

## **St. Lawrence County Fire Chiefs Meeting May 16, 2024**

A regular meeting of the St. Lawrence County Fire Chiefs Association was held on Thursday, May 16, 2024, at the Rensselaer Falls Fire Station. The meeting was called to order by President Jeff Hammond at 7:00pm.

The opening prayer was given by Peter Hoyt.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, John LaShomb, followed by a moment of silence.

Chief, Dallas Denny, introduced the Auxiliary and thanked them for a delicious meal. Introduced Corey Barney (1st Asst. Chief), James Blackburn (2nd Asst. Chief), Karin Blackburn (Secretary), Roger Newcombe (Member and Past Chief), Mark Bomyea (Member and Past Chief), Bob Poor (Member and Past Chief), and Jeff Hammond (Member, Past Chief, and Car 4).

### **Introduce guests**

- Larry Denesha, Legislator
  - Bob Kerr got a hold of him about the “Garret Loomis Law”. This law has legislation that requires farmers to put placards on oxygen limiting silos. He reached out to Blankenbush’s office. No news is good news as of right now.
  - Back in 2017 there was resolution to collect a \$.30 surcharge on cell phones before the Board. It didn’t pass. This has come back up, it was before the full Board on 5/3/2024. There will be a public hearing – first Monday in June. He thinks this is timely. 77% of calls that EMS receive are on cell phones. They are calling it a tax, but it is a user fee. The money generated will go to EMS. This could generate about \$450,000. St. Lawrence County is one of two counties in NYS that doesn’t have this surcharge. 100% of this surcharge is going to go to the county EMS System.
  - NYS Budget 2024 – 2025: \$237 Billion, \$8 Billion higher than it was last year. Of the \$237 Billion, \$2.4 Billion allotted to NYC to cover the immigration crisis. 11 nursing homes closed. 14,518 beds out of use. Medicaid reimbursement rate is the same it was in 2013.

Motion to accept minutes from the last meeting made by Vincent Ferry (Gouverneur), 2nd by Dale Barker (Star Lake). Motion carried.

### **Secretary’s report**

- Please use the sign in sheets that are on the tables, so we have a record of who was here.
- The line up for meetings for 2023 – 2024:
  - July: Heuvelton
  - September: Pierrepont
  - November: Ogdensburg
  - January 2025: Lawrenceville
  - March: 2025: Norfolk
  - May 2025: Rensselaer Falls

- You may have noticed that I'm no longer sending postcards with our meeting invitations. With the cost of postage, I have cut out the cost of postcard stamps. All invitation letters now include a phone number and an email to RSVP to. I also put this information on our Facebook page and email invitations. If you want to receive the invitations by email, please make sure I have your email.

Motion to accept the Secretary's Report made by Robert Kerr (Norfolk), 2nd by Mark Bomyea (Rensselaer Falls). Motion carried.

#### **Treasurer's report**

- Regular Checking Account:
  - Starting Balance (03/23/2024): \$3,060.22
  - Withdrawals: \$291.44
  - Deposits: \$0.00
  - Balance as of May 16, 2024: \$2,768.78
- PayPal/Venmo Checking Account:
  - Starting Balance (03/22/2024): \$42.55
  - Deposits: 23.00
  - Balance as of May 16, 2024: \$65.55

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report made by Mark Davis (Pierrepoint), 2<sup>nd</sup> by Terry Harris (Heuvelton). Motion carried.

#### **Report from 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

- No report.

#### **Report from 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**

- No report.

#### **Report from Directors**

##### **Derek Sagriff**

- No report, not present

##### **John Sheets**

- No report.

##### **John Sheets**

- No report.

##### **Peter Hoyt**

- Asked if anyone else is concerned about the new OSHA standard?  
Joe Finnegan stated there is a one house bill on the floor to delay the implementation. NYS is a PESH state. This will NOT be a NFPA standard. There may be some things we can't do safely, so

we don't do them.

Dale Barker (Star Lake) stated there are some videos online created and done by a firefighter and an attorney breaking down the document to a 40-page document. Get online and watch them.

Karin will put it on the letter from Matt Denner on the SLCFCA website.

Bob Kerr said there are some webinars available to 8 or 10 important points of the changes.

