



**STEUBEN COUNTY OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

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**FIRE ADVISORY BOARD**

5/26/10

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

**COORDINATOR’S REPORT:**

Mike handed out the latest training schedule. They did get the Trench Rescue Awareness course, and the Structural Collapse Course scheduled. If anyone has an interest in this course, they really need to sign up for it, as it’s probably the only one this year in this area.

Mike talked about getting Fire Police scheduled for the Fall. There are 2 classes to be scheduled. Eric Dale has just completed the new certification, and now Marc Chapman is also certified.

There are now enough applicants that have applied for the Instructor position to move ahead with the assessment center; however, there is now a freeze on all State programs for new employees, training, etc. So, this has been put on hold for now. There will also be no instructor conference either. Mike says this is very frustrating, and hopefully they get it all straightened out, so there will be a Fall instructor conference. Otherwise, our instructors will not be certified in any new courses this year.

Mike also stated that the Firefighter I course that Josh was going to put together for Steuben and Allegany counties will not happen now, as Allegany would have gone over in their hours, and the State refused to let them go over. Josh suggested running the whole Firefighter I course in Bath, but there are a lot of personnel that are expecting it in the Hornell area. He can schedule it over there, but the skills classes need to be scheduled somewhere else. Josh will get back to Mike on how they will get this sorted out. Mike said he doesn’t even mind giving more than half the hours, just to get it scheduled. We can’t really fund the whole course, because then we wouldn’t have enough hours left for any other classes.

Mike handed out a couple of letters that came out for the Districts, but it applies to more than just the Districts, for the Length of Service awards, for anyone interested in it. The letter referring to the Districts budget is not a good situation. There was much discussion on how these Districts are working their budgets and how they come up with an actual budget, and who has control over making up the budgets.

Mike Wilson asked how many Fire Districts there are in the County, and Mike stated there are 17. Mike also stated that the way the laws are written now, the Fire Districts and the Fire Protection Districts have

to pretty much follow the same rules. He feels the Village owned departments are the least regulated because the Villages are looked at as having budgeting processes in place, so that's where the loopholes come in.

Mike reported that he talked to the grant administrator last week, and they are just finishing the details for the 2009 grant, and it now has to go up for contract development, so that will take another 6 weeks or so. That grant will cover the IAMRESPONDING, and the ID system. What Mike proposed to the County Chiefs last week is that at our next meeting in June, he would like to invite the people that want to be on the committee to develop the ID's to come to the Fire Advisory Board meeting, and have the vendor come back, and he has also asked a number of Counties to send him their ID formats, and the procedures. Mike asked if the Board was open to this for the June meeting. Mike feels the Fire Advisory Board should be well aware of what this program is all about.

### **911:**

Dave reported that they have a new class starting on June 1<sup>st</sup>, so there will be new voices on the radio.

Regarding the Verizon text messaging issue, Mike and Dave met with a Verizon representative last week and talked about the enterprise messaging. Dave feels they might be going back to NY Alert. He doesn't feel Verizon will be a viable solution to this issue. He will update when he knows something.

There has been a request from the Corning area Chiefs to review and change some of the protocols and procedures. Dave and Mike feel these issues need to come back to the County Chiefs and possibly the Fire Advisory Board. Mike also stated that it would help if they knew when the Corning Area Chiefs met, and were invited to attend. It was asked if Mike and Dave would let everyone know what they want changed. Dave stated that it is really a combination of things. Mike said that some of it has to do with announcements as far as how the calls are being put out, and delaying second tone outs, etc. Mike also stated that the best place to start with all of these questions/issues is the County Chiefs, and as far as he knows, no one has approached them yet. John Ford also replied that there is a procedure in place to bring your suggested changes to, and there is a procedure to work through to come to a resolution. Mike Wilson asked what the procedure was, and John said he thinks it goes through Fire Chiefs, to Area Chiefs, to Committee, and then to Resolution. He also said it is supposed to go through the 911 Director too, to see if that solution is even possible. Mike Wilson feels that it is an excellent time now to get a committee together to go over the procedures and protocols and see what changes/suggestions could be made. There is 5 years of data and experience with 911 up and running to go by.

Mike Wilson asked if we should put something out asking if there is anyone that would like to participate on a committee to do this. Dave stated that he has asked at all the Area meetings. Mike feels something should be sent out asking for interest, and the general thought was maybe this request should come from the Fire Advisory Board.

Dave reported that for the AFG grant, he would like to suggest every apparatus in the County have a netbook along with internet connection. If successful, each department would have to come up with the 20% of the cost for it. There are specials right now, but they are changing all the time. Right now the special is the netbook is \$29.95, and the first year service is \$39.99, and you get a new computer every year. They don't know what specials will be available by the time they get the grant.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Mike reported that they met with IT on our webpage, and he's working on getting a Chief's and Ambulance Captain's page in there. He's got a list of things he wants to put on the website, and is trying to make it so if a new Chief comes in, he can go to the webpage and see where to get forms, view plans,

etc. – basically a resource page. They are also trying to work on getting a calendar on there for announcements, etc., and a calendar from Occustar to find out where their physicals are being held.

Dave Hopkins stated July 1<sup>st</sup> will be the date they stop sending the fax reports out to the departments. If the agency wants the reports, 911 can send it out via email, as long as they have an email address available. John Ford asked if the Chiefs know this, and Dave said he has been announcing it at the Chiefs meetings for a while now.

Mike reported that the CD Training Center is being switched over to a swipe card system, and getting rid of the key system. The locks are on now, but they aren't programmed yet. Dave hopes everything will be up and running by next week. Now we will know who is in the Center at all times. This was funded through the Homeland Security Grant.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Mike was trying some new equipment out tonight. We are currently connected from this building via internet with the Woodhull fire station base station. They were sending test page tones from the console tonight. It worked very well for a test run. Brian asked if this would eventually do away with the microwave. Mike said its currently going to fill holes. At the very least, we could actually send page tones off their base station, then the tower to voice it out. We have connectivity to all the tower sites now, and Mike is looking into connecting via laptop/computer different tower resources together so they can "talk" to each other, without any wiring.

Dave reported that they have a project out there to run fiber optic throughout the County. Corning Inc donated a lot of fiber for the project, but they have been wait listed right now. When it goes through, Dave feels this will be a valuable vehicle to rely on as our own private network, along with all the other resources that we have in place and are currently working on.

Mike reported that the grant that came out of the Governor's Consolidation Program for the three Ambulance Corps – Wayland, Cohocton, Atlanta – the RFP has been awarded to ESCI out of North Carolina and Washington. The representative has contacted Mike, and they are getting contracts sorted out, and looking to get project meetings started, looking at the feasibility study for consolidation.

The next meeting will be held on **June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2010 at the Emergency Services office at 7 PM.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauri Robords