

Bernie Deutsch
Chairman

Russell Turner
Vice Chairman

Mary Ann Drobysh
Secretary

Sullivan County Fire Advisory Board

Date: February 23, 2015

Meeting called to order at: 7:35 pm

Pledge to the flag was held

Elections: Russell Turner elected as Chairman, Jim Doughty as Vice Chairman

Attendance: 8 out of 14 members present

Minutes: Accepted as read

Bethel: George Roosevelt	A
Callicoon: Jim Doughty	P
Cochecton: Gary Cochrane	P
Delaware: Paul Hendershot	A
Fallsburg: Bernard Deutsch	A
Forestburgh: Art Salomon	A
Fremont:	
Highland: Warren Wagner	P
Liberty: Carlton Fitz	P
Lumberland: Charlie Fallon	P
Mamakating: Tim Koestler	A
Neversink: Russell Turner	P
Rockland: Michal Juron	P
Thompson: Brain Soller	A
Tusten: Craig Burkle	P

Alex Rau was here to update us on the work being done on the new towers, radio system and at the Control Center.

A new phones system has been installed at the Control Center and the Liberty location. Additional lines were added and the new system will also improve redundancy at the Liberty site. They are also looking into T\textng options.

Work on the towers is continuing though weather has interfered with some of the progress. Tennenah Lake and Thunder Hill have been completed, White Lake has been refurbished, and Elk Point and Wurtsboro are being worked on. Work on the towers in Delaware and Tusten should begin soon. After that the work on the towers in Lumberland and Monticello will begin. If the weather cooperates the work should be completed by summer.

The microwave link to the towers is expected to be completed by the fall, and after that happens Motorola will come in.

Grant applications are being prepared, we have already received 2 out of the 4 available grants and are working on the last one. There was one which we were not eligible for.

The Radio Committee meeting was postponed due to weather and will be rescheduled. The committee will look into channel plans, unit id's and the different types of people using the system. They will vet the equipment vendors. If all goes well we are looking at an install late this year or early next year. Vigorous testing will be done prior to full rollout. Alex is always available to answer any questions you may have.

Russ asked about available grants for portables and truck radios. Alex suggested letting the County Purchasing Department look for bids and then compare to NYS contract pricing.

Coordinators Report:

Dick will be attending a Bio-Terrorism class with multiple agencies involved. The Mutual Aid Plan needs to be updated. There are some new state protocols that need to be addressed. Jack is working on it and it will be sent here for review and approval.

The Red Cross has a free smoke detector program.

Dick is looking for volunteers for a Point of Distribution Drill on April 17 at SCCC. 400 people need to be "treated" within a 2 hour time limit. Please pass this information on and contact Dick if anyone is available.

There was a regional Haz-Mat Consortium meeting that included Ulster, Orange, Rockland and Sullivan counties. The City of Kingston is the response team for Ulster County and are available to us as well. Sullivan is the radiological response team and Orange has a chemical response team. There was a \$174,000.00 grant to be split between the 4 members. We took \$25,000.00.

The NYS Fire Service Council has compiled a list of united concerns for the fire service, contact Dick if you would like a copy.

We have had to cancel 5 training classes. We need to have classes and have them filled in order to justify to NYS our need for funding.

There will be a meeting later this week with the State Fire Administrator.

There will be a meeting and review of county plans with state agencies and various county agencies.

Dick attended the NYSEM Conference. There was a lot of discussion on railway safety. CRX will be doing seminars on safety issues. Dick will try and send some people to the events but they really do not affect us, CRX does not transport over any rail in Sullivan County. We would provide support to our consortium counties if needed.

There will be a meeting of various agencies regarding Recruit NY to discuss ways to up recruitment of new members. Possibilities include going to the local schools. Some departments have had success with it. Both Jim and

Russell's departments have gained members from presentations at the schools.

There was a meeting on the State Mutual Aid Plan. If mutual aid is required from other areas please contact NYS and they will contact additional departments to respond. They will create a list of what and who is available and dictate where you will go. If you are sent out it is the requesting department's responsibility to pay for your expenses until you return to your home department. There is now accountability in the system. We have an agreement in place with Ulster and Orange Counties directly.

There was an active shooter's drill at the Livingston Manor School, multiple agencies attended.

Columbia Gas is planning 2 tabletop meetings. There will also be a full working drill on March 18th involving several fire departments.

There is some controversy going on over the use of lightweight trusses. Should there be a sticker or some kind of identifying marker in place if they are used? The State is trying to figure it out, there are safety issues involved.

The local fire districts have purchased 30 new e books.

There is a proposed law regarding the sale of fireworks and sparklers in NY. The commissioners have brought up the issue that there are chiefs who have not taken essentials or the equivalent. It is the responsibility of the chief to direct at the scene of a fire, the coordinators are there to help, not to lead.

Committee Reports:

Arson Task Force: There were 51 investigations last year; that is a low number for us. There are 3 continuing investigations from last year.

Radio: No further report.

Communications: None

Old Business: None

There is no decision yet on how the County is going to disperse the 1000 pagers they have.

New Business:

Mary Ann Drobysch-Berens appointed as secretary.

Craig asked if there was a way to put department's surplus equipment on a web page so local departments could see what is available first. The county pages are restricted in their use. Maybe Jack could find a way.

Good and Welfare: None

Meeting adjourned 8:50pm

**Next meeting March 30, 2015 at 7:30pm at the
Government Center**