - PASSED.

Correspondence:

No Correspondence

Fire Coordinator: Jonathan Schultz

- Paging upgrades have been completed as of the morning of 6/15/23. We now have the most updated version.
- On Sunday 6/11/23, there was a private plane crash in Ransomville.
- On Monday 6/12/23, we had the capsized but in Lockport in the cave. There were 29 people on the boat, 11 people were transported to local hospitals, and one gentleman passed away. The water was 55 degrees, so people were coming out of the water very cold.
- Tuesday 6/13/23 crews went back and worked for several hours to get the boat turned upright and back out to the dock. It was very impressive of the work down by all people involved.
- On Wednesday 6/14/23, there was a Hazmat incident in Lockport. The owners of a house were cleaning it after people were evicted. As the cleaning was going on, the walls and other areas started to turn blue, and get blue all the people were cleaning. The lady and her children had a hard time breathing. Public Health, DEC were onsite and some of the product was sent out to a lab for testing. There could be criminal charges involved.
- It was announced this week that Mt. St. Mary's will be shutting down several services. Maternity, surgery, dialysis and GI services, these services will be moved to other Catholic Health Hospitals. Jonathan also stated that they hope to be having a meeting with Catholic Health this month to get more information.
- Tom Eggert has met with the Bureau of EMS Division regarding the County EMS Policy and Procedures that Tom wrote. They were so impressed with them; they took a copy with them to use in other Counties in New York. Great Job Tom.

Motion to suspend regular order of meeting for presentation.

Motion by Jeff Baes, seconded by Jeff Dewart – PASSED

County EMS Program Discussion:

- Mark Walter gave a speech regarding his disappointment with the County Legislators, County Attorney, and the County Manager. It has been a year and a half since this all this hard work by many to develop a County EMS program for Ambulance service started at this meeting, and the Legislators have passed two resolutions in 100% support and no opposition from anyone to put this program into place ASAP. Tom Eggert was hired and has written all the policies and procedures and any other items needed. New Ambulance contracts have been signed and have been ordered, 70% of equipment purchased, Vehicles purchased and lettered, and equipment installed. All of this is done to help the Niagara County residents in their time of need, and the Volunteer Firefighters especially in the daytime hours as their numbers are falling. A medical director has not been hired at this point, from what I understand UBMedical has a contract, but the actual Medical Director has not been given a contract and until that happens, the program can't move forward. Now we are finding out that the County wants an RFP at a cost of approx. \$100K, for the same process that has already been done by the EMO. As we all just found out the County has put the program on hold and has signed a contract with Mercy Ambulance to supply two ambulances for twelve hours per day for daytime hours, at a cost of \$2,775.00 per day. This will be approx. \$500K cost over the contract and the \$100K for the RFP, that is \$600K that could be going towards the County program. This is bringing back memories of years ago of our radio system. If we had done the project as it was drawn up to be we would have saved the County residents millions of dollars as we are now still fixing the issues by adding towers. What would you do if this was one of your loved ones needing service and it was taking 45 minutes if not more to get an ambulance? I will gladly give you one of my portable radios to monitor, how would you like to be a Dispatcher taking a call from a father asking where the ambulance is for a child needing help? Legislators who is running the County, you the elected people, the County Attorney and County Manager work for since the Legislature had already had the two resolutions passed? If they had an issue with any of this, why was it not brought forward prior to now? Things will only get worse as Lockport Hospital is closing, ambulance run times are going to get longer and it will take much longer to get their rings back in service. Legislators I hope you find it in your hearts to sign a contract with the medical director and get this program running.
- Rob Hoover, talking with other Chiefs in area 2, we were under the understanding that the new EMS program was going to be started back in March. We all run into issues of needing an ambulance and when Mercy is dispatched and we are not getting them for one reason or another, that is the people's lives we are dealing with. I have had residents ask what is happening, what if this was a real emergency, and I have explained we would do our best to keep you alive. I also told them to please call your legislator and voice your concerns. Why are you not listening to the EMO office, they are the ones doing all the work collecting data, talking with the boots on the ground. They are the ones dealing with this daily, and they have the information for you. If you don't do something to help the Volunteers, down the road I see we will need help for even getting people on fire trucks. The number of members is not what it used to be.
- Jim Mihalko, EMS is an essential service and now more then ever as we are losing resources with the closing of Lockport Hospital, and now Mt. St. Mary's closing some departments. Our numbers of members ae going down and the calls are going up, looking around the room, everyone is getting older. The County has an older population, as we are seeing more nursing homes and assisted living.

