

Tioga County Fireman's Association, Inc.

14 Main St., PO BOX 746, Wellsboro, PA 16901

Regular Meeting

September 8th, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Host: Lawrenceville Fire Department

CALL TO ORDER

The September meeting of the Tioga County Fireman's Association was called to order at 1902 by President Alex Kulish. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and invocation given by Gary Bisel. The welcome address was given by Chief 8, TJ Riley.

MEETING WAS RECESSED FOR DINNER AT 1904

MEETING WAS RESUMED AT 1911

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

John Taylor, PennDOT: Spoke on PennDOT's "Yellow Dot" Program – a small yellow sticker that is placed on the back windshield of any vehicle signifying that inside the vehicle is a yellow envelope that contains important information pertaining to the vehicle owner (medical conditions, family and emergency contacts, etc...). John also opened up the floor to questions. Through floor questions, John spoke on PennDOT's 'Crash Response Trailer' which has 100 traffic cones, 400 flares, safety vests, signs, and other traffic control accessories. John stated that hopefully in the near future, PennDOT will switch from the trailer to three(3) PennDOT pickup trucks that would be stationed along the I-99 corridor (Lawrenceville, Mansfield, and Bloss/Liberty). The trailer and the trucks would be available to respond to emergency scenes to provide traffic control. John also mentioned that he will try to provide TC911 direct numbers to PennDOT employees for easier communication between 911 and PennDOT to make for a more efficient response to emergency scenes.

Michael Valine, STATMedEvac: Mike introduced himself, spoke on his role with Stat and his backgrounds. Also reminded TCFA members that STAT has a new aircraft flying out of Muncy, PA that is staffed 24/7. He also mentioned different offerings STAT has for community outreach like Stop the Bleed classes and LZ safety courses. He clarified that STAT's protocol is to remain hot at a LZ and not shut their aircrafts down, unless the aircraft would be grounded for a longer period of time. Also, for our knowledge, the max patient weight is <350lbs, and the max flight crew member weight is <210lbs – so getting a patient weight earlier in the process is very helpful so the flight crew will know if they have to cut weight prior to take off.

READING OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Minutes from the previous TCFA meeting, held at the Westfield Fire Department on July 14th, 2026, were read by Secretary Rob Satterly. The minutes were unanimously approved.

TREASURERS REPORT

Treasurers' report was read by Treasurer TJ Riley at 1937

- General Account:
 - August Balance – \$810.48
 - Ending Balance – \$810.52 (Interest)
- Training Account:
 - August Balance – \$3728.13
 - Ending Balance – \$5728.13
 - Per Treasurer, there are multiple checks being cashed soon that will increase the training account balance

TJ Riley will be double checking that our accounts do not have a minimum balance stipulation.

Kevin Kulish made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, Seconded by Doyle Swetland, all were in favor.

There is a \$2,000 Bill to pay for the Golf Outing Catering, Brian Davenport made a motion to pay the bill, Seconded by Kevin Kulish, all were in favor.

OFFICER ROLL CALL

President: Alex Kulish - Present

1st Vice President: Austin Cooper - Excused

2nd Vice President: John Barnes - Present

Treasurer: TJ Riley - Present

Secretary: Rob Satterly - Present

Trustee: Josh McCarthy - Present

Trustee: Sam Warren - Excused

Trustee: John Andrus - Present

Fire Coordinator 1: Brian Davenport - Present

Fire Coordinator 2: Matt Watkins - Excused

Fire Coordinator 3: Lee Strange - Present

Fire Coordinator 4: Galen Martin - Present

Fire Coordinator 5: Doyle Swetlan - Present

COMMUNICATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE

The following letter was submitted by Laurel Mountain K9 SAR:

“First and foremost, we would like to sincerely thank the Tioga County Firemen’s Association for the generous donation of the drone to Laurel Mountain K9 SAR. This donation has greatly expanded our drone capabilities and enhanced our ability to utilize drone operations during search and rescue missions.