### **County Coordinator (Matt Denner)**

- Decommissioned Canton last week. Canton Fire is doing a work detail, stripping the tower. Motorola is going to come and put all the new equipment in. Dispatch is hoping to get back into the Canton center in November. Provisioning Massena Fire Department.
- Dispatch did a test, where do calls go if they don't answer it? Nowhere. They are working on an agreement with Jefferson County to answer any unanswered calls.
- Radio system: Chicago is going to build all tower sites – 6 or 7 racks for 13 tower sites. We need a central computer to run the systems. Massena will be digital by the end of June. Hoping by February, everything is installed. Then testing will start. He will reach out to the Fire Chiefs.
- Live Ammonia Leak Training in June.
- Hired a new Deputy Coordinator. Rich Mousaw, Fire Chief in Star Lake. He will be starting on 5/28.
- With the VHF system there is a skip we hear. With the UHF there isn't any interference. Set up a committee. 2 fire, 2 EMS, 2 Law Enforcement
- He met with every Chief in the County to determine what radios each department is getting. He has a good handle on the needs of the County.
- Someone replaced George Masarati, Matt Kroeger.

### **Training Center, Bob Kerr**

- BEFO is finishing up. Final is tonight. Another BEFO end of July. IFO early part of August. Leadership Module for Fire Officer. Extrication classes coming up. Did ALCOA training last Tuesday and this coming Tuesday. He thanked the guys for coming out to lend a hand. We need the support. When they reach out for help, it's getting harder and harder to get help.
- The Directors for the Training Center have met and they want to address the broken fence around the perimeter. They have taken on some bids. They are going to replace 818 feet of the fence with Alpine Fence in June or July. Erik Johnson is going to remove the old fence.
- Projected Date for Youth in the Fire Service
- The Burn Building has to comply with the 1403 Standard. Inspection was done and received praise.

### **Report of Committees**

- **Membership/Recruitment (Larry Whitton)**
  - Renewals from Potsdam, Hammond, Pierrepont, Star Lake, Massena, John Sheets, Dale Barker, Dennis Eickhoff, Laurie Hance.

- **Legislative (Joe Finnegan)**
  - Already covered.
- **Fire Police (Gus Woods)**
  - Jeff Hammond has been in touch with his son in Oswego. There is someone in the Oswego Fire Department who is being appointed as Director of the North Country.
- **Fire Investigation (Matt Denner)**
  - There are 12 investigators in the County. The last couple of years, they've been called out more and more. There have been a few youth fire setting incidents. The County is looking to start its own program. Please reach out if you have anyone interested.
- **County Coordinators (Mark, Jeff, Vinny)**
  - Terry Harris recognized James Blackburn for his work on the Fire, Life, and Safety Program and the story on Channel 7 News. James explained the story of Leah Matteson, 8<sup>th</sup> Grader at Indian River Middle School and the recognition for her saving her family from a fire in April.
- **Bylaws (Joe Finnegan)**
  - Nothing to report.
- **Rescue and First Aid (Scott McRobbie)**
  - Nothing to report.
- **Mutual Aid/Dispatch (Matt Denner)**
  - Already discussed.
- **Recognition (Joe Finnegan)**
  - Nothing to report.

#### **Old Business**

- Firefighter of the Year Dinner at Heuvelton – Saturday night. 6pm cocktails. Dinner at 7pm. Mike Hebert is the Firefighter of the Year.

#### **New Business**

- Dale Barker reported he is in charge of the Youth in the Fire Service event in August. They have chosen August 17<sup>th</sup> as the date. The event has averaged about 30 kids at this event. This year FASNY is being booted to the side. Please reach out to Dale Barker if you are willing to help.
- Dale Barker reported that Believe NNY has assisted 96 firefighters. This program is still going strong. Thank you to everyone that has assisted that program.
- Matt Denner reported that a career fire bug has been released from prison. She is currently in the psychiatric center. He stated that she is moving to Jefferson County. There is a book about her, Teflon Shelley.

Motion to close the meeting and open the election of officers made by Dennis Eickhoff  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Dale Barker  
Motion carried.