- Paul Gurnett, I have had one thing on my mind since I read in the news paper the contract has been signed with Mercy. We have signed this contract at \$2775 per day, what is in place to make sure these ambulances are not taking a Mercy call to transport or other calls on our taxpayer dollars? You did this on the radio project and here we are again doing it on this project. If you keep this up, you will be voted out of office.
- Richard Updegrave – County Manager, you are correct, we have entered a contract with Mercy to provide two ambulances' twelve hours per day, seven days per week through the end of October. Let me start with this is not a permit solution, just because when we look at cost, and the County EMS would cost more, but that does not mean we are not going to head in that direction. It is less expensive with Mercy, and we do have a contract, but contracts are what they are. They are adding these two paid units and keeping what they have in the County now. Specifically in the contract the two new paid units will be ALS service. I need help on this part as Johnathan tried to explain it to me, Mercy is under the understanding that NC Dispatch will determine how the call comes and the Volunteers want Mercy to be the second source of support, and that is the model with we will be working. To answer the taxpayer question, Mercy is going to provide all their billing services to us for free, so any monies they can collect from any work they do will go back to the County 100%. They will not keep any part of the money, so it appears the \$2550 per day could be cheaper than us to run the crew, the billing department and then the collection of billing and enforcement, which we will not have to provide until we have our own crew on. I want to be clear that we are not doing this because it is cheaper, we are doing it for a couple of reasons. I appreciate my brothers, not myself, I don't know how you find the time to do what you do, I have nothing but respect for everyone in this room.

We have had a couple issues that have come up and I can tell you what they are, and I will be as honest and transparent as I possibly can be. As it comes to the County Legislatures, County Attorney, County Manager, it is a legal issue that has come up. Johnathan you are aware of it, you were in the room, I can me candid it is an issue that I had not anticipated. It has to do with what work would be guaranteed to the County workforce. Several people have called me at my office and said that should not be an issue, several of these other private companies have a unionized workforce and is no different. I said it is different they are private companies; it is different it is not the same as a Governmental entity and that is where the County attorney comes in. I want to be clear as the County attorney raises this as an issue, and I understand what he is getting at. Without knowing what the work that is guaranteed to the County crew or crews, we must look at it as it makes sense. One of the comments I got was you hired a consultant for \$90K and we could have saved that money by asking us, and that is not why the consultant was hired. Every single Legislator in that chamber knows you need help, everyone knows you need help and the reason the Consultant is onboard, they need to answer a few questions. Again, this is not a reflection of our EMS people that we have hired and work for the County and we trust explicably. The consultant is really looking at two things, the first one is the labor issue we raised, someone has to tell us if we can do a hybrid model, I personally would feel more comfortable with a County crew or crews, but I also to be honest with you feel more comfortable with a County crew or a hybrid of County crew, private ambulance guaranteed ALS units, and volunteers. I personally think that would give us the most flexibility, why do I want that flexibility, I want that flexibility because we don't control the amount of work. I would be more comfortable with a county crew, but we don't know what work we guarantee for that County crew, including the work of the Volunteers. That is the issue that was raised, and it is a serious issue, and it has evolved and that is why we have retained a firm to get us case law and opinions about what the scope of that work is going to be. We also have CGR that has put together these crews for other municipalities and that is why we picked them, they are the one consultant that has done this and that is why we picked them. Not saying their experience is better than what we have right here, but they have a different experience set. The second reason we hired