As we continue to develop our capabilities, we are also expanding the setup of our command trailer to maximize our ability to operate both drones simultaneously during incidents.

With this expansion, we would respectfully like to request the designation 51-38 for our newest drone.

We greatly appreciate the continued support of the TCFA and the opportunity to enhance our search and rescue capabilities through this equipment.

Sincerely,

Todd Bourdette”

TJ Riley made the motion to accept the new drone designation, Seconded by Doyle Swetland, all were in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

❖ DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

- Per Lisa Rice: She cleared up some questions she has gotten regarding the Commissioner’s Grant, and provided a step by step instruction handout. She also spoke on ineligible expenses for this grant. All departments MUST send in all required paperwork.

- Call Lisa with any questions

- Bret Mathers

- 2027 training year is coming up – if anyone is interested in hosting a class at their department, let him know

❖ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

❖ FORESTRY COMMITTEE

❖ STANDARDS COMMITTEE

❖ COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

- UTV designations were brought up – previous standards were read off referencing how UTV/Boats should be referred to (UTV-1 or 1-28, 38, etc...)
- Lisa will be updating the Communications Manual adding that dispatchers are allowed to check with standing by apparatus/officers to see if the standing by unit will be able to handle the call after their 10 minute mark

❖ TRAINING COMMITTEE

- Kevin Kulish asked if receipts were issued to departments for the Searchable vs. Survivable class held in Westfield? Also asked if certificates were available for that class?
 - Bret Mathers is handling certs
 - Pres. Kulish will handle receipts
- ❖ FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE
 - Per Kevin Kulish there are currently 26 teams signed up for the golf tournament; and the TCFA has made roughly \$9k so far with more money coming in during the day of. Stated he's pleased with the amount of new and old supporters
 - THE TOURNAMENT NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!
- ❖ FIRE COORDINATOR REPORT
- ❖ SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

OLD BUSINESS

Westfield is no longer doing the golf drop for Westfield Days.

NEW BUSINESS

Chief 13 Wright, needed a new unit designation prior to the September meeting for audit purposes – Dept 13 purchased a Rescue Bodied Style Ford F550 four door which will be used for QRS purposes and carry extrication tools. Chief 13 requested the designation 13-18, this was approved by the executive committee.

Laurel Mtn K9 SAR just had three new dogs added to their team, two of which are certified water rescue/recovery dogs; they will not need a boat but luckily the dogs come with a boat.

Carter Strange brought up IaR – stated the county used to pay for all departments to have IaR and a discussion was had as to whether or not that can happen again. Years ago the issue was cell service and lack of use. Discussion furthered.

GOOD OF THE ASSOCIATION

Pres. Kulish assigned members to the Nominating Committee

Kevin Kulish
Gaylen Martin
Byron Wright

The TCFA Golf Outing is this Saturday, September 12th

The 9/11 Memorial “343” Walk will take place this Friday, September 11th from Lawrenceville Fire Department to Tioga Memorial Park. The walk will be 9.11 miles long.

The 9/11 Memorial Ceremony will be at Tioga Memorial Park on Friday September 11th, at 6pm

COMMITTEE ROSTERS:

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Doyle Swetland, John Barnes, Brian Davenport, Bret Mathers, Sam Warren

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Josh McCarthy, Lee Strange, Andrew O'Connors, Todd Bourdette, John Pagano

TRAINING COMMITTEE

Bret Mathers, Tyler Andrus, Jim Shepard, Rob Satterly, Bill Goltz, Kevin Kulish

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Kevin Kulish, Rob Satterly, TJ Riley, Jim Shepard, Alex Kulish

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Lacey Miles, Andrew O'Connors, Galen Martin, Alex Kulish, Brian Davenport

TJ RILEY MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN, SECONDED BY BRET MATHERS, @ 1959

***THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE NOVEMBER 10TH AT THE MIDDLEBURY FIRE
DEPARTMENT @ 1900.***

**MEETING MINUTES RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:
ROB SATTERLY, SECRETARY, TCFA**