

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**  
Joe Lamey, Titusville  
Phil Koon, Saegertown  
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**

January 18, 2023, 7:00pm

- I. Commissioner’s Welcome: Commissioner Eric Henry welcomed the Fire Commission Members to the meeting and said that there a several bills being introduced in the state legislature from our own senator and representatives and others. We should thank them and continue to support them as they work on getting these bills passed.
- II. Roll Call of Commission Members: Members attending were; Smock, Wimer, Sullivan, McCartney, Sekerski, Pratt, Kardosh for Menanno, Horvat, Fuller, Treacy, Clark, Simmons (virtually), with Commissioner Henry, Director Beveridge, and Ops/Training Officer Bovard.
- III. Subcommittee Reports
  - a. Communications: Chair John Treacy, Jim Pratt, Joe Smock, Kris Simmons, and Greg Beveridge
    - i. I am Responding Software: John Treacy brought up some comments from the Western Region Chief’s Meeting that was held on February 16<sup>th</sup> to include still a lot of dead areas due to cellular service, why Jamestown Fire Dept. was not included, clarification on how to get out of Limited Status, can departments obtain each other’s IAR ID’s, and can departments pick which days and level of call that they can respond to, preplanning who is to cover a department when they are on Limited Status.
    - ii. Director Beveridge responded that cellular service is out of the county’s hands but new towers are being built along with two communication towers on Greiser Road and Dupont Road. He will share the department IDs with all the chiefs. If a department does not respond to a call or they call the 911 Center and put them on Limited Status they will still be dispatched as normally but the next nearest department will also be dispatched excluding QRS calls. At this time there is not deviation in levels of calls that a department is able to handle or not handle. They are either available or on Limited Status. Crawford

County used Federal ARPA funds for both the MDT and IAR programs and those funds had to stay within agencies with stations within Crawford County. The 911 Center can see neighboring fire departments on their IAR display screens. There will be training for fire departments in using IAR on February 2 6:00pm to 8:00pm and February 3 10:00am to Noon at DPS. There is also virtual help through IAR as well.

- b. Government: Chair Maryann Menanno, Rob Horvat, Eric Coston, Don Bovard, and Justin Sullivan. There was no report from this Subcommittee.
- c. Operations: Chair Ryan Sekerski, Bob McCartney, Eric Coston, and Phil Koon. Eric Coston went over a Power Point Presentation regarding the costs to staff 4 stations within the county with two paid personnel during the work day. Power Point is attached to these minutes.

Commissioner Henry said that no matter where the paid personnel are stationed, full coverage of the county is needed. The number one goal is to get help to our residents as soon as possible which the greatest need for personnel is during the workday. We need to keep all the current fire departments active and support them anyway possible. He said that 1 mil of county taxes equals 1.28 million dollars. We all need municipal elected officials buy in on this topic not just for funding but their support and engagement since borough and township code mandate they are responsible for those services. The Erie County model of each fire department having paid staff and not part of a regional or county-wide solution is not sustainable in funding and personnel.

It was suggested to see what current fire departments would be supportive and allow two paid personnel to operate their vehicles and utilize their station within the county.

- d. Stakeholders: Chair Allen Clark, Eric Henry, John Treacy, and Phil Koon. Allen Clark reported that the four School District Superintendents will be meeting to discuss how we can recruit teenagers in the middle schools in the county. A day in May 2024 there will be a Safety Day at the Crawford County Fairgrounds for all 6<sup>th</sup> graders in Crawford County so this would be a good time to sow the seen with them and get them interested in public safety. Tom Cook is the new Fire Commissioner and David Smythe the State Fire Academy Administrator. North Hills School District is partnering with the Allegheny County Fire Academy to hold training once or twice a month for students in 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades in CPR, first aid, and entry level firefighting. Dauphin County Commissioner are passing and ordinance to give all volunteer emergency responder \$250 off their county real estate taxes. There is a Junior Fire Academy in Franklin County July 16 to 22.

It was suggested to see if the school districts would give public safety personnel tax breaks on school taxes and send the power point to the Career Center to show job opportunities.

Commissioner Henry reported on the progress of the EMS Commission on lift assist calls. The Stakeholder Subcommittee is setting up a grid system with trained home healthcare and social workers to be able to respond to lift assist calls instead of sending the ambulance or fire department. They would also identify the root cause of their fall to try to find mitigation measures to prevent them from falling again. There

would also be a medical evaluation to see if medication or other health issued contributed to the fall by a doctor.

- IV. Proposed Legislation Updates: Workman's Comp for First Responders with PTSD, Allowing Fire Dept. Reimbursements, Easing the Solicitation of Funds for Vol. Fire Companies,
- V. Action Items for Next Meeting: All Subcommittees should meet before the next meeting in March. Commissioner Henry will talk with Joe Lamey to see if he wants to stay on or is there someone else from the eastern part of the county that could fill his seat.
- VI. Next Meeting, March 15, 2023, 7:00pm at Crawford County DPS
- VII. Adjournment: Motion by Jim Pratt and second by John Treacy to adjourn the meeting at 8:51pm.

**GoTo Meeting Webinar Log In Information:**

**Computer, IPAD, or Smart Phone:** <https://meet.goto.com/963230741>

**Phone Only:** 571-317-3122 **Access Code:** 963-230-741

## **Crawford County Fire Commission Members**

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