CGR was, we were committed as we purchased four ambulances, that's not cheap, the Legislators said buy the ambulances, Johnathan said we need help, they said buy them. We could have done some other things, but we found out that Lockport Hospital was closing early, so I came to the Fire Chiefs meeting and indicated yes, we will do something, not sure what it is going to look like, but we will do whatever we can and have two ambulances in place by the time the hospital closes on June 15. Chairman Gurnett said correction Mr. Updegrave, at the chiefs meeting you sat right here and said we will be up and running as County EMS by June 10th, those were your exact words at our Chiefs only meeting. Mr. Updegrave went on to say that well in my mind I knew we would have two ambulances for County EMS, but not County employees. What we discovered very quickly was some of these issues and we were not going to make that deadline, and I apologize for that. That is why I go back to it is not the County Legislators fault, I take blame for that. We expect the CGR report, we are told the end of September the beginning of October. What was the other issue we needed to work through, well as we got more and more into it, we needed CGR to tell us our other options to have two crews seven days a week twelve hours a day. We know it would be a little more expensive than what Mercy is providing us, but we don't believe that much more to run our own crews except for liability coverage. But that is something we must deal with since the way that we are insured. If for some we must go beyond two crews twelve hours per day, we would have to look at expenses as our tax cap is set, you also know we got some bad news from the State budget as we had \$6 million dollars for EF swept from us by the State. That is about 8% of our property tax and our levy is 2%, and this will be phased in over the next couple of years. It is not a question of needing the service, but it must be affordable, not affordable it needs to be feasible and possible and maintain budget within the property tax levy. These are serious issues, but not more serious than putting crews on the road. That is why when Mercy told us they could have two dedicated ALS up and running this week, we felt that we should do this now as we continue to move forward with County EMS with County employees. I would consider Mercy being part of the County EMS even though they are a separate company. Gurnett said that we have no control over them as they are someone you hired, and we can't control what they do. Updegrave said I appreciate theta and I would feel more comfortable if we could have at least one County crew, as we can control that. Gurnett says the question to you Mr. Updegrave is thinking outside the box back in June, you told us June 10th, now you're not getting your report back until September, and you hired Mercy until the end of October, playing devil's advocate we will be lucky to be up and running by the first of the year. I sure hope it is not your family member sitting there waiting on an ambulance. Updegrave says I don't personally believe that what the consultant told us we are waiting on is the opinion of the other firm. Mercy said that they will be engaged with us through the process and there are people in this room that were part of the interview process and confirm what I'm saying is true, is I asked Mercy if they were willing to engage and give us guidance through our process. To be perfectly candid I want to avoid this, but we need to see what the options are. One of the Counties they work with they set up as a district, but we don't know what that looks like, Our Attorney does not know, and our EMS does not know. We may not even need that, but that is the most important part of the questions, we want them to give us the options. I will say what I said at the Fire Chief's meeting if the Volunteers maintain what we have now I don't think we have to set up a district. I think we can provide a service that keeps in line with our tax cap and not have to charge back to the municipalities, as that will not be good and I'm trying to avoid that at all costs. That will create a lot of hard feelings as you will have one area say they don't need us but the one next to them says they do need us; how would we charge back for that service then. Do we charge it back to the residents, do we charge it back to the town, I don't have the answers to those things and would rather not do that. We know the volunteers provide service and do not get any money back for it, and we want to continue looking like that, even though the County would be charging for the service. We would like the Volunteers to

provide what they are today, and we supply supplemental service and I personally want that to be with County employees. What I don't want, and I want it to be very clear is that we need to be assured of what we really need, how many crews do we need and how many employees, the second question is. Secretary Kislack said I have a question on that, I will pick any department so let's say highway, next year they are busier do you hire more people? Updegrave, says yes, Kislack says but you're not assured you're not guaranteed how busy they are going to be, but you hire them. Updegrave says I understand, Kislack says we are talking about lives, people's life, I truly believe the County Legislators, the County manager, you're never going to get it until we all stop showing up. I hope it is not your wife, your child laying there dying, I'm sorry we are talking about human life, this should be at the highest priority, not down here. People working for the county should be taking pay decreases to make sure we are saving people's lives. Go home tonight and lay in bed and think about the person you are next to dying because you had to wait for an ambulance to get to your house, I'm sorry but this is what we need to think about. These decisions are being made by people that do not perform these duties every day, we hire a group for \$90K, and we don't look at this group sitting here. There is more experience in this room right now than you would ever find at one of these consulting firms. These people do this day in and day out, they can give you the answers you need, but you need to ask. We are the taxpayers who are the ones paying the bill.

Mr. Updegrave goes on to say that they are paying for the consultant from the Rescue money, even though it still is taxpayers' money, Gurnett said that we passed this entire project with using the Casino money as the Rescue money could not be used, you guys are talking in circles.

