

Bernie Deutsch
Chairman

Russell Turner
Vice Chairman

Mary Ann Drobysh
Secretary

Sullivan County Fire Advisory Board

Date: March 27, 2013

Dan Briggs was hear to swear in the Board Members. Anyone not present can go to the County Clerk's Office and see Dan to be sworn in.

Meeting called to order at: 7:33pm

Pledge to the flag was held

Attendance: 11 out of 15 members present

Bethel: Rich Hendrickson	A
Callicoon: Paul Hemmer	A
Cochecton: Gary Cochrane	A
Delaware: Tim Hornicek	P
Fallsburg: Bernard Deutsch	P
Forestburgh: Chris Cavello	P
Fremont: David Hirsch	A
Highland: Warren Wagner	P
Liberty: Don Sherwood	P
Lumberland: Charlie Fallon	P
Mamakating: Lou Tunno	P
Neversink: Russell Turner	P
Rockland: Michael Juron	P
Thompson: Robert Yakin	P
Tusten: Craig Burkle	P

Reading of minutes from previous meeting: Read and amended under Coordinator's Report to delete "The County Manager will be leaving his post at some point and it appears that Louis Aargon will be appointing the department heads." Minutes accepted as amended.

Coordinators Report:

There have been 7 applications for 2 positions for fire instructors. There are classes coming up in July and the instructors need to be certified in order to teach them. Instructors are considered State employees.

The upgrades to the radio communications have been approved for financing by the County. There was a great deal of support from the fire service at the meeting. The vote was 9-0 in favor.

There will be a planning meeting on how to best spend the 1.2 million dollars from a State grant. It has to be allotted before March 14.

We are still working with Blue Wing. There is a lot of work going on behind the scenes in both upgrading existing towers and acquiring new sites. The entire project will take at least 2 years to complete. There will be ongoing equipment meetings with the fire service.

There was a County Fire Coordinators conference on TIMS. Records will now be kept by the State and agencies will be consolidated into SLIMS. The agencies will be Corrections, State Police, Parole and the Fire Service. Please note that except for the some members of the Fire Service all other agencies are comprised of State Employees. The information is very current and informative but it can be difficult to get it. Once it is fully implemented you will be able to print out your own certificates upon course completions. You will only be able to access your own records; any Chief will be able to access department records.

There is money allotted in the State Budget to purchase generators that could be used in the event of power outages. It is possible that a pool of generators will be made available. Details are being worked out.

There have been issues in NYC and Long Island with command at a scene. ICS Training needs to be completed. Dick has completed his training. There is a grant money available but only if the proper training has been completed.

The State wants to share intelligence on storms and work with the agencies involved. They want to send the people and the agencies they feel appropriate, even if they have not been requested locally. Dick has spoken with other Counties and no one is too happy about this. Home rule has always been the policy.

The rope rescue protocol may have more changes down the road. The health and safety people will let us know about any changes. For now, keep doing what you have been, don't rush out and spend a lot of money just yet.

Some of the local School Boards have offered assistance during times of extended power outages and storm conditions. They want to help. In order to use a school as a shelter there needs to be a manager in place. The Red Cross could help with that. Be aware that there are no animals allowed in a Red Cross shelter. Animal Shelters are much more problematic.

The National Fire Academy is offering 8 classes. Dick has taken a Health and Safety Class. There are many issues that need to be dealt with including turnout gear contaminated by fluids at a scene.

Other areas of the State are having a police presence at fire scenes to protect firefighters. There have been isolated incidents like Webster and Olive that have houses burn because there was a danger to the firefighters.

Please share the information from these meetings with your Chief's.

There is a grant for recruitment of firefighters. We need more recruits. April is Recruit NY. Each department can decide how they want to handle it. Open houses are a suggestion. Dick has sent out emails to all departments about this. FASNY wants to know if this idea works, if not they may try something else.

There are ideas on the table to help, such as bringing in people as drivers only (they should at least have taken a scene support course). In the south there are on duty firemen that work for multiple departments and costs are shared among those departments.

The Sullivan County Emergency Service Center Training Handbook should be brought to your chief for questions and we will then review them in our May meeting. The Chiefs should already have copies for review.

Lou Tunno brought up the issue of turnout gear and the OFPC recommendations. There is a concern about purchasing gear for members who do not stay with the Department. The NFPA requires the gear to be 10 years or younger and the OFPC will follow that recommendation. If someone wears gear that does not meet the requirements there may be liability issues. There was a great deal of discussion on the issue, the ideas of older gear for people not entering a building, designating gear as interior and exterior were discussed. Turnout gear is expensive and some departments have to replace many sets of gear at once.

The Training Center may have to start having people sign a statement that they have read the State ethics handout on bullying.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 1) **Training Facility:** no further report
- 2) **EMS:** no report
- 3) **Arson:** There have been over 20 fires so far this year. There was an arson fire in Monticello. The closest dog available for fire investigations is in Westchester County. Charlie has the contact information if needed. The quarterly fire report will be ready soon. 2 members of the tam have been sent for advanced training. If anyone ever has any questions please let Charlie know, he is always open to answering your questions.
- 4) **Radio:** no further report

Correspondence: none

Old Business: none

New Business: There was a request to have the minutes sent out earlier.

Dick told us about a 28 year old firefighter who became unconscious during a training exercise. Please always be aware of the dangers, even in training.

Sullivan County will have a weekend at the Fire Academy on the last weekend in October. Orange and Ulster will be having their own weekend again this year. The classes that will be available there are different than the ones taught locally.

There is a new National class regarding testimony in a court case.

We need to continue to put pressure on the State legislature about the phone surcharges collected for 911. We are entitled to that money and we should get it. We will send a letter to Aileen Gunther, Sheldon Silver and John Bonacic.

Good and Welfare: none

Adjournment: Motion to Adjourn Time: 8:50 PM

Next meeting May 20 at 7:30pm