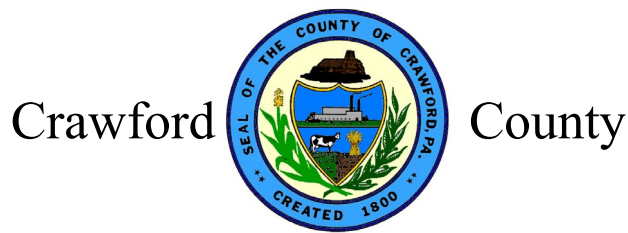


County Commissioners
Chairman
Eric S. Henry
Vice-Chairman
Scott T. Schell
Secretary/Treasurer
Christopher R. Seeley

Fire Commission Members
Eric Coston, East Mead
John Fuller, Vernon Central
Robert Horvat, Vernon Township
Chuck Lawrence, Saegertown Borough



Fire Commission

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

Fire Commission Members
Phil Koon, Saegertown
Bob McCartney, Fallowfield
Jim Pratt, West Mead #2
Ryan Sekerski, Cochranon
Joe Smock, Meadville
John Treacy, Conneaut Lake
Bob Wimer, Greenwood
Jim Brown, Titusville
Josh Manuel, Townville
Brad Johnston, West Mead #1
Peter Albaugh, Summit Twp

Crawford County Fire Commission MINUTES

August 28th, 2024, 7 p.m.

- I. Welcome and Attendance: Crawford County Commissioner Eric Henry welcomed everyone to the August 2024 Fire Commission Meeting. The members and guests in attendance were Jim Brown, Eric Coston, Rob Horvat, Brad Johnston, Phil Koon, Chuck Lawrence, Josh Manuel, Jim Pratt, Ryan Sekerski, John Treacy, Commissioner Eric Henry, Active Aging, Inc. Executive Director Krista Geer, DPS Director Greg Beveridge, and DPS Operations and Training Officer Don Bovard.
- II. Committees
 - a. Communications:
 - i. P25 Digital Radio:
 1. DPS Director Greg Beveridge stated a contract with MCM Consulting Group to develop and manage a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the P25 radio project was signed.
 2. Director Beveridge said Mobilcom had been contacting county fire departments in regards to selling them P25 radios, but that action was not endorsed by DPS.
 3. Director Beveridge stated some recent radio problems were due to a contractor for Verizon mistakenly removing a DPS antenna from the Crown Castle USA tower on Radio Tower Hill. Today there was a problem with Fire Central and Med 9, which was the result of an internet connectivity issue.
 4. Director Beveridge said the 9-1-1 Center will be slowly introducing some more functionality into the CAD system. Pre-plans will be loaded into the CAD. It will take some time to load the grids into the CAD. The project will probably start with Greenwood since Chief 40 made some specific requests.
 5. A digital guest registry is now in the DPS lobby. Director Beveridge stated guests need to register due to state and federal regulations.

6. John Treacy requested an update regarding the Greiser Road tower project. Director Beveridge said no bids were received, so Mobilcom is going to be the general contractor. They will find sub-contractors to perform the construction. Police West and Government West will be on that tower. The Sugar Lake tower project is idle until the Greiser Road tower is under construction.
7. Phil Koon asked whether or not the CAD system and/or I Am Responding can be further utilized to provide additional information for incidents such as tornado warnings. As an example, he stated tornado warnings are issued for the entire county rather than specific geographic areas of the county. He wondered if additional location information could be disseminated via the CAD system and/or I Am Responding. Director Beveridge said such information could be sent by the 9-1-1 Center via Regional Notices or by the departments themselves via Messages.

b. Government:

i. Municipal tax forgiveness program developed:

1. Commissioner Eric Henry stated the Commissioners developed a draft resolution for a tax credit up to \$500. Eligible responders will have to be from municipalities which also have tax forgiveness programs.
2. Rob Horvat stated municipalities are waiting for the county to finalize its program. He added that approximately ten members of Vernon Central Hose Company would qualify for the tax credit. Chuck Lawrence stated Saegertown Borough is considering a tax credit. Josh Manuel said Townville Borough is also considering a tax credit. Don Bovard indicated West Mead Township is in favor of a tax credit. Ryan Sekerski said Cochranon Borough is also in favor of a tax credit.

ii. Commission Members attending French Creek COG Meetings – October 17th 11:30 a.m.:

1. Eric Coston stated there was a meeting in July. Brad Johnston conducted a presentation for the COG.
2. Eric Coston said he plans to attend the COG meeting in October.

c. Operations:

i. Commission to have a Facebook Page and email addresses:

1. Eric Coston stated no progress has been made on creating a Facebook page.
2. Eric Coston asked “Do we know why some departments are not using I Am Responding?” The general consensus was “No.” He stated we need to reach out to those departments and find out why they’re not using it.

3. Eric Coston asked if an administrative toggle for In Service/Out of Service can be added to I Am Responding so calls to the 9-1-1 Center are no longer necessary. Director Beveridge said he will ask I Am Responding personnel about the added functionality, but they are currently very busy with a merger.

d. Stakeholders:

i. Allegheny College conducting a study with Active Aging on Lift Assists:

1. Krista Geer stated they are focusing on fall victims with multiple lift assists. She passed out cards with phone numbers for Active Aging (60+) and Crawford County Human Services (under 60). Krista said Active Aging cannot mandate anyone to use their services.
2. Commissioner Eric Henry said EMS agencies are more aggressive in encouraging fall victims to be transported to the hospital for evaluation. He said progress is being made, but it's slow. Eric stated Krista Geer and he are going to speak to the District Attorney regarding the person in Vernon Township who is really abusing the system.

Commissioner Eric Henry said the Commissioners want to create a fire and EMS memorial at the Courthouse. He wants the Fire and EMS Commissions to develop guidelines for inclusion on the memorial. Potential donors have been identified, so no taxpayer dollars will be spent on the project. Eric asked Chuck Lawrence, John Treacy, and Jim Pratt to work on the guidelines.

Commissioner Eric Henry stated the county is going to apply for a Transit grant, which should be easy to obtain. The grant will fund body cameras, traffic control signs, traffic cones, etc. He said four (4) body cameras per department would be issued. Eric asked the Operations committee to develop a list of equipment for the grant application.

Commissioner Eric Henry said a rural mini grant program for up to \$15,000 will be available in October. He stated fire departments are welcome to apply. The purpose of the grant program is to help promote the county's Comprehensive Plan. Public Safety is one of the priorities included in the plan.

Commissioner Eric Henry mentioned that Jason Ruggiero, owner of Spark Community Capital, is a grant writer. He was the Venango County planning director. The Commissioners will fund fire departments' first four (4) hours of consulting services with Jason for assistance with grants. Any time over four (4) hours will be the departments' responsibility.

III. County Organization Updates:

- a. Crawford and Venango Counties Fire School Committee: Jim Pratt stated the committee was meeting tonight. He heard there were approximately 130 students registered to attend and five (5) classes were cancelled.
- b. Crawford County Firemen's Association: Phil Koon said the next meeting is at Springboro VFD on September 16th. He stated the scholarship was awarded to Karlie Dennis, whose father, Kurt Dennis, is a member of Greenwood. He was disappointed in the lack of applications for the scholarship.

Commissioner Eric Henry stated Active Aging is going to own the old nursing home in Cambridge Springs very soon. It can be used for fire department drills prior to demolition.

- IV. Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 16th, 2024 at 7 p.m. at Crawford County DPS.
- V. Adjournment: With no further business, the Fire Commission Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.