Mark Walters says this went in front of the Legislatures fourteen months ago and was passed unanimously, where was the County Attorney then, on Vacation? Something is wrong here or the County did not do their due diligence on this to begin with and that makes me mad as a taxpayer. In the fall if everyone had competition, I would be out there drumming up support for the opposition, because you did not do your due diligence. This was voted on unanimously, shame on the County Attorney, shame on the County Manager. Now it comes up this many months later, and all this time the Volunteers have thought, WOW we got this going forward to really help people, and now suddenly it gets put aside. The people in this room and our staff of Emergency Management have put hundreds of hours of time into this and now you think you need another outside firm. Updegrave says I came here because I knew there were concerns about this, but I want to tell you we want to provide the support as we want to make sure to do it the right way. We do not have to wait for the final report, but we need to know what a district would look like and other items. Gurnett says to Mr Updegrave, you want to set this up and bill back Towns, you don't bill Towns for the Police or the DPW, no it is all covered under our county taxes. You want to bill people back for this service but none of the other ones, and Updegrave says no we don't want to do that. Gurnett asks then why you need a consultant; you're just going to keep wasting our taxpayer dollars.

Michael Kislack says to Mr. Updegrave, sir I have never met you before, you are the County Manager correct? I can tell you on December 20th, 2022, I had a conference call with two different lobbyists regarding the new ambulance service in Niagara County, and your name was brought up as you were trying to kill this project. Updegrave says that is not true, Kislack said that is what was told to me, I have never met you, but that is what I was told. I told them that we had been assured by the Legislatures that this was a 100% go. Updegrave said nobody is killing this and I can say someone at FASNY, Kislack stops him and said this was not FASNY, this was two different lobbyists in the State. Updegrave says I thank you for telling me that, but that is just a rumor and not the truth. This is why I wanted to come here tonight, I know you don't agree with it, but I wanted to tell you where my mind set is, and no matter what rumors you heard about me I have never said that, and nobody has ever heard me say that. I know this is not the best news, but rumors like that don't help things. Kislack says

to him, we don't even hear anything about these items until after you sign the contract with Mercy, we had no clue. Gurnett said to Mr. Updegrave, you are saying the consulting firm's report is coming back to you towards the end of September, and then you will have to look at it. If we are lucky, we will see this by the first of the year, correct me if I'm wrong but we have 60 days to give notice before we can be up and running. So, you get the report back and it gets passed at the October meeting, 60 days later we are at the end of December, now we must hire employees, correct? Rob Hoover asked about the meeting with the paid services, and Updegrave said the County attorney was involved also. I did not expect anyone to be able to provide us a stop gap service prior to Lockport closing, but Mercy said we can have two dedicated ALS ambulance up and running the following week of the meeting and would not change anything with the other units they already have in the County. I'm sorry I am not familiar with the difference between ALS and Paramedic services, but they promised ALS. The price he gave us was cheaper than what we could do it for, so it seemed like a good stop gap for us as we moved forward. I understand there is some frustration and I get that, I personally thought this was going to be good as they would be able to supply us with some type of relief. We had FEMA here and they gave us that relief so we thought this would be good also. The Legislators would not know this, I'm just telling you what was in my mind, and that was if the FEMA ambulances were good, then this should be a good thing to supply support. It was in best of intentions and I'm sorry it was not communicated properly. We were working in a short time frame with Lockport closing, so that is why we did this so fast. My intention is still to move forward with the County program, and we don't have to wait for the October meeting, we can call a meeting with two days' notice, and we can do it before the final report. I'm not saying that will or will not happen, but I'm just saying we can. I can't promise things I can't control. I'm telling you the Legislators are in support of the County program and providing our residents with life safety. Gurnett asked if there was an early out to the Mercy contract, and Updegrave said yes, they promised us flexibility. If we only need one ambulance, they will only charge half of the price. The director of communication explained how the dispatch and our volunteers operate today. Today was the first day, and Mercy wanted us to go to their dispatch and then they will dispatch the ambulances. That is something that we don't want to do, Updegrave said they will have a meeting with Mercy on Monday to cover things like this. I ask that the people in this room be as candid as possible but gage the performance of Mercy. Mercy is helping us over the next few months to fill the gap, and I won't know how it is going unless I hear it from the folks in the room. Gurnett asked if the tracking and paying for Mercy was just for the two additional ambulances or is it for anytime Mercy helps in the County? They said they two would be centered up, but that has not been happening today the first day. Updegrave, this is the feedback we need from you; you know where they need to be as you know where the calls are. Kislack said that these two ambulances should not be taking any calls other than ones coming from our dispatch center (911 calls). They should not be taking a call to transport someone as then they will bill that person and keep the money, and then we will also pay for that ambulance at the same time as we would not know any difference. Hoover stated what if the County is paying for these two, what about the other three they have in the County? Are we going to only have these two that we pay for and lose the other three that are not under a contract but are here today? Mr. Updegrave said I wanted to come and give you the information and I know some of the information is not what you wanted to hear, but I want you to understand I'm not trying to kill this program.

