

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**

July 19, 2023, 7:00pm

- I. Commissioner's Welcome – Crawford County Commissioner Eric Henry welcomed members and guests to the Fire Commission meeting.
- II. Roll Call of Commission Members – Members attending were; Clark, Coston, Fuller, Horvat, McCartney, Pratt, Sekerski, Smock, Treacy, Wimer, and Brown. DPS Director Greg Beveridge and Operations and Training Officer Don Bovard. Guests attending were; Scott Schell, Dan Bresee and Cody Turner from Cochranton Fire Dept., and Ryan Zook from West Mead #1 Fire Dept.
- III. Subcommittee Reports
  - a. Communications: Chair John Treacy, Jim Pratt, Joe Smock, Kris Simmons, and Greg Beveridge

John Treacy reported that some departments still do not want to use IAR and other departments use it to the fullest and feel it is a valuable tool.

DPS Director Greg Beveridge reported that the two tone detect audio play through IAR will be released soon with a couple more steps to complete. The audio of the initial dispatch can be played over your phone through the IAR App. CAD View will have a new version soon with improvements to how it looks and functions for the end users. There may be a user's course available on-line. Prepared Live is a text message to 911 for hang up calls. 911 can also receive live video from callers and will be able to push that to MDT's in the near future. ASAP to PSAP is a system where alarm companies' data can be directly sent to the 911 center making it quicker to receive information. The 911 Center is hiring 1 full time and 2 part time 32-hour positions if anyone knows anyone that is interested. There is 720 hours of training to become a telecommunicator.

Jim Pratt commented how good the new software is in showing where the address of the call is and the caller.

The same agencies are always on regional notification as OOS or Limited. Director Beveridge said that everyone with IAR can look on their app to see real time who is OOS or in limited status. The important thing is the ability to see the status of every fire and EMS department in the county. A question was asked if fire and EMS departments can mark themselves OOS or Limited on the IAR APP instead of calling into the 911 Center. Greg will ask IAR.

Motion by Phil Koon and second by Bob Wimer to extend to 10 minutes to acknowledge on all non-emergency incidents i.e., trees down. Motion passed unanimously. Greg will take this suggestion to the 911 shift leaders meeting. Greg reported that during the day the 911 center does contact the municipality on trees down.

- b. Government: Chair Maryann Menanno, Rob Horvat, Eric Coston, Don Bovard, and Justin Sullivan

Vernon Township Supervisors adopted tax relief for their fire department members living in the township. Vernon Central tracks members hours and calls. To qualify members must make 50 calls and attend twelve hours of training per year. \$500 earned income credit. Robie met with the Crawford County Commissioners regarding tax credit for all fire and EMS in the County. Robie Horvat to become the new Chair of the Government Subcommittee.

Lift Assists: Director Beveridge reported that the EMS Commission saw a presentation on MDALLY which is telehealth system that 911 can transfer certain calls to for assistance instead of sending an ambulance. The projected benefit would be at least one call a day would qualify for this service. He is waiting to hear back from the company on the next steps. MDALLY has a doctor talk with the caller immediately and can call in a prescription, arrange for a local doctor's appointment, or arrange for transportation to the doctors. The company bills the patient's insurance company.

Commissioner Henry reported that Active Aging is working on a system for their employees to handle lift assists in the county. They have trained people that can assist residents. The only downfall is that the patient can refuse Active Aging help. MMC has a follow up nurse that call patients after hospitalization. They are hoping to have this system in place by January 1, 2024

Commissioner Henry had a meeting with CATA with their CATA GO program residents can ride the bus for \$1.50 a trip. There are 58 stops in Titusville alone so residents can take a bus to the doctors or hospital if their condition is non-emergency. It was reported that some fire departments charge \$100 for lift assists which they invoice the patient.

