Chapter 1. INTRODUCTION

In his 1993 Annual Report to the Village of Honeoye Falls Board of Trustees, then HFFD Fire Chief Tom McGory expressed his concern for “a lack of manpower,” the increasing use of Mutual Assistance/ automatic dispatch from other Fire Departments, and “costs of equipping a Fire Department and its fire fighters [that] is steadily increasing” (p. F). In 1995, the Town of Mendon appointed a Fire/EMS Advisory Committee and hired consultants to assess the current state of Fire and EMS Services within the Town and prepare a *Fire/EMS Master Plan*. Their mission was to better understand the capacity for service delivery and to determine a planning strategy commensurate with forecasted/ future needs and expectations. They recognized a need to improve “better coordination” among the three (3) governance boards; “However, whenever the opportunity presents itself, a single agency structure should be pursued as aggressively as possible” (ISSUE #4, p. 27).

These two documents, together with later studies and reports continued a focus on the governance and delivery of Fire Protection Services. They were accompanied by correspondence and community meetings about Fire Service, all suggesting that our configuration of jurisdictions deserves thoughtful review and evaluation to determine how to meet the demands of that day’s community demographic profile and the service needs of our built landscape.

And now, this Citizens Advisory Committee is appointed by the Town Board to review and verify Fire Protection capacity in 2022-2023, and determine if late 1800 and 1930’s Fire Protection delivery models remain sustainable.

This Report is respectfully submitted to the Mendon Town Board as a tool to assist them with decisions about today’s delivery of Fire Protection in our community. It is a factual compilation of research and data that is basic for the organization, governance and function of the Fire Service. The references are credible sources affiliated with our Fire Departments, The Village of Honeoye Falls, the Mendon Fire District and the Town of Mendon along with their municipal staffs and Monroe County departments, together with Legal Counsel and other professionals representing various aspects of Fire Protection services.

The Report is organized in Chapters that fulfill the Committee’s Charge as outlined in the Town Board’s Resolution on June 13, 2022 (*Resolution 22-150*). The Resolution is Figure 1-1.

2.6.23