Legislator Godfrey said with this contract, he wants to make sure these two ambulances that we are paying for better not be off doing other business. Kislack explained that yesterday we have three Mercy ambulances in the County, now the County is paying for the dedicated two. But we can almost guarantee the three we had before won't be around for us to use. Updegrave said he will talk about that with Mercy and Johnathan will be part of that call also. Legislator Foti said in the contract it reads

these two ambulances are in addition to what they are providing today. Legislator Myers said we are paying for these two, if we tell them to park out in front of dispatch so we can watch them, that is what they should do as we are the ones paying for them. Updegrave went to say he has talked to several other Counties and there is not that many others that are doing County EMS, there is one other in Western NY and they have all kinds of problems and all I get from them is these are the pitfalls. We don't want to have issues, when we roll this out and if we do that is even going to look worse. I appreciate your feedback as it really helps. I do apologize for not letting you know before the contract was done, but it was all happening so fast. That is on me and not the legislators and I apologize for that. Kislack asked Mr. Updegrave to explain in a nutshell what the labor issue is that you keep referring to. Updegrave said it is what would be guaranteed work for our workforce. What we have been told is guaranteed work would be what the volunteers do. Hoover asked what other departments have this, they get paid for the eight hours for the day? Kislack said if we are paying the ambulance crew to be in the ambulance what would it matter if there are calls or not calls? Gurnett asked who this was coming from and Updegrave said he is hearing it from the Union. We do not control what union the employees choose to go with. Gurnett said then how are you hearing it from the union when we don't have employees at this time so that would not have chosen a union? Updegrave said that they have met with two unions that they would probably end up in. If that is the union the people petition to be in, then we already know the issue, and it would come up with just about any union. Johnathan, you were in the meeting, and you heard it with your own ears. I walked out of the meeting, and I was shocked, and never expected to hear anything like this. I didn't expect EMS to see that coming. I'm not an expert in labor law, but after hearing from both unions this is what I think may or may not be the issue. So, the issue is you have two crews working 7-7 and that is what it is going to be, then we decide there is more of a need for nighttime coverage, and we are going to contact Mercy for more help. We are told no you can't do that; you must give us overtime or hire another crew. Or what was specifically said, this is a quote, what the volunteers do could be considered guaranteed work. Why would we have the volunteers do work that we now have a unionized work force in the county to provide this service. Why are you letting Newfane provide this service when you can hire another crew or pay us overtime? That is the issue. I will end it with this because I'm 20 minutes late, we brought it up when we had the chiefs meeting was doing a hybrid program to start as it is the easiest way. We would have one county crew, and a contract with Mercy. We met with unions that were going to petition our employees and this was the issue they brought up. This is what made me think we need to go back and resolve this issue before we can move forward. I thought it was serious enough, I'm not suggesting we can't resolve this, I'm not suggesting they are even right.

I want you to understand that I want to make this work and I appreciate the feedback tonight and look forward to having better communication, I promise we will do a better job.

Training: Dan Leven

- o Lithium-Ion Battery Training class on June 20th, we will need 30 people for the class.
- o We also will be having a water flow class in July.

Area 1: Edward Zimmerman

- Lewiston 2 on May 19 had a mutual aid to Chew Rd in Sanborn for a junk yard fire. Also, on May 23rd they had an MVA with a tractor trailer rollover.
- Lewiston 1 on June 5th had a garbage truck fire. On June 6th had a Car vs. Motorcycle MVA.
- Next meeting will be August 10th at Upper Mountain at 7:00pm.

