

Crawford County



**County Commissioners**  
**Chairman**  
Eric Henry  
**Vice-Chairman**  
Francis F. Weiderspahn, Jr  
**Secretary/Treasurer**  
John Christopher Soff

**Fire Commission Members**  
Allen Clark, Conneautville  
Eric Coston, East Mead  
John Fuller, Vernon Central  
Robert Horvat, Vernon Township

**Fire Commission**

c/o Crawford County DPS  
632 Pine Street  
Meadville, Pennsylvania 16335

**Fire Commission Members**  
Phil Koon, Saegertown  
Joe Lamey, Titusville  
Bob McCartney, Fallowfield  
Maryann Menanno, Meadville  
Jim Pratt, West Mead #2  
Ryan Sekerski, Cochranton  
Kris Simmons, Crawford DPS/911  
Joe Smock, Meadville  
Justin Sullivan, Townville  
John Treacy, Conneaut Lake  
Bob Wimer, Greenwood

**Crawford County Fire Commission**

**Minutes**

November 16, 2022, 7:00pm

- I. Commissioner’s Welcome – Crawford County Commissioner Eric Henry welcomed those attending to the meeting.
- II. Roll Call of Commission Members – Attending was; Clark, Coston, Horvat, Koon, McCartney, Pratt, Sekerski, Smock, Treacy, along with Chief Pat Wiley and Union President Evan Kardosh from Meadville Fire Dept., and Greg Beveridge and Don Bovard from DPS.
- III. Guests – John Durlan, 9-1-1 Coordinator from Erie County was in attendance to explain how I am Responding works in Erie County and the policies they have adopted. He answered questions from the Fire Commission Members.
- IV. Subcommittee Reports
  - a. Communications: Joe Smock, Joe Lamey, and John Treacy met with Erie County 911 Coordinator and talked with their dispatchers on how I Am Responding works for them. The Fire Commission is tasked to define the levels of responders to be included in I Am Responding. The Crawford County 911 Shift Leaders will meet to review the 911 policies for I Am Responding and implement the system on January 1, 2023. One such policy would be to dispatch mutual aid after three minutes of no-one responding to their station. I Am Responding can also send messages to members in one department or all departments.
 

Motion by John Treacy and second by Joe Smock, that the Fire Commission support using I Am Responding beginning January 1, 2023 for five years. Motion passed.

Questions for I Am Responding; Can departments see their mutual aid department responders responding?
  - b. Government: Robert Horvat discussed how difficult it is for municipal taxes to fund paid public safety completely. Commissioner Henry reported he has been meeting

with the municipalities his ambulance services provide EMS with to help educate them on the EMS funding system. Funding alternatives could be; county taxes, cell phone fees, or others. Allegheny County has a \$0.25 tax on hard liquor for public safety. The Government Subcommittee is encouraged to meet with state legislatures for funding solutions state-wide. A draft letter will be sent to fire and EMS departments encouraging them to send the letter to their elected officials.

- c. Operations: The Subcommittee has looked at SOG's from various departments to tailor for Crawford County. They are also looking into definition of a rescue. Eric Coston mentioned we need the fire department's buy in and a fire authority that can plan, funding, and have some authority.

Training standards need to be developed in the county. Initially to start, three stations in they county should be staffed by two firefighter/EMT's to include Titusville, Meadville, and one in the West weekdays 6:00am to 6:00pm.

- V. Action Items for Next Meeting – Allen to draft a sample letter to state legislatures, 911 to develop I Am Responding Policies, and determine what the staffing would cost.
- VI. Next Meeting, January 18, 7:00pm at Crawford County DPS
- VII. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned 9:02pm.