

**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

Crawford  County

**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**

October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 7 p.m.

- I. Welcome and Attendance: Crawford County Commissioner Scott Schell welcomed everyone to the October 2024 Fire Commission Meeting. The members and guests in attendance were Rob Horvat, Brad Johnston, Phil Koon, Chuck Lawrence, Josh Manuel, Peter Albaugh, Bob Wimer, John Fuller, Ryan Sekerski, Guest Dan Bresee, DPS Director Greg Beveridge, and DPS EMA Coordinator Allen Clark.
- II. Committees
  - a. Communications:
    - i. P25 Digital Radio:
      1. DPS Director Greg Beveridge stated that on October 3 and 4 vendors conducted site visits to critical buildings in the county for them to gather information to submit bids. Motorola and EF Johnston were the two major vendors attending. Bids are to be submitted by November 13 with MCM Consulting reviewing them and then it will be up to the Commissioners to determine the next step.
      2. Greiser Road Tower project is progressing again. There were three proposals approved last week by the Commissioners for land development, tower shelter, and generator pad. It is anticipated the tower could be operational by late spring of 2025.
      3. Northwestern REC has agreed to provide the 911 Center their GIS electric line GIS information which will help identifying whose wires are affected by weather or emergencies.
      4. The Special Needs Registry will be going live shortly. An online form can be filled by residents with information about family members that have special needs that public safety agencies should be aware of. This information will appear on the MDTs. There is an expiration of the information after three years.

5. Last week Fire Central, Police Central and Med 9 frequencies were reported to be scratchy. After trouble shooting was done by Mobilcom, it was determined that an antenna was damaged in the wind storm on the 450' tower. The receive and transmit frequencies were reversed to provide better transmitting from the 911 Center until the antenna could be repaired.
- b. Government:
- i. Municipal tax forgiveness program developed:
    1. Commissioner Scott Schell said that Kurt Dennis from the EMS Commission is working on requirements. Brad Johnston and Robie Horvat will reach out and meet with their committee to discuss.
  - ii. Commission Members attending French Creek COG Meetings – October 17<sup>th</sup> 11:30 a.m.:
    1. Robie will be talking to them about the local government tax rebate program and what the County Commissioners are planning to do.
- c. Operations:
- i. Commission to have a Facebook Page and email addresses:
    1. It was decided not to have a Facebook page or separate e-mail address.
- d. Stakeholders:
- i. SAFER Grant Update
    1. Allen Clark reported the County's grant was not funded this year for recruitment and retention but the Firefighter's Association of Pennsylvania did receive a grant and are offering mini-grants to fire departments. <https://www.pafirefighters.org/>
  - ii. Equipment Donations
    1. Donations of used fire equipment are still be accepted by calling or text Ed Saliba 724-664-1144, 10am to 6pm, Wednesday to Saturday, 795 Industrial Park, New Kensington, PA. Please bring a list of the equipment donated.
  - iii. Chuck Lawrence met with John Treacy and Jim Pratt and worked on guidelines to the Crawford County Firefighters Memorial which was passed around. Any suggestions please forward them to Allen and he will let the committee know.

### III. County Organization Updates:

- a. Crawford and Venango Counties Fire School Committee: Bob Wimer reported there was 120 students attending this year which is the only fire school to see an increase in attendance. Many county fire schools canceled their fire school completely. They did receive a \$60,000 grant from State Senator Michelle Brooks to make repairs on the burn building. Next Wednesday is the next fire school meeting at Cooperstown Fire Dept. the fire school committee needs younger members from both counties. There are only a few Fire School Committee members and they are getting up in age. Allen will e-mail the fire chiefs of fire school's needs. Using the Crawford County Fairgrounds has worked out well.
- b. Crawford County Firemen's Association: Phil Koon said the last meeting was at Springboro VFD on September 16<sup>th</sup> and the next meeting is on November 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm with a location yet to be confirmed. He reported the Association has quit paying insurance on the fire safety trailer because it has only been used a couple times this year. Allen Clark mentioned an inflatable safety house may be alternative solution. One vendor suggestion is <https://www.inflatablefireeducationhouse.com/>

### IV. Other Information

- a. Commissioner Scott Schell mentioned the mini grants of up to \$15,000 that departments can apply for. Go to [www.crawfordcountypa.net](http://www.crawfordcountypa.net) for more information.
- b. Commissioner Schell reported the Commissioners are funding drug disposal kits to be given to public safety agencies to assist residents in discarding unwanted medications. Libraries in the county will also have these kits along with distributing Narcan.
- c. Brad Johnston reported the AFG radio grant for central fire departments was not funded this year. He will decrease the number of radios and submit again. Allen offered to work with him to submit one for the western departments.
- d. Allen Clark mentioned there are other grants that can be applied for which included:  
<https://www.t-mobile.com/brand/hometown-grants>  
<https://www.phfa.org/mhp/developers/loans.aspx>  
<https://dced.pa.gov/programs/local-share-account-lsa-statewide/>  
[https://lffgrants.smapply.io/prog/leary\\_firefighters\\_foundation/](https://lffgrants.smapply.io/prog/leary_firefighters_foundation/)
- e. Brad Johnston mentioned West Mead #1 will host the course Got Big Water which a couple of their members attended and felt it was a great class on rural water movement.

V. Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> 2024 at 7 p.m. at Crawford County DPS.

VI. Adjournment: With no further business, the Fire Commission Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.