**Election of Officers – Nominating Committee: Joe Finnegan and Bob Kerr**

- **President Jeff Hammond**  
Current President: Jeff Hammond (Rensselaer Falls)  
Nominations: Jeff Hammond  
by Nomination Committee, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark Bomyea  
Jeff Hammond accepts for one year.  
Mark Bomyea makes a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lonnie Scott, that the polls be closed and Secretary cast one vote.  
All in favor.  
**President: Jeff Hammond**
- **1<sup>st</sup> Vice President John LaShomb**  
Current 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: John LaShomb (Lawrenceville)  
Nominations:  
by Nominating Committee, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark Bomyea  
John LaShomb accepts.  
Dennis Eickhoff makes a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dale Barker, that the polls be closed and the Secretary cast one vote.  
All in Favor.  
**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: John LaShomb**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President James Blackburn**  
Current 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: James Blackburn (Rensselaer Falls)  
Nominations:  
by Karin Blackburn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff Hammond  
James Blackburn accepts.  
Bob Poor makes a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lonnie Scott, that the polls be closed and the Secretary cast one vote.  
All in favor.  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President: James Blackburn**

**Directors**

- **Current: Derek Sagriff**  
Nominations: Al Rickett  
Mark Bomyea makes a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dennis Eickhoff, that the polls be closed and the Secretary cast one vote.  
All in favor.  
**New Director: Al Rickett (Ogdensburg)**

- **Current: Peter Hoyt (Pierrepoint) - becomes a 2 year**
- **Current: John Sheets (Louisville) - becomes a 1 year**
- **Secretary**  
 Current Secretary: Karin Blackburn (Rensselaer Falls)  
 Nomination: Karin Blackburn by Nomination Committee  
 Karin accepts.  
 Terry Harris makes a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by John LaShomb, that the polls be closed and the President cast one vote.  
 All in favor.  
**Secretary: Karin Blackburn (Rensselaer Falls)**
- **Treasurer**  
 Current Treasurer: Laurie Hance  
 Nomination: Laurie Hance by Nomination Committee  
 Laurie accepts.  
 Jeff Crobar (Heuvelton) makes a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lonnie Scott, that the polls be closed and the Secretary cast one vote.  
 All in favor.  
**Treasurer: Laurie Hance (Hannawa Falls)**

**Motion to close the SLCFCA elections made by Bob Poor, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Peter Hoyt. Motion carried.**

**Motion to open the Training Center elections made by Dale Barker, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark Bomyea. Motion carried.**

- **Chairman and Directors of the Training Center**
  - **Chairman**  
 Current Chairman: Bob Kerr  
 Motion by Dennis Eickhoff 2<sup>nd</sup> by Peter Hoyt.  
 Bob Kerr accepts.  
 Terry Harris makes a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by James Blackburn that the polls be closed and the Secretary cast one vote.  
 All in favor.  
**Chairman: Bob Kerr**
  - **Director**  
 Current Director: Dale Gardner  
 Motion by Mark Bomyea, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob Poor.  
 Dale Gardner accepts.  
 Mark Bomyea makes a motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob Poor that the polls be closed and the Secretary cast one vote.  
 All in favor.

**Director: Bob Kerr**

Motion to close the elections and re-open the SLFCA meeting made by Mark Bomyea, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vinny Ferry.  
Motion carried.

Next Meeting: July 18th, 2024 at Heuvelton Station.

**Calendar of Events**

- **RFFR Color Run June 9<sup>th</sup>**
- **RFFR Father's Day Chicken BBQ**
- **Louisville Car Show July 6<sup>th</sup>**
- **Heuvelton June 2 Chicken BBQ**
- **Gouverneur Fireworks Chicken BBQ**
- **Pierrepont Chicken BBQ Father's Day**
- **Norfolk Mud Run July 27<sup>th</sup>**
- **Lawrenceville Demolition Derby June 1<sup>st</sup>**
- **Colton May 25 Chicken BBQ!**
- **Norther Firefighter Convention June 8 Lowville Mtg at 9am, 1:30 FF of the Year, Memorial Service Right After**

Bottle Raffle Bob Bertrand, Hammond  
50/50 Rodney, Pyrites

Motion to close the meeting made by Dale Barker (Star Lake) at 20:38, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Robert Kerr (Norfolk).  
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

*Karin Blackburn*

Secretary

**Attendance by Department**

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Canton        | 1 |
| Colton        | 2 |
| Gouverneur    | 2 |
| Hammond       | 1 |
| Hannawa Fls   | 1 |
| Heuvelton     | 7 |
| Lawrenceville | 1 |
| Lisbon        | 1 |
| Louisville    | 1 |
| Madrid        | 2 |
| Morristown    | 1 |
| Norfolk       | 4 |
| Ogdensburg    | 3 |
| Pierrepont    | 3 |

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Pyrites     | 2 |
| Star Lake   | 1 |
| Renss Falls | 5 |