Below are projects outlined in the DCED Fire Report and other Fire Commission projects which the Commission can work on;

- i. County Commissioners facilitate meetings with municipalities to address public fire protection issues and encouraging them to meet their legal obligations, including funding, page 5

- ii. County Commissioners facilitate county-wide Community Risk Reduction Plan to include; Education, Engineering, Enforcement, Emergency Response, and Economic Incentives or Impact, page 7 (see attachment for sample plan)
- iii. County Commissioners encourage fire departments to participate in shared service agreements, page 8
- iv. Fire Departments look into opportunities for merger or consolidation, page 9
- v. County should explore opportunities to expand public water systems, page 11
- vi. County-wide Organization established; council of governments, alliance, authority
- vii. Identify funding for two paid firefighters in three locations in the county
- viii. Create a report showing how much municipalities contribute to fire protection

c. Operations: Chair Ryan Sekerski, Bob McCartney, Eric Coston, and Phil Koon

Subcommittee to meet to review the following projects;

- i. Defining a Rescue Department; Equipment, Personnel, and Training (see attached list of minimum training, personnel, and equipment list from the Voluntary Rescue Service Recognition Program)
- ii. County-wide Standard Fire Operating Guidelines
- iii. County-wide Standard Fire Training Guidelines

d. Stakeholders: Chair Allen Clark, Eric Henry, John Treacy, and Phil Koon

A meeting will be scheduled with Kim Flynn for marketing ideas for recruitment. The Crawford County Technical School and Allegheny College students can help develop some media items. It was suggested to have public announcements during the Crawford County Fair and have banners to promote the fire and EMS departments in the county.

A good web-site with information is; <https://www.becomeapafirefighter.com/>

Below are projects this subcommittee can work on;

- i. Recruitment; Brochure, Media and Social Media Advertising, target Middle School students and retired residents (see attachment)
- ii. Public Education; Fireworks, Outside Burning, Lithium Battery Devices, etc.
- iii. Firefighter Education; Lithium Battery Fires, Solar Panel Emergencies, Safety Stand Down
- iv. Days/Events to Promote: May 4th Firefighters, September 11<sup>th</sup>, Fire Prevention week, others

IV. Legislation Updates: SB502 KEARNEY, Allowing Counties to create fire service Auth

HB1541 HARKINS providing for firefighting personal protective equipment up to \$4,500 for each firefighter; and imposing penalties.

HB1492 MERSKI providing for firefighter cancer screenings.

HB1165 STEELE establishing the Active Volunteer First Responder Education Tax Credit Program.

HB1154 SCOTT providing for volunteer emergency responders employer tax credit.

SB144 BROOKS providing for firefighter and emergency service training and establishing the Secondary Education Fire Training Pilot Program and the Fire Training Fund

V. County Updates:

a. Crawford and Venango Counties Fire School Committee

- i. September 9 and 10 and STAT Class October 7 and 8. Brochures went out. The Fire School Committee will meet the week of the Crawford County Fair to see which classes have reached the needed student attendance which did not.

b. Crawford County Fireman's Association

- i. Last Meeting July 17<sup>th</sup> at Fallowfield Fire Department and the next Meeting September 18<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm at Springboro Fire Dept. with fish fry dinner

VI. State Updates:

- a. Fire Commissioner Tom Cook, Deputy Commissioner JC Tedorski, Fire Academy Administrator Harvey Boyer have been appointed by the Governor

VII. Action Items for Next Meeting

- a. It was suggested to have an all-fire chief meeting again in the county to update them on the Fire Commission.
- b. As a reminder all minutes and agendas of both Commissions are on the Crawford County Web-site at <https://www.crawfordcountypa.net/PublicSafety/Pages/Fire-EMS-Commissions.aspx>
- c. It was suggested that Eric, Joe, and Ryan create a news release to send to the media to help inform the public on the Fire Commission.
- d. It was reported that Fallowfield Fire Department is in the process of becoming a licensed BLS ambulance service.

VIII. Next Meeting, Wednesday, September 20, 2023, 7:00pm at Crawford County DPS

IX. Adjournment at 8:44pm.