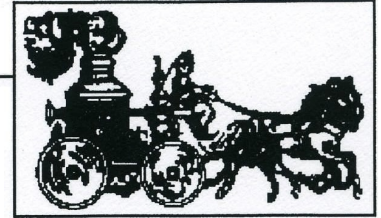


BROOME COUNTY FIRE ADVISORY BOARD

Public Safety Facility / 153 Lt. VanWinkle Drive / Binghamton, New York 13905-1559
Phone: (607) 778-2170 Fax: (607) 778-1204



MINUTES - FIRE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING - December 13, 2018

Call to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Tom Giblin.

Motion by Irv Soden, second by Gil Senger to accept the minutes of the minutes of the September 13, 2018, minutes. Carried.

EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT:

Fire Coordinator Jeff Buckler reported:

- Paging: All agencies are off low band. Vestal EMS and Johnson City Fire are the only agencies that are not yet on the new paging channel.
- The Mutual Aid plan has been revised and is being reviewed.
- Thursday, January 10, at the Aswad Facility there will be a meeting to go over the mutual aid plan page by page.
- FAST: If FAST team on your run card does not respond then the next closest FAST Team will be sent. FAST 25 will be sent to all alarms for commercial building fires or for those who don't specify a FAST team.
- Key personnel sheets- now have 100% of these submitted.
- UAV- We now have six pilots- 3 from Emergency Services and 3 from the Sheriff's Departments. We are working on getting funding.
- CFR at Airport: Their response plans have been updated. They will be training will companies who will be responding. Plans will be put in place in January.
- NBT Insurance had an information session on the new cancer coverage. Discussed a matrix for eligibility. The initial physical determines no finding of cancer but the law is vague. This will invite legal challenges and court cases which will create precedents and refine the legislation.
- The contact for firefighter physicals for the County is now Deputy Fire Coordinator Brian Curtis.
- Fire Officer 1 class will now be offered in five modules which are 9 - 15 hours each. They can be taken any time in a two-year period to get credit for the class. This is easier to schedule and easier to take. You must do one way or the other: the 63-hour class or the modules.
- There will be a lot of changes in 2019. State will be hiring skills instructors to assist SFI with classes where additional instructors are needed for skills. Currently trying to get SOGS for the Skill Instructors so these can be fast tracked by April 1. These skill instructors will require a lower level of training and can be used as an entry level position to become a State Fire Instructor.
- BEFO class being offered is already three-quarters full.
- All consumables have been moved from the depot to the Aswad Facility on Wayne Street.

BYLAWS: No report.

PREVENTION/EDUCATION: No report.

LEGISLATURE: Mike Ponticiello said this was a good year for Emergency Services- budget includes new positions in dispatch and an Emergency Management planner.

COMMUNICATIONS: Working on funding for radio project. Total cost is \$23 million. Will need 7-8 new towers and provide equipment to all agencies. County will bond for \$7.5 million and \$15.5 million will be paid for with a 911 surcharge on cell and landline phones over the next 10 years. Felt that the phone tax was the fairest as this will be paid by all residents and not just property owners. The surcharges will have to be approved by the county and then go to the state legislature for approval. Have to be sure State representatives are on board with

this.

HAZ MAT: No report.

LINK FIELD: No report.

CONSOLIDATED SERVICES: This year testing of pumps, ladders and hose were all under a county RFP to get a good price for all fire departments. Some fire departments took advantage. If you have other ideas for joint purchasing please let the Fire Coordinator know.

FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOC: Election of officers for 2019: All officers are the same except Irv Soden stepped down as director and Kyle Ferraro (Endwell) was voted as new director. They are selling Save Around books to members for \$20 as a fundraiser - see Rob Brady if interested. Next meeting is January 4 at West Corners.

BROOME COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOC: They have several new officers for 2019; Bill Gorman is now president of the Association. Next meeting is February 7, at Conklin.

NYS AFC: No report.

FIRE POLICE: Next meeting is January 10 at Vestal St #1.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Question about letter we discussed at last meeting regarding an incident in Conklin during flooding. Chairman Giblin felt this letter was not a good idea. Letter might create bad feelings with politicians. Concerns about this incident were passed along through back channels to some of those involved.
2. Discussion of problems with Fire Advisory Board not having a quorum for meetings. Current board is 21 members. Suggestions included reducing the number of members on the board, perhaps limit membership to 4 from each organization. This would require a change to the county charter. Suggestion was made to instead change the number of members needed for a quorum. Or perhaps disconnect the Board from the Chiefs and Firefighters organizations or have each organization appoint members to the board.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mutual aid plan: A pdf copy will be sent out to members to review. State requires that plan be updated every 5 years.

Some of the changes in the plan will include:

- Corrections of typos or grammatical errors.
- Fire Coordinator and Director of Emergency Services are now separate positions so this will be updated.
- Binghamton University Emergency Response Team is now part of the plan. They have Technical Rescue personnel and equipment which will be included in the plan.
- Include new position of Public Safety Systems Coordinator in the plan.
- If fire department does not submit their own response plans there will be default run cards to determine response for these departments.
- Include NYS OPFC "Best Practices" for training.
- Include accountability and credentialing.
- Require all fire departments to test and maintain equipment per NFPA
- All firefighters be required to have fit testing.
- Interlocal agreements required for any departments who do mutual aid with Pennsylvania.

Normally elections were held in December, but held over until March so that new members will be able to vote.

2019 meetings: March 14, May 9, September 12, December 12.

Motion by Rob Brady, second by Wayne Sherwood to adjourn at 8:12 pm. Carried.

Next meeting is March 14, 2019, 7 pm, second floor meeting room at the Public Safety Facility.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alice J. Fiacco

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Secretary