

**EFL EMERGENCY MEETING July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017; 9:30am**  
Montgomery County Public Safety Building  
200 Clark Drive  
Fultonville, NY 12072

**EFL Meeting July 1, 2017**

**Attendees**

George Ashcraft	Watertown
Diana Ashcraft	Watertown
Leroy Collins	Syracuse
Khalid Bey	Syracuse
Elijah Winfrey	Seaway Valley
Cassandra Arquette	Seaway Valley
Chris Gorman	Syracuse
Sherrie Gorman	Syracuse
Hank Pelton	Glens Falls
Jeff Hodges	Glens Falls
Rick Sager	Deputy Commissioner
Concetta Sager	Secretary/Treasurer
Dave Burch	Commissioner
Bill Higgins	Commissioner of Officials

***Purpose of this meeting was to disposition leave of absence requests received by Dave Burch from Watertown, Syracuse and Sussex.***

**Syracuse** their request was prompted by Plattsburgh's year off, conversation with Seaway Valley being down to 11 players and Watertown announcing on TV that they were leaving the EFL. If league can be resurrected for next year, they are in. Syracuse planned for 9 home games and lost \$4500 due to cancellations from other teams not affiliated with the EFL. They were concerned with sponsors. Also, to be noted is that the Board of Directors for Syracuse Strong consists of folks that do not know football; it's all about sponsorships and money.

**Watertown** George mentioned that he had a conversation with Sussex and Seaway Valley. It appeared that Seaway Valley was not going to make it and with Plattsburgh out, it created a risk to their schedule and sponsorships. As a result, they landed in NFA which was the best first. George apologized for jumping the gun and making an announcement to the media without consulting with the league officers first. Watertown now has a 10-game schedule.

**Sussex** was unable to physically attend and had planned to call in to the meeting.

-----Original Message-----

From: Sussex Stags <sussexstags@gmail.com>

To: davidb6783 <davidb6783@aol.com>

Sent: Mon, Jun 26, 2017 10:33 am

Subject: Re: Emergency Empire Football League Meeting July 1st @ 9:30am

Great, thanks!

On Mon, Jun 26, 2017 at 10:30 AM davidb6783 <davidb6783@aol.com> wrote:

No problem. ..teleconference is fine. Will give you a call in number. .appreciate your getting back to me

As a follow up after the meeting, Dave Burch talked with Gary Haase and he apologized for missing the telecon meeting @ 9:30am. Dave summarized with him the results from the emergency meeting and he was in 100% agreement with the league's position moving forward. He explained the scenario with the

WFF and how he was misrepresented and how Eric Brown informed him that all the other EFL teams had left. Gary chose the MLF to fill in his schedule based upon the Watertown media report to mitigate risk to his organization's sponsors. He concluded by stating that he plans to be at the EFL's 2018 Annual Meeting without a doubt.

**Seaway Valley** was initially having issues and wanted to let other members know what was going on. They felt obligated to let everyone know that they were struggling with players a month ago. However, they are now up to 24 players.

**Glens Falls** stated that they felt league members panicked. Glens Falls only had 14 players at the very same time that Seaway Valley had 11. They now have 45. It is a known fact of Semi pro football is that players jump from team to team. Glens Falls reiterated that they are still a member of EFL. They currently have 9 games. They want to play for a championship and players want an end goal.

**Bill Higgins** stated that he has spent hours scheduling officials and handed out schedules. He never received a call regarding the cancelations. Bill stated that he feels confident that there will be a league of 2018.

**Seaway Valley** suggested that the two games that they play against Glens Falls are a show case for the EFL. Play a 3<sup>rd</sup> game on the Championship date for the EFL championship for 2017. Live stream the game. Dave Burch stated that there are no sponsorships to pay for this. Seaway and Glens Falls will discuss date and advise Dave.

**Syracuse** stated that they feel it is fair to do the championship between the 2 teams. Their motion to support the idea was seconded by Glens Falls. Passed

**Glens Falls** plans to continue with the EFL and playing games to fill its schedule.

**Watertown** - abstained from the discussion

**Khalid Bey** of Syracuse stated that the EFL is in a crisis and suggested changes to a tournament/invitational with branding opportunity.

**Dave Burch** stated that in 1973 the EFL encountered the same issue. They took a leave-came back the next year. There will be an annual meeting in January 2018 just as always.

All requests for leave of absences were approved

Concetta Sager presented the Treasurers Report; Plattsburgh's league dues are still outstanding.

What will happen to attract teams for 2018? We need to be on the offense? Khalid offered to help.

Dave requested a list of items that need to be done. Things can be done to make league attractive; like a brochure, upgraded logo and recruitment package. Refine the message going forward

**Rick Sager** - Previously, officers of league went and talked to teams to recruit but it was decided to be more practical that the teams themselves do this. This year is a perfect opportunity to approach teams they are planning to join the EFL

**Elijah Winfrey** thanked Hank & George for reaching out to assist them during the past year. Motion to adjourn by Seaway Valley, seconded by Syracuse

Respectfully submitter,  
Concetta Sager