Area 2: Robert Walker

- May 19th Sanborn, and Pekin had responded to the junk yard fire on Chew Rd.
- Next Area 2 meeting will be June 27th, 2023, at Tri Community Ambulance. @ 7:00pm.

Area 3: Jeff Dewart

- Mercy Flight ground school for Area 3 will be at Cambria September 5th at 7:00pm
- We would like to see everyone in the County to have the same SOP for the Accountability Tag System (2 Colors).
- Wrights Corners is looking for help at the County Fair Aug 2nd – 6th. Please contact their 3rd Asst Chief.
- Olcott will have Fire Police on July 3rd at 7:30pm.
- Next meeting will be September 6th at Olcott at 7:00pm

Area 4: Jeff Baes

- June 2nd at 15:51, 38 Autumn Meadow Lane in Swormsville House Fire.

Rapids, South Lockport, Wendelville, Swormville, and five other Amherst Companies all on scene, Niagara County Companies rolled hose.

- June 3rd at 21:04, 18 Park Ave in Middleport House Fire

Middleport, Gasport, Medina, Hartland, Shelby, Mercy, Tri-Town, 32, 32A, O&C, National Grid, Middleport Code Enforcement all on scene. Terry's Corners standby for Gasport, Rideway standby for Hartland, Wolcottville on standby for Middleport.

- Next Area 4 Meeting will be June 20th, 2023, at Hartland @ 7:00pm.

EMS Deputy: Chad Shepherd

- One Call to report on June 13th in Lockport, the overturned boat in the Lockport Cave.

NC EMS: Thomas Eggert

- Tom is willing to help anyone with Policies and Procedures.

Fire Investigations:

- No Report

Haz-Mat: Kevin Hodgson

- No Report

TRT:

- No Report

Fire Police: Mark Walter

- 1 incident on June 11th, 2023, Small plane down.
- Next meeting June 20th, 2023, at Shawnee

LEPC:

- No Report

Lockport City: Chief Luca Quagliano

- Please see attached report.

Niagara Falls City: Bernard Lucantonio

- No report

North Tonawanda City: Jim Dierrmyer

- The Canal Fest will be July 16th – 23rd.
- No July 4th Fireworks in NT, they will be in Tonawanda this year.
- YTD 1,625 calls
- Ladder Truck is out of service.

Niagara Falls Air Base:

- No Report

Sheriff's Office: Mark Kasprzak

- Reported that the two new employees are in their final stretch.
- Good progress on the radio system.
- There is a possibility of a new radio system at the Power Authority.
- Have been tracking Primary Ambulance not available, and YTD the average is 7 times per day it is not available.

State Chiefs:

- No Report

Legislators:

- Legislator Myers said there are no butts, we are continuing and working on the County Ambulance service to have it up and running ASAP.
- Legislator Godfrey said he and the other Legislators will make sure the County Manager and Attorney make this happen, they will hold their feet to the fire.
- Legislator Abbott agreed with Godfrey.
- Legislator Foti said we have the two resolutions and the budget, and we thought things were good until this labor issue came up.

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:

- Mark Walter said how sad he is with the Legislators regarding the EMS service.
- Jim Mihalko said EMS is an essential service and needs to be treated as such.

New Business:

- No new business

Discussions:

- None

Good of the Organization:

- Next County Chiefs Meeting will be July 13th at Barker.
- Next County Meeting is June 25th at the Lockport Training Center
- Art Kroening let everyone know they are invited to stop down to the Golf Course after the meeting.

Next Meeting

August 17th, 2023 / 7:00pm, PSTF

Motion to adjourn was made at 9:21pm by Jeff Dewart and seconded by Art Kroening – Passed

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Kislack

Secretary

City of Lockport Department of Fire

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Luca C.P. Quagliano
Chief of Department

June 15, 2023

Dear FAB:

Please excuse my absence as there are two other meetings I needed to attend tonight. Hopefully Chief Sikora & Chief Pedulla are in attendance to take notes for me!

LFD Updates:

- 1.) Three new firefighters were voted on Tuesday night. They start July 17th.
- 2.) Four firefighters graduated from the Fire Academy two weeks ago and are now on the line.
- 3.) We have taken possession of and are finalizing the in-servicing of a LUCAS CPR device.
- 4.) Our 3rd ambulance will be fully equipped and put in-service on a more full time basis next week in conjunction with ENH closing. This rig will be staffed with back fill personnel when the first two ambulances are out of town on transports. We will still maintain ALS capabilities off of one engine as well. Giving us four total ALS units.

