

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY LABOR-MANAGEMENT SAFETY COMMITTEE
Public Safety Complex, 2nd Floor Conference Rm
Wednesday, November 7, 2007; 3:30 p.m.

Members Attending: Mark Patterson, John Rose
(Absent were Kit Smith, Mark Brouillette, Greg Paquin, Bill Dashnaw, Amy Simmons, Joe Zacharek)

Others Attending: Andrew Moses, Debbie Snell, Beth Boyd

The meeting was called to order by Andrew Moses at 3:39 p.m.

1. Review of Resolution Establishing Committee. Members in attendance reviewed the resolution to further clarify the purpose of the committee. Mark Patterson pointed out wording in the resolution “The chief elected official, or person designated by him, shall act as the chairperson of the committee.”

2. Job Duties of Safety Officer. Mr. Moses stated that he has incorporated Mr. Zacharek into investigative projects and ergonomic programs such as checking work stations. Ms. Boyd stated that Mr. Zacharek offers suggestions to various departments and municipalities; however, they may be difficult to enforce. Mr. Patterson agrees that implementation may be difficult and enforcement is an issue. Questions were made as to the follow up of inspections. **(Tabled for next meeting due to Mr. Zacharek’s absence)**

3. Report of balance of Safety Funds available. Mr. Patterson will check on grant money which may be available and certifications which may be offered. Mr. Patterson further states that new legislation has passed which mandates certification of Flaggers. The specific section of law will be obtained by County Attorney’s office for further clarification. (Current information on funds available will be given at next meeting and discussion is needed on use of balance)

4. Injury/Claims survey reporting – Summary of those who participated in the survey was given (14 municipalities). Ms. Boyd will contact all participating municipalities to obtain additional information in an effort to find out how people are getting injured and what programs/safety training may be of use. Mr. Patterson suggested that the Workers Compensation Department report its findings and the committee looking into training options. Mr. Patterson added that the main issues in the survey results seem to be related to the 1) back, 2) Knee 3) Hands. Ms. Boyd and Mr. Patterson agree that CPR cannot help in the prevention of Workers Comp-related accidents. One township suggested needle sticks as being a problem. Mr. Patterson believes that the improper disposal of needles is the issue and Ms. Boyd stated that efforts are being made by the hospitals such as containers that are being offered for proper disposal. Mr. Patterson asked what supervisors could do to correct various situations such as lifts added to trucks to help with back injuries. Mr. Rose mentioned Mr. Zacharek’s training on lifting which was offered

and said that this was of help. It was agreed that the back is the #1 problem and needs review to see what is the cause (lifting, twisting). **(Matter is tabled for next meeting)**

5. Submission of Accident/Incident Report forms currently being used. Mr. Rose will send a copy of what his department uses to report accidents/incidents. **(Matter is tabled for next meeting)**

6. SLC and Non-County Claims Report. After review of the Claims reports, Mr. Moses noted that Back is #1 problem with Knees being second. Training is needed in these areas and the Committee would like to know what videos are available. Mr. Patterson stated the local union has safety video tapes available. Lynnette Witherall is a contact person for obtaining money from the State Department for training. Mr. Patterson believes that the new law requiring flaggers to be certified went into effect on or about October 12, 2007. He believes the work site safety training course is an 8 hour classroom training course. Mr. Patterson said there were 5 deaths last year relating to garbage trucks. Mr. Rose stated there may be video training tapes available through Alcoa. The committee needs to check into training which has no cost to the municipalities. Mr. Moses suggested that Mr. Zacharek follow up before spring arrives. The committee would like to request Mr. Zacharek obtain information about programs offered and costs. Mr. Patterson will get information from Lynnette Witherall on programs offered. He believes CSEA offers lifting programs. The committee reviewed the Claims reports for St. Lawrence County and all non-county injuries/accidents. It was noted that the number of finger injuries have been reduced. Mr. Patterson mentioned that fatigue may be a contributing factor also.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 5th 2007 at 3:30 p.m.

Motion to adjourn at 4:59 p.m. was made by Beth Boyd and seconded by John Rose.