

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, At Large Member
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
Jim Brown, Titusville

**Crawford County Fire Commission
MINUTES**

May 17, 2023, 7:00pm

- I. Commissioner’s Welcome: Crawford County Commissioner Eric welcomed the Fire Commission Members to the May meeting.
- II. Roll Call of Commission Members: Fire Commission Members in attendance were; Clark, Coston, Horvat, Koon, McCartney, Smock, Treacy, and Wimer with Crawford County DPS Operations and Training Officer Don Bovard and visitor Ryan Zook, Assistant Fire Chief from West Mead #1 Fire Department.
- III. Subcommittee Reports
 - a. Communications: Chair John Treacy, Jim Pratt, Joe Smock, Kris Simmons, and Greg Beveridge

Public Safety Director Greg Beveridge provided this written update:

I Am Responding – The IAR system is in the midst of two updates. The first is the “Two Tone Detect” system. This enhancement will capture the audio of a dispatch for playback through the app. This enhancement is in the final stages of installation and testing will begin on Thursday or Friday of this week. It is a controllable option by each subscriber through his/her app.

The second is the integration of enhanced data from the RAPID-SOS platform which will provide real-time location information for wireless callers on the display map. May be useful for responding to areas where the exact location of the caller is not easily determined (sports complex, fairgrounds, industrial complex etc.)

Tower Construction – Greiser Rd Tower road is complete. Core boring and sample analysis will be conducted soon to determine the type of foundation required.

Sugar Lake Tower – land development plan has been developed and stormwater infiltration tests took place on May 08th. Once plans are approved, the driveway can be constructed.

Notifications – Limited/Available. Notices are pushed out at 0700 and 1900 daily. The status is updated throughout the day but is not “pushed out” to avoid numerous alerts/notifications.

Additional work/improvements are occurring on multiple frequencies including replacing worn out repeaters, replacing batteries for power failures, migrating to wireless technology to replace old copper phone lines.

A VERY INITIAL discussion was conducted with Commissioner Henry, Mobilcom and myself about developing a strategy for transition to a P25 operating network. At this time, there is nothing solid other than it will happen in the future. There is still plenty of time and value for use of analog radios. As time rolls on, I suggest departments check with us prior to making communications equipment purchases to determine if P25 compatible devices would be advantageous.

Commissioner Henry said that the move to digital is an unfunded federal mandate which they will give counties a five-year time frame to upgrade. Current cost of infrastructure, 911 Center equipment, and end user radios is around \$18 Million dollars. Currently to build a new tower the cost is around \$450,000 each.

- b. Government: Chair Maryann Menanno, Rob Horvat, Eric Coston, Don Bovard, and Justin Sullivan. Rob Horvat reported that the French Creek Council of Governments hosted a meeting and had members of the Fire Commission attend and speak at it. It was very receptive by the elected officials. Vernon Township Supervisors will be passing an ordinance waiving property taxes for members of Vernon Central Hose Company and \$500 local earned income tax credit. The current requirements are that the members of the department go on at least 50 calls, take Essentials Module 2 or be an EMT, and attend 12 hours of training per year to be eligible.
 - c. Operations: Chair Ryan Sekerski, Bob McCartney, Eric Coston, and Phil Koon. Eric Coston reported he attended the French Creek COG meeting and also the state elected officials meeting held in Mercer County with State Representative Michelle Brooks.
 - d. Stakeholders: Chair Allen Clark, Eric Henry, John Treacy, and Phil Koon. Eric Henry reported that Kim Flynn from Starn Marketing is a great resource to help with media campaigns for recruitment and educating residents on when to call for help. A meeting with her will be scheduled in the near future.
- IV. Legislation Updates: SB501 Baker, Allowing counties to create EMS authorities
SB502 Kearney, Allowing Counties to create fire service Auth
HB182 D. Miller, State grant for turnout gear
HB187 D. Miller, Connecting firefighters with phys/mental health
SB144 Yaw, Restricting PFAS from firefighting foam
SB354 Dush, Fire department reimbursements
HB479 Borowski, Mileage reimbursement for ambulance services
- V. Action Items for Next Meeting: Committees should meet prior to the July 19th meeting.
- VI. Next Meeting, Wednesday, July 19, 2023, 7:00pm at Crawford County DPS
- VII. Adjournment: With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.