5.) On Monday June 12th we were dispatched to the Lockport Caves for a reported capsized boat with approximately 29 people in the water needing assistance. LFD deployed its inflatable rescue boat and sent 3 crew members down the 300' waterway where the capsized boat was found. Several people were in the water and several were huddled on top of the capsized boat. 3-4 people at a time were brought to safety until all parties were rescued. Unfortunately one passenger became trapped under the flipped vessel and succumbed to his injuries. The parties using the boat as a place of refuge did not realize someone was trapped underneath and the size and weight of the boat made extrication efforts extremely difficult. Multiple agencies (at least 10) throughout the County were called in to assist. 11 people in total were taken to area hospitals for minor injuries. Four rescue personnel suffered minor injuries, one required evaluation at the ER. The investigation into the incident is still on going with law enforcement. I would like to thank each and every agency and responder that assisted at this incident. It was truly nice to see the mutual aid process function as intended.

Thank you.

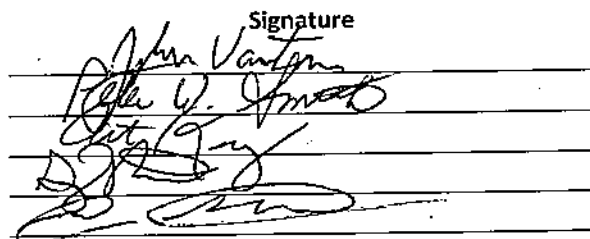

Luca Quagliano

Niagara County Fire Advisory Board
Meeting Attendance Record

Date: 6/15/2023

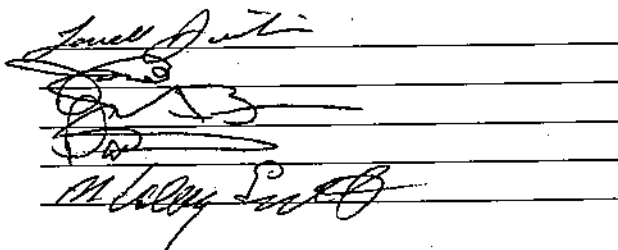
NC Volunteer Firemen's Assoc. (5)

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

Signature


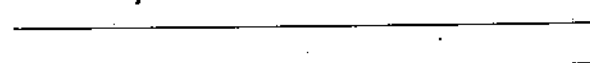
Niagara County Chiefs Assoc. (5)

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



City of Lockport (2)

Luca Quagliano
Joseph Prica



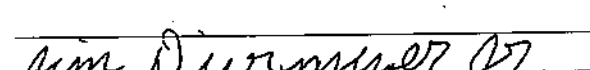
City of Niagara Falls (2)

Joseph Pedulla
Bernard Lucantonio

excused

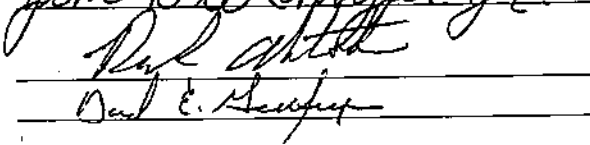

City of North Tonawanda (2)

Joe Sikora
Jim Diermyer Jr.



Legislators (5)

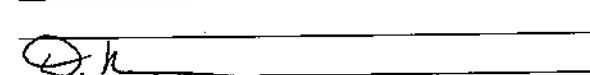
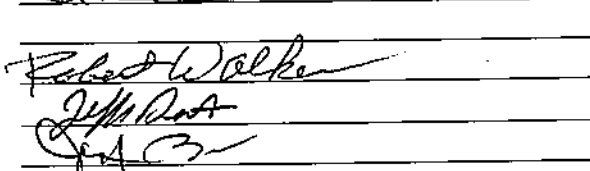

Richard Abbott
Dave Godfrey
Christopher Robins
Shawn Foti
Irene Myers



Shawn Foti
Irene Myers

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

Niagara County Fire Advisory Board
Meeting Attendance Record

Guests

Name

Signature

Miranda Hayes
Rick ABBOTT

Miranda Hayes
Rick Abbott

Rick